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## ANNUAL REPORT

NIAGARA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.

11/1/09 - 10/31/10

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## **Message from the Board Chairperson.....**

Since this is my last year as chairperson, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. for making a difference in our community by providing programs/services that assist the impoverished and working poor families.

I have been given the opportunity over the years to work with a dedicated board of directors that volunteer and support the mission of the agency as well as a highly competent staff who face the growing challenges and needs in our community. I am also grateful to our federal, state and local funding sources for their continuous financial support.

As a longtime board member and chairperson, I will continue to support this agency and its mission and extend a well deserved thank you to all the organizations/individuals that support Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. and our cause.

Neil Gruppo  
Board Chairperson

**Message From The Executive Director.....**

I am pleased to present to you Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.'s annual report for the fiscal year of November 1, 2009 to October 31, 2010.

This report highlights the agency's history, programs and services, funding sources, amounts from grantors and the public and private sectors over the past 44 years. It is through the combined and collaborative efforts of these resources that our agency has been able to provide services to Niagara County residents.

Our world and our nation continues to face enormous challenges with far reaching consequences in years to come. Locally, our economy continues to struggle. The programs and services offered by Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. did bring temporary relief and assistance to our County's struggling families.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to federal, state, and local grantors who have provided guidance and financial resources to facilitate the delivery of services to our customers. A special thanks goes to the Board of Directors for their time, dedication, and support in setting policy and providing direction; to the employees who dedicate their efforts in providing the delivery of services; and to the many volunteers and organizations who have unselfishly contributed their resources because they believe in the agency's mission. Your continued support over the past 44 years has been greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Shears,  
Executive Director

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

2009-2010

Neil Gruppo, Chairperson

John Lombardi III, Vice Chairperson

Sharon Highfield, Secretary

Samuel Ferraro, Treasurer

Thomas Beachy

Clyde Burmaster

Nancy Donovan

Samuel Fruscione

Anita Greene/Ann Printup

Cathy Lovejoy Maloney/Caryn Hufford

Gerald Meal

Carmen Morreale

Steven Reiter/Michael Marra

Angelo Onevelo

Danny Sklarski

Dennis Stachera

Pamela Stevenson

James Ward

## BOARD CHAIRPERSONS

1966-1967	Mr. Wendell Oliver
1967-1968	Mrs. Dorothy Shank
1968-1969	Mrs. Dorothy Shank
1969-1970	Mrs. Bloneva Bond
1970-1971	Mrs. Bloneva Bond
1971-1972	Rev. Daniel Porter
1972-1973	Mrs. Bloneva Bond
1973-1974	Mrs. Bloneva Bond
1974-1975	Mr. John Crawford
1975-1976	Capt. Michael Mianakian
1976-1977	Mr. Edward Ivy
1977-1978	Mr. Edward Ivy
1978-1979	Mr. Edward Ivy
1979-1980	Rev. Pierre Tangent
1980-1981	Rev. Pierre Tangent
1981-1982	Mr. Gerald Schurr
	Mr. Anthony Rendina
1982-1983	Mr. Anthony Rendina
	Mr. Vincent Agnello
	Mr. Edward Ivy
1983-1984	Mr. Edward Ivy
1984-1985	Mr. Edward Ivy
1985-1986	Mr. Edward Ivy
1986-1987	Mr. James Sacco
1987-1988	Mr. Neil Gruppo
1988-1989	Mr. Paul Parise
1989-1990	Mr. George F. Brierley
1990-1991	Ms. Barbara Meeks
1991-1992	Ms. Barbara Meeks
1992-1993	Mr. Carl Filbert
1993-1994	Mr. Carl Filbert
1994-1995	Ms. Ella Perry
1995-1996	Mr. Neil Gruppo
1996-1997	Mr. Neil Gruppo
1997-1998	Mr. Lauren Coleman
1998-1999	Mr. Lauren Coleman
1999-2000	Mr. Carmen Morreale
2000-2001	Mr. Carmen Morreale
2001-2002	Mr. Frank Andrews
2002-2003	Mr. Frank Andrews

**BOARD CHAIRPERSONS (Continued)**

2003-2004	Mr. Neil Gruppo
2004-2005	Mr. Neil Gruppo
2005-2006	Mr. Gerald Meal
2006-2007	Mr. Gerald Meal
2007-2008	Mr. Clyde Burmaster
2008-2009	Mr. Clyde Burmaster
2009-2010	Mr. Neil Gruppo
2010-2011	Mr. Neil Gruppo

## Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.

