



mid michigan  
**COMMUNITY**  
*Action*

"Helping People, Changing Lives."

# Leading **The Way**

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT





# Board of Directors

## Bay County

Vaughn Begick  
William Reder (Chair)  
Carol Goulet

## Clare County

Leonard Strouse  
Norm Gage  
Nancy Jones

## Gladwin County

Kathy Wilton  
Sandra Aultman  
Marlene Doran

## Mecosta County

Jerrilynn Strong  
Helen Chappell (Secretary)

## Midland County

Richard Keenan  
William Hargreaves  
Sharron Such (Vice-Chair)

## Osceola County

Larry Morlock  
Alan Tiedt (Treasurer)  
Rosemary Geesey

## Head Start Policy

## Council Representative

Sara Cowling

## Consultant

Tammy Miller

## Former members serving in FY 2015:

Jack Klienhardt, Clare  
Kelsey Ruby, Policy Council

Mid Michigan Community Action's 18 member Board of Directors is composed of three members from each of the agency's six county service area. From each county, there is an elected representative of low-income people, a public official and a member from the private sector.

This board make-up ensures low-income families and individuals are represented by every sector within their communities. The Board continues to provide valuable insight and support in this ever-changing environment. Among the many responsibilities the Board takes on:

- Legal and fiscal responsibilities for administering, overseeing, and safeguarding federal funds.
- Determining overall program plans and priorities for the CAA, including provisions for evaluating progress and performance.
- Approving and adopting personnel and financial policies.
- Ensuring compliance with all grant conditions.
- Approving all program proposals and budgets.

# Executive Message

In many communities throughout the nation, agencies such as ours, are leading the way forging new opportunities for people living in poverty. Being a private non-profit gives us liberties to innovate while maintaining successful long-term programs that generate self-sufficiency for our participants. Community Action is known to be at the forefront in developing programs that are specific to local issues as identified in its triennial community needs assessment. We seek out new grants and funding opportunities that help us pioneer new solutions to local poverty issues.



As a member of an elaborate network of agencies at the community, state, and national level, you will find Community Action staff, management, and Board members alike, participating in steering committees, collaborative organizations, local and state associations, among others. Leadership and expertise is offered to ensure success ultimately supporting poverty agendas when applicable. A local example of this type of leadership includes our agency serving as the Homeless Assessment and Resource Agency (HARA) for two regional areas. This allows us to provide leadership, fiscal responsibilities, oversight, and a single point of contact for the area homeless programs.

Additionally, we create community development activities enhancing local capacity. We share our financial skills guiding and supporting smaller organizations in reaching their goals. We establish solid fiduciary oversight allowing them to work their magic in creating community opportunities. For example, we manage the funds for the Mid Michigan Honor Flight allowing WWII Veