



COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREENE COUNTY, INC.

SPRING 2008* VOLUME VI, ISSUE VI

Many thanks to Nora Adelman, Al's Sheds & Gazebos, Ameribag, American Dojo, Amtrak, Artfully Painted Pets, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Madeline Berhmann, Banner Clothing Store, Betsey Gorman, Big Top Tent Rentals, Blackhead Mt. Lodge & Country Club, Brunner Construction, BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc., Buffalo Bills, Cabot Creamery, Cameo's Catskill Animal Sanctuary, Catskill Golf Club, Christman's Windham House, Clearwater Festivals, Columbia Greene Community College, Cow Jones Industrials, Cracker Barrel Foundation, DL Deli, V.James DiPerna Photography, Doctor Kleen, Doreen's Family Haircare, Doubles II, First Niagara Bank, Lenora Freese, FunPlex Fun Park, Greyfox Bluegrass Festival, Heart of Catskill Association, Heavenly Essentials, Hershey Gardens, Hood & Company, Hotel Vienna, Howe Caverns, Inc., Hudson-Catskill Newspapers, Hudson-Chatham Winery, JP's North, Kaaterskill Associates, LaConca D'oro, Lake George Steamboat Company, Lebanon Valley Speedway, Lippera's Restaurant, MacGregor's Pub, Mahalo, Mohegan Sun, Mystic Seaport, Native Clay, NY Giants, NY Jets, NY Liberty, NY Knicks, NY State Fair, Pam's Lil' Hairhouse, Pro Nail, RC Lacy, Residence Inn at the Marriott, Rev. John Bowen, Riedlbauer's Resort, Rip Van Winkle Country Club, Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Jenny Schrock, Six Flags New England, Skate Factory, Southwest Airlines, Stephanie's Custom Framework, Spalon, Summit Hill Health and Fitness, The Electric Beach, The Great Escape and Splashwater Kingdom, May-Haydn Theatre, The Main Street Grainery, The Warm Ewe, Tim Ohle, Tropical Rays, Ulla Darni, Valerie White, Windham Mountain, The Winwood, Zoom Flume, and Hudson Movieplex 8. Also thanks to our table sponsors, Towne, Bartkowski, Defio Kean, PC, Barnwell Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, Main-Care Energy, National Bank of Coxsackie and Marshall and Sterling Insurance.



Florence Ohle
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

As always, the past few months have been extremely busy at our Agency! As many of you know, on May 2nd we hosted our 4th annual fundraiser. The dinner dance/silent auction event was held at Anthony's in Leeds, and was once again a success. Sean Frey, County Legislator and Board member of Community Action, presented chair Jennifer Miller and me with a proclamation, recognizing May as Community Action Month. Assemblyman Peter Lopez also addressed the attendees. The approximately 120 guests were entertained by the amazing sounds of Lex Grey and the Urban Pioneers, and the quality and variety of our auction items exceeded our expectations. Special thanks to the staff of Community Action of Greene County, Inc., who in addition to their regular duties found time to organize, plan and work to ensure that the event was indeed a success, to our Board of Directors for their support, care and volunteerism, and to Assemblyman Peter Lopez for his attendance in show of support for the work that we do. Also thanks to our table sponsors, Towne, Bartkowski, Defio Kean, PC, Barnwell Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, Main-Care Energy, National Bank of Coxsackie and Marshall and Sterling Insurance.



David Bradley,
Executive Director
of the NCAF

On June 10, fulfilling our obligation as a CSBG funded agency to provide quarterly trainings to all staff, we were excited to provide our staff with an opportunity to hear the story of Community Action from David Bradley. The New York State Community Action Association hosted a one day workshop on the history, philosophy and the future of America's "War on Poverty". David Bradley, Executive Director of the National Community Action Foundation and a legislative expert examined how four decades of national anti-poverty legislation and policy have shaped, challenged and ultimately reinforced the unique role and responsibilities assigned to community action agencies and other entities derived from the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. Mr. Bradley has been on the forefront of these issues for over 30 years, and has had great impact on the way staff view their roles and our agency's mission.

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COMMUNITY ACTION OF GREENE COUNTY, INC.

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“Unfortunately, many Americans live on the outskirts of hope... Our task is to help replace their despair with opportunity.”

*Excerpt from
President Lyndon B. Johnson's
State of the Union Address
January 8, 1964*

(Cont'd message from the Executive Director)

A grant was awarded by the Dyson Foundation that has allowed our board members the opportunity to work with a private consultant as part of our ongoing board development. The corporation's by-laws have been revised and reviewed, along with board orientation materials. As non profit organizations continue to fall under increased scrutiny, it is more important than ever to have solid policy and well informed directors.

With sky rocketing fuel prices, we look to the fall and winter with great apprehension. So many families, many of them working poor, are already falling behind. Food pantry numbers continue to climb, and will continue to once schools let out and children lose access to breakfast and lunch that is currently provided for free or at reduced prices. Funds will be explored to allow us to continue providing heating assistance to families who either exhaust their HEAP benefit, or who are slightly above income guidelines for HEAP eligibility. In previous years, assistance was received through the Hudson River Bank and Trust Foundation and the First Niagara Foundation to allow us to assist with heating costs. How many of these families, if assistance is not available, will fall further and further behind. How many of us, or our employees, are in real danger of not meeting financial obligations given the rising costs of housing, fuel, heating and food? We need to address the fact that poverty exists in our community, and that we all have a responsibility.

And, on a final related note, the New York State Community Action Association (NYSCAA) recently released its first New York State Poverty Report. Designed as a resource for community-based organizations, policy makers, advocates and members of the general public working to address poverty in NYS, the report includes data such as unemployment rates and percentages of households living below the poverty line. Information on New York's 52 Community Action agencies is included in the report.

Did you know that in Greene County?

- 5,432 individuals live in poverty
- 1,728 children live in poverty
- 10.4% of our Senior Citizens live in poverty



For the complete report, and more information on NYSCAA and the Community Action network, please visit their website at www.nyscaonline.org, or follow the link from ours, www.cagcny.org.



Board President Jennifer Miller, on Left, pictured with Board Member, Sean Frey, Executive Director, Florence Ohle and Assemblyman, Peter Lopez at the 4th Annual Silent Auction Dinner Dance held at Anthony's Restaurant.



Board Treasurer John Bowen with wife, Phyllis



Board member Pam Ladds, on right, pictured with Ann Chiarello



Representing Kristen Gillibrand's office, Benedict McCaffree addresses the audience of the Clothesline Project.