**MISSION: THE NIAGARA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC. IS A COUNTYWIDE AGENCY DEDICATED TO REDUCING POVERTY BY INITIATING AND CONDUCTING PROGRAMS OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY. OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO EMPOWER INDIVIDUALS TO REACH THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.**

The Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. is a private not-for-profit corporation organized under the membership Corporation Law of the State of New York with its original mission to serve the county of Niagara in developing, conducting, and administering a community action program as authorized by the Coates Human Services Reauthorization Act of 1998, PL105-285 superceded PL97-35 as amended and more specifically set in its certificate of incorporation.

The purpose of this organization is to effectuate within Niagara County the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, as amended, and the Community Services Act of 1974 and the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 in order to initiate, strengthen, supplement, and coordinate efforts to eliminate poverty by making available to the poor opportunities for education and training, employment, and other services designed to aid them in their struggle against poverty.

In furtherance thereof, this agency shall:

- A. Encourage the development of programs designed to eliminate poverty by proposing and conducting such programs in Niagara County.
- B. Develop research and evaluation procedures in connection with the anti-poverty programs conducted or funded by the agency.
- C. Contract with other agencies for the conduct and administration of community programs.

**NIAGARA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.**  
1966 - 2010

Milestones in the Agency's History

1 9 6 0 s

- Incorporated October 31, 1966.
- Operated Head Start Program in Niagara County.
- Niagara County Legal Aid Society was a delegate agency (through May 1, 1973 when it became directly funded by O.E.O.).
- Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. Social Service staff provided Social Services counseling.
- Credit unions established as area centers.
- Falls Products, Inc.--Economic Development Project--1968.

1 9 7 0 s

- Youth Development Program
- Family Planning Program funded under HEW--this program was transferred to the Planned Parenthood Association in April 1974.
- Community Alcoholism Program
- Emergency Food and Medical Services
- Head Start--1966--operated through March 1976.
- Manpower Program for Niagara County youth under age 25
- February 1973--three bus loads from Niagara Falls participated in the Mobilization at Washington, D.C.--the purpose of which was to bring to the attention of the President and Congress the need for the continuation of the Poverty Program.
- Summer Food Program for children provided through grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture--- 1974-1981.
- Multi-Purpose Centers: \*LaSalle, Lockport, \*East Side, \*Niagara Street, and \*North Ends (all located in Niagara Falls)--advisory council at each center--basic services: nutrition, cooking classes, consumer education, sewing, consumer homemaking and health care classes--outreach and referral is central to the centers' activities.
- Each center's programs:
  - East Side Multi-Purpose: parent skill workshop, prenatal health care, summer youth programs at Artpark.
  - LaSalle Center: utilized LaSalle Recreation Facilities for programming--baton classes and parent/child playroom which allowed parents to participate in programming who otherwise would be unable to attend because of child care needs.
  - Lockport Center: transportation from rural areas to hospitals, health care facilities, and other agencies for services--upholstery classes, first aid classes, and youth field trips.

1 9 7 0 s (continued)

Niagara Street Center: adult education and high school equivalency classes, English and citizenship classes.

North End Center: dealt with employment and neighborhood improvement projects--senior citizen programming.

- Under C.E.T.A. (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act 1973), Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. created: Community Health Education Program, Senior Citizens Transportation Program, Publicity Program, and Human Services Research Program.
- Youth Bureau funding provided for Drop-Out Counseling Program.
- Office for the Aging (Niagara County)--three day care centers for elderly.
- Mobilization Day in Washington (CSA) to replace the Office of Economic Opportunity under which Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. originally operated.
- Countywide Human Services Directory was completed in July 1975.
- During Blizzard of 1977, Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. operated: Special Crisis Intervention Program--provided special assistance for fuel bills to nearly 1,500 eligible persons, and the Energy Crisis Intervention was conducted for families suffering undue hardship due to excessive heat bills, frozen pipes, lack of food and blankets, etc.--1,672 persons received services which included emergency fuel, repairs, blankets (100 senior citizens), and food (395 families).
- 1977/1978--opened new neighborhood center--Evershed Center on 56th Street in Niagara Falls.
- 1977/1978--Emergency Energy Assistance Program--provided fuel payments (operated through 1981).
- 1977/1978--Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. entered into delegate agency contracts with the following: Cooperative Extension Association to develop and organize urban 4-14 clubs in the City of Niagara Falls; Niagara Falls Boy's Club to provide an informal drop-in center, formal group activities, and special interest groups for youth; and the 13th Street Multi-Purpose Center to provide educational, social, and recreational activities for East Side youth.

## 1980s

- Continuation of Neighborhood Center Program, Alcoholism Program, Weatherization Program, Senior Citizen, and Youth Program in 1980s.
- WIC (Women, Infant, and Children Program) 1980-1985--provided nutrition education and supplemental food for eligible women, infants, and children.
- HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) 1980-1981.
- Countywide recreational youth programming (1981-1986) focusing on fun and learning trips and individual and career development through Project Pathfinding, Open Horizons, and Self-Imaging programs.
- ECIP (Emergency Crisis Intervention Program) provided furnaces for eligible clients--1982-1983.
- TAP (Telephone Assurance Program) provided special "linkages" to homebound senior citizens through prearranged phone outreach.
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program 1983-present--provided food and shelter vouchers on a one-time-only basis to persons in an emergency situation.
- 1985--Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.'s Board and agency participated in extensive letter-writing campaign to elected officials at national level which led to allocation of CSBG funds in 1985 and approval of the Human Service Reauthorization Act of 1986 which provides for four more years of community action, low-income energy assistance, Head Start, and other essential programs.
- Dislocated Worker Program 1983-1987--provided employability skills training, vocational counseling, remedial education, human service assistance, and job placement to certified dislocated workers.
- Rural Preservation Program 1986-present--provides housing preservation and community renewal to low-income homeowners and renters in rural Niagara County.
- In 1987, awarded Affordable Housing Grant--to provide home improvements to ten qualified residents in the Town of Porter to be implemented in 1988/89.
- Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. received (1987) \$10,000 grant from the Town of Porter to target special projects in that town and/or be used in conjunction with the Affordable Housing Grant.
- 1987--received an additional \$100,000 from the N.Y.S. Department of State/Division of Economic Opportunity/Department of Energy for Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.'s Weatherization budget up to approximately \$550,000--the largest amount of money in the program's history.
- Opened neighborhood center (1987) at the Rainbow Senior Citizen Center at 2818 Highland Avenue, Niagara Falls, New York.
- Countywide Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.'s Human Services Directory published in August 1987.

1 9 8 0 s (continued)

- Implemented blow-in insulation into brick homes in the Weatherization Program (1987). Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. was the first agency in Western New York to implement this procedure.
- In October 1987, Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. purchased the former M & T Bank building at 1521 Main Street, Niagara Falls with intentions to remodel it and house its administrative offices and headquarter its programs.
- Received a \$50,000 Community Development Block Grant from the City of Niagara Falls/Office of Community Development as one-third of the total purchase and renovation cost for the bank building (1987).
- Received a funding reservation from the Division of Housing and Community Renewal for \$99,217 toward the renovation for Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.'s new administrative office building.
- Began implementation of a countywide needs assessment targeting the poor. Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. held 15 community meetings throughout the county that provided the county's poor an opportunity to express their concern. Areas of need were defined in child care, transportation, and employment.
- Administered a countywide free smoke detector and light timer program.
- Organized a Minority Area Council/Consortium of local area businesses/churches, etc. in Highland Avenue community.
- Administered a Job Training Program and Area I Neighborhood Preservation Corporation targeting minorities in the Highland Avenue community. The success rate has been high enough to continue the program in 1989.
- In 1988, opened two new neighborhood centers in the northeastern areas of the county; Barker and Olcott, New York.
- Received an entitlement grant from CSBG under the Stewart B. McKinney Act funds to administer a housing assistance program for the homeless in the county.
- In 1988, Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. was designated by the Legislature as the County's Fair Housing Advocate. Designed and developed a program and trained staff in the areas of fair and equal housing.
- 1989 Grants applied for and obtained:
  - \*Federal Emergency Management Agency - \$2,458
  - \*Rural Homeownership Assistance Program - \$29,746
  - \*Public Service Commission
    - SAVINGPOWER Program - \$4,900
  - \*NYS Office for the Aging - \$20,000
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*Rural Area Revitalization Program - \$65,065
  - \*Emergency Homeless Program - \$20,529

## 1 9 8 0 s (continued)

- \*Niagara Council of the Arts - Video Grant - \$1,000
- \*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - \$1,895
- In 1989 obtained sponsorship from USDA to administer meal reimbursement to licensed Home Day Care Providers.
- Subcontracted with National Fuel Gas Corp. to: 1) insulate 25 homes of HEAP-vouchered recipients and 2) perform 309 energy audits under the SAVINGPOWER program.
- Wrote a \$5.7 million grant to the Affordable Housing Corp. to build over 200 new homes in scattered sites throughout Niagara County. Grant approval is expected in the early part of 1990.

## 1 9 9 0 s

- 1990 Grants Applied for and Obtained:
  - \*Federal Emergency Management Agency - \$3,418
  - \*Public Service Commission
    - SAVINGPOWER audits - \$4,950
  - \*NYS Office for the Aging - \$20,000
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*Emergency Homeless Program - \$15,954
  - \*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - \$4,781
  - \*Rural Homeownership Assistance Program - \$12,310
- Received approval from AHC to build 79 homes in rural Niagara County. Total grant award is \$1.975 million.
- Coordinated a countywide Job Fair with 70 employers. Total number of job seekers at the fair was 2,827. Of those, 41 were hired in full-time positions and 27 were hired for part-time employment.
- Implemented a countywide furniture donation program.
  
- 1991 Grants Obtained and Programs Developed:
  - \*Federal Emergency Management Agency - \$2,532
  - \*Public Service Commission
    - SAVINGPOWER surveys - \$4,950
  - \*NYS Office for the Aging - \$20,000
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*Emergency Homeless Program - \$22,219
  - \*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - \$3,108
  - \*Continuation of Affordable Housing - building 100 new homes in rural Niagara County
  - \*Coordinated another countywide Job Fair
  - \*Conducted the first community action agency telethon - raised \$1,000 for the Lockport Food Pantry
  - \*Opened a small food pantry in North Tonawanda

1990s (continued)

\*Coordinated the opening of a Professional Clothes Closet

- 1992 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Federal Emergency Management Agency - \$3,186
  - \*Public Service Commission
    - SAVINGPOWER surveys - \$4,980
  - \*NYS Office for the Aging - \$20,000
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*Emergency Homeless Program - \$12,409
  - \*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - \$1,350
  - \*Continuation of Affordable Housing - building 100 new homes in rural Niagara County
  - \*Coordinated another countywide Job Fair
  - \*Distributing agency in Niagara County for the United States Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots"
  - \*Participated in the City of Niagara Falls Centennial Celebration by sponsoring an Antique Car/Craft Festival
  - \*Launched the "FRIENDS" campaign. The letters in the word "FRIENDS" represent the many services that Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. offers. These services include:

F  
urniture - used furniture for emergencies  
R  
epair - home repair and new construction  
I  
nformation - info on available county services  
E  
nergy - home energy conservation assistance  
N  
utrition - food pantry and home day care meals  
D  
ress - new, used, and professional clothing  
S  
helter - homeless, fair housing, rent assistance

\*Held 1st annual "FRIENDS" Community Awards Dinner

- 1993 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Federal Emergency Management Agency - \$3,512
  - \*National Fuel Gas audits - \$7,000
  - \*NYS Office for the Aging - \$15,000
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*Emergency Homeless Program - \$10,059
  - \*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - \$2,998
  - \*Emergency Assistance for Native American Infants - \$3,000

1990s (continued)

- \*Continuation of Affordable Housing - 91 homes in rural Niagara County completed
  - \*Coordinated another countywide Job Fair
  - \*Distributing agency in Niagara County for the United States Marine Corps Reserve "Toys for Tots"
  - \*Continuation of the "FRIENDS" campaign
  - \*Coordinated New York State Department of State Regional Community Action Program Conference
  - \*Conducted client needs assessment
  - \*2nd annual "FRIENDS" Community Awards Dinner
  - \*Charity Gift Wrap fund raiser
- 1994 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
- \*New York State Department of Social Services Child Care Resource and Referral Program - \$65,000
  - \*MENTOR Program for At-Risk Youth (Meeting Educational/Employment Needs Through Organizational Role Models) - \$3,000 (grant from Gannett Communities Fund)
  - \*Federal Emergency Management Agency - \$1,718
  - \*National Fuel Gas audits - \$7,500
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*NYS Affordable Housing Corp. Home Repair Program - \$80,000
  - \*NYS Department of State - Weatherization Program - additional funding - \$293,930
  - \*NYS Public Service Commission - \$4,985
  - \*SUNY Early Childhood Education and Training Program - \$5,701
  - \*Continuation of affordable housing - 94 homes complete - Niagara County
  - \*Charity Gift Wrap fund raiser
- 1995 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
- \*Member Initiative - Senator Anthony Nanula - \$10,000
  - \*Early Intervention Program - \$11,936
  - \*NYS Public Service Commission - \$11,500
  - \*SUNY Early Childhood Education & Training Program - \$5,480
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*Occidental Women's League - \$1,500
  - \*National Fuel Gas audits - \$7,500
  - \*Federal Emergency Management Agency - \$3,902
  - \*Supplemental Nutrition Program - \$2,750
  - \*Child & Adult Care Food Program - Start-up & Expansion- \$3,726
  - \*Emergency Homeless Program - \$10,020
  - \*Crime Prevention Program - \$25,000

1990s (continued)

- 1996 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Member Initiative - Senator Anthony Nanula - \$10,000
  - \*Crime Prevention Program - \$25,000
  - \*Completed affordable housing project - 100 new homes
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*Town of Lewiston - \$2,000
  - \*Federal Emergency Management Agency - \$1,748
  - \*Start-up Funds for family and group family day care providers - \$34,128
  - \*SUNY Early Childhood Education & Training Program - \$9,280
  - \*Supplemental Nutrition Program - \$1,430
  - \*Niagara County Food Distribution Center
  - \*NYS Public Service Commission - \$11,500
  - \*National Fuel Gas audits - \$2,100
  
- 1997 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Home Repair - \$200,000
  - \*City of Lockport - \$2,500
  - \*Town of Niagara - \$5,000
  - \*Town of Cambria - \$1,000
  - \*Town of Lewiston - \$5,000
  - \*Town of Porter - \$10,000
  - \*CSBG increase - \$50,793
  - \*Early Intervention Program (toy lending library) - \$11,936
  - \*Start-up funds for family/group family day care providers - \$20,238
  - \*Child & Adult Care Food Program (Implementation Grant) - \$2,350
  - \*Child & Adult Care Food Program (Expansion Grant) - \$2,250
  - \*Martha H. Beeman Foundation  
(grant for additional toy purchases) - \$1,000
  - \*Neighborhood Crime Prevention - \$30,000
  - \*Bank Funding: M & T - \$2,000  
Marine Midland - \$5,000  
Fleet - \$5,000
  - \*Member Initiative Grant--Senator Maziarz - \$5,000
  - \*Emergency Food & Shelter - \$1,764
  - \*Supplemental Nutrition Program - \$1,500
  - \*City of Niagara Falls Community Development Dept. - \$60,000
  
- 1998 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Grant Award for New Home Construction - \$140,000
  - \*Grant Award for Food Stamp Outreach and Education - \$38,500
  - \*Increase in Child Care Resource & Referral Program - \$16,000

1 9 9 0 s (continued)

- \*Funding:           Town of Wheatfield - \$5,000  
                      Town of Wilson - \$1,000  
                      Town of Pendleton - \$1,000  
                      Town of Niagara - \$10,000  
                      Town of Porter - \$10,000  
                      Town of Lewiston - \$5,000  
                      Town of Cambria - \$1,000
- \*Bank Funding: Key Bank - \$1,500
- \*3% Administration from the Affordable Housing Corp. - \$6,000
- \*Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Prog. (HPNAP) - \$9,000
- \*Operations Support Grant - \$3,000
- \*United Way/Emergency Food & Shelter - \$5,649
- \*Martha H. Beeman Foundation - \$1,000
- \*Niagara Educational Foundation - \$1,500
- \*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grant - \$20,000

- 1999 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Grant award from New York State Affordable Housing Corp. for home repair - eastern Niagara County - \$200,000
  - \*Grant award from Federal Home Loan Bank for home repair - eastern Niagara County - \$125,000
  - \*Increase in Child Care Resource & Referral Program - \$33,000
  - \*Weatherization Cooling Program - \$29,150
  - \*3% Administration grant from the Affordable Housing Corp. - \$4,200
  - \*Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP) - \*\$9,000
  - \*Operations Support Grant - \$6,000
  - \*United Way/Emergency Food & Shelter - \$3,956
  - \*Neighborhood Crime Prevention Grant - \$20,000
  - \*Kids Cafe - \$5,000
  - \*Rural Preservation Program Technology Grant - \$1,310
  - \*Lockport Savings Bank - \$2,500
  - \*Key Bank - \$1,500
  - \*Fleetbank - \$2,500

2 0 0 0 s

- 2000 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Increases in the following grants:
    - Community Services Block Grant - \$26,000
    - Rural Preservation Program - \$4,900
    - Child Care Resource & Referral - \$72,700
    - Weatherization - \$73,000

2 0 0 0 s (continued)

- \*Rural Home Ownership Assistance Program - \$17,000
- \*City of Niagara Falls Crime Prevention Program - \$20,000
- \*Niagara County Crime Prevention Program - \$15,000
- \*Citibank - \$2,000
- \*M & T Charitable Foundation - \$2,500
- \*Town of Somerset - \$2,000
- \*Town of Royalton - \$1,500
- \*Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program - \$13,360
  
- 2001 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Grant from Federal Home Loan Bank to repair homes in Town of Niagara - \$200,000
  - \*Countywide grant from Housing Trust Fund Corp. to provide emergency home repair to homeowners 60 years or older - \$50,000
  - \*Grant to subcontract with Niagara County Department of Social Services to become the registrar for family day care and school-age programs in Niagara County. Funding provided by the New York State Office of Family & Children's Services - \$92,781
  - \*Increase in the Rural Preservation Program funded by the New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal - \$9,500
  - \*Increase in Nutrition Outreach & Education Program funded by the Nutrition Consortium of New York State - \$5,500
  - \*Increase in the Weatherization Assistance Program funded by the New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal - \$190,560
  - \*Increase in the Community Services Block Grant funded by the New York State Department of State - \$61,488
  - \*Conducted a countywide needs assessment surveying customers, community organizations and town/village/county government to determine the greatest needs in the County
  - \*Distributed over 1 million pounds of food to needy Niagara County residents from the Niagara County Food Distribution Center. This is the largest amount of food distributed by the County's food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters.
  - \*Charter One Bank - \$1,000
  - \*Town of Lockport - \$1,000
  - \*City of Niagara Falls Crime Prevention Program - \$20,000
  - \*Niagara County Crime Prevention Program - \$15,000

2 0 0 0 s (continued)

- 2002 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*Weatherization Assistance Program Increase - \$79,183
  - \*Weatherization Assistance Program – Special Projects - \$95,000
  - \*Child Care Resource & Referral Increase - \$6,200
  - \*Distributed 1.2 million pounds of food to needy Niagara County residents from the Niagara County Food Distribution Center
  - \*Town of Newfane - \$2,000
  
- 2003 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*12 Towns of Niagara County - \$33,800
  - \*3 cities of Niagara Falls, North Tonawanda, and Lockport
  - \*Federal Home Loan Bank - \$400,000 for countywide home repair
  - \*RESTORE - \$50,000 for emergency home repair for elderly
  - \*Additional grant funding from the New York State Department of State - \$22,651
  - \*Nutrition Outreach and Education - \$45,000 funded by the Nutrition Consortium of New York State
  - \*New York State Energy Research and Development Authority - \$42,630
  - \*Consolidation of three programs, housing, nutrition, and emergency services in one location at 160 Washburn Street, Lockport, New York
  - \*Funding from Niagara County to administer a Crime Prevention Program - \$10,000
  - \*Funding from Housing Trust Fund Corp. in the amount of \$145,837 for home repair
  
- 2004 Grants Obtained and Projects Developed:
  - \*12 Towns of Niagara County – \$34,000
  - \*Niagara County and the 3 cities of Lockport, Niagara Falls, and North Tonawanda
  - \*New York State Affordable Housing Corp. - \$80,000 for county-wide home repair
  - \*RESTORE - \$30,000 for emergency home repair for the elderly
  - \*Additional funding from the New York State, Department of State – \$22,327
  - \*Additional funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for utility assistance - \$7,100
  - \*Distributed 1.3 million pounds of food to needy Niagara County residents from the Niagara County Food Distribution Center

2000s (continued)

- 2005 Grants Obtained and Projects and Programs Developed:
  - \*12 Towns of Niagara County (includes village of Youngstown) - \$34,250
  - \*Niagara County and the 3 cities of Lockport, Niagara Falls, and North Tonawanda
  - \*RESTORE - \$40,000 for emergency repairs for the elderly
  - \*Additional funding from NYS Division of Housing Community Renewal for the Weatherization Program - \$27,359
  - \*Additional funding from the New York State Department of State - \$5,000
  - \*Keybank - \$1,500
  - \*Key Foundation - \$500
  - \*New York State Electric and Gas Corp. - \$1,000
  - \*Western New York Assembly Majority Delegation - \$12,500
  - \*Senator George Maziarz - \$15,000
  - \*Child and Adult Care Food Program Expansion Grant - \$8,800
  - \*Additional funding from the Nutrition Consortium of New York State - \$2,250
  - \*Distributed 1.4 million pounds of food to impoverished Niagara County residents through the Niagara County Food Distribution Center
  
- 2006 Grants Obtained and Programs Developed:
  - \*12 Towns of Niagara County (includes Villages of Lewiston and Youngstown) - \$35,000
  - \*Niagara County and the 3 cities of Lockport, Niagara Falls, and North Tonawanda - \$103,000
  - \*RESTORE - \$36,250 – emergency repairs for the elderly
  - \*Access to Home - \$200,000 – home repairs for the disabled
  - \*M & T Charitable Foundation - \$2,500
  - \*Additional funding from the Nutrition Consortium of NYS - \$3,150
  - \*Disaster Relief funding from the New York State Department of State - \$2,000
  - \*Distributed 1.43 million pounds of food to impoverished Niagara County residents through the Niagara County Distribution Center
  - \*Key Foundation - \$500

2000s (continued)

2007 Grants Obtained and Programs Developed:

- \*12 Towns of Niagara County (includes Villages of Lewiston and Youngstown) - \$35,000
- \*Niagara County and 3 cities of Lockport, Niagara Falls, and North Tonawanda - \$105,400
- \*New York State Affordable Housing Corp. - \$80,000 – home repairs
- \*Federal Home Loan Bank - \$400,000 – home repairs
- \*Key Foundation - \$500
- \*M&T Charitable Foundation - \$3,000
- \*Additional funding from the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal - \$22,000
- \*Additional funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for utility assistance – \$14,751
- \*Distributed 1.5 million pounds of food to Niagara County residents through the Niagara County Food Distribution Center
- \*Senator George Maziarz - \$10,000
- \*Assemblywoman Francine Del Monte - \$5,000
- \*Assemblyperson Stephen Hawley - \$1,000

2008 Grants Obtained and Programs Developed:

- \*12 towns of Niagara County - \$34,700
- \*Niagara County and 3 cities of Lockport, Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda - \$105,400
- \*Access to Home - \$200,000 – home repairs for the disabled
- \*Additional funding from the New York State Department of State- \$31,275
- \*Additional funding from the New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal – Energy Service’s Bureau - \$68,000
- \*Key Foundation - \$500
- \*Distributed 1.41 million pounds of food to Niagara County residents through the Niagara County Food Distribution Center

2000s (continued)

2009 Grants Obtained and Programs Developed:

- \*Additional funding from the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal-Energy Services Bureau \$2,506,026
- \*Additional funding from the New York State Department of State- Community Services - \$525,782
- \*Additional funding from the Federal Energy Management agency (FEMA) \$43,575
- \*Funding from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services - \$222,000
- \* Additional funding from the New York State Assembly's Housing Committee for the Rural Preservation Program- \$12,410
- \*12 towns of Niagara County - \$34,700
- \*Niagara County and cities of Lockport, Niagara Falls, and North Tonawanda - \$110,222
- \*John R. Oishei Foundation - \$25,000
- \*Evans Devereaux Trust Fund - \$4,000
- \*Key Foundation - \$500
- \*M & T Bank Charitable Foundation - \$2,500
- \*First Niagara Charitable Contribution Fund - \$1,000
- \*Great Lake Machinery - \$2,500
- \*Restore - \$30,000 emergency home repairs for the elderly
- \*Collected over 2,700 pairs of socks to be distributed to needy children
- \*Distributed over 1.42 million pounds of food to Niagara County residents through the Niagara County Food Distribution Center

2010 Grants Obtained and Programs Developed

- \*Additional funding from the New York State Department of State – Community Services Bureau - \$30,000
- \*Additional funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - \$29,889
- \*12 towns of Niagara County - \$34,700
- \*Niagara County and cities of Niagara Falls, Lockport, and North Tonawanda - \$144,316
- \*John R. Oishei Foundation - \$20,000
- \*Evans Devereaux Trust Fund – \$2,000
- \*M & T Charitable Foundation - \$2,500
- \*Grigg-Lewis Foundation - \$7,500
- \*RESTORE (Emergency home repairs for the elderly) - \$75,000
- \*New York State Affordable Housing Corporation - \$80,000

2010 s (continued)

\*Key Foundation - \$500

\*Town of Niagara/Fashion Outlets of Niagara Falls - \$1,000

\*Great Lakes Machinery - \$2,000

\*Distributed 1.5 million pounds of food to Niagara County residents through the Niagara County Food Distribution Center

## **PROGRAMS**

November 1, 2009 - October 31, 2010

### **OVERVIEW**

The Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. is part of a nationwide network of private, not-for-profit, human-service agencies which address the needs of the poor. It is part of a statewide network of community action program (CAP) agencies and regionally is one of the seven CAPs located in Western New York and the Southern Tier. Indeed, it is difficult to find an area of the country that has not been touched by the efforts of community action.

The community action agency in Niagara County was incorporated October 31, 1966. At that time, it was designated by the Niagara County Legislature as the county's official anti-poverty agency. As such, the agency serves the entire county from its neighborhood centers in North Tonawanda, Lockport, and Niagara Falls. The administrative offices and the programs are headquartered at the 1521 Main Street location in Niagara Falls.

The agency currently operates with a 42-member staff, supplemented by approximately 45 volunteers. Members of the senior administrative team have exceptional credentials and track records. Sole responsibility for governing the agency rests with its 18-member Board of Directors.

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.'s income level for clients ranges from the middle income to the indigent poor. Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. provides services to a needy population that includes the working poor, the elderly, the disabled, minorities, single heads-of-households and their dependent children, adolescents, youth, disabled, etc.

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. is an integral part of the human-service network in the county--going far beyond, but not duplicating, the efforts of any other human-service agency.

The agency is federally funded through the New York State Department of State, Community Services Division, Community Services Block Grant Program. A large portion of the remaining funding is additional federal funding and state funding from various state funded agencies (i.e., Homes and Community Renewal, Office of Children and Family Services, Nutrition Consortium, Affordable Housing Corp., etc.). The balance is local municipality, county, town, and village funding.

In generating programming for the target population, Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. is guided by two major objectives: (1) to improve the quality of life of low-income people, and (2) to provide them with opportunities that will lead to self-sufficiency and greater knowledge of self. In the sections that follow, a brief description of existing programs is provided.

## PROGRAMS

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Services Block Grant - funded by the New York State Department of State, Community Services Division

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. operates local neighborhood centers throughout Niagara County. These centers provide all of the following services:

#### Application Assistance

- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| -HEAP        | -public assistance |
| -WIC         | -SSI               |
| -Food Stamps | -etc.              |

#### Assistance and Referrals to:

- Employment and Training Program
- Displaced Homemakers
- Drug and Substance Abuse Programs
- Alcoholism Programs
- Senior Citizen Services
- Emergency Services
- Child Care Services
- Medical Services
- Clothing
- Education Services: College/GED
- Budgeting and Financial Services
- Counseling Services
- Transportation Services
- Advocacy
- Mental Health Programs
- Developmental Disabilities Program

#### Child Care Resource and Referral Program

- Information and Referral Services
- Child Care Training, Education, and Technical Assistance
- NYS Department of Health's Child and Adult Care Food Program
- Advocacy
- Community Education
- Start-up funds for family and group family day care providers

- Registration for family day care & school-age programs
- Applications for legally – exempt child care providers

#### Food Distribution Programs

- Food Pantry, three locations
- Family Day Care Food Program
- Nutrition Classes
- Niagara County Food Distribution Center

#### Housing Assistance Programs

- Fair Housing Advocacy Program  
(partial funding by Niagara County)
- Landlord/Tenant Advocacy
- Housing Location Services
- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency)

#### Family Development Credential

- Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. provides skills and competency training to front-line workers to support families in obtaining independence and self-sufficiency.

#### Clothing Program

- New and used clothing distribution
- Professional Clothes Closet

#### Nutrition Outreach & Education Program

- Information on food stamp application
- Assistance in food stamp qualification, referral, and outreach

### ENERGY CONSERVATION SERVICES

Weatherization Program - funded by the New York State Homes & Community Renewal (Weatherization Assistance Program)

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc. provides an energy assistance program for low-income families in Niagara County. The program assists families in reducing heat loss in their homes and apartments. The weatherization techniques and repairs are based upon a professional energy audit and include:

- insulation
- installation and weather stripping of windows and doors
- furnace cleaning, tuning, repair
- glass replacement
- caulking and glazing
- pipe wrapping
- light bulbs
- carbon monoxide detectors
- minor roof repairs

## HOUSING SERVICES

Rural Preservation Program - funded by the New York State Homes and Community Renewal

Niagara Community Action Program, Inc.'s Rural Preservation Program has been developed to improve the housing conditions of economically disadvantaged rural residents in Niagara County. The aim of the program is to prevent a rural area from becoming a slum, thus enhancing and preserving the rural community. The rural area is defined as all areas of the county excluding the cities of Niagara Falls, Lockport, and North Tonawanda. Under this program, additional grants have been awarded:

- Grant monies to renovate homes in the towns and villages of Niagara County
- Counseling services regarding housing matters as needed

TOTAL CLIENT COUNT (DUPLICATED) FOR ALL PROGRAMS IN 2010: 177,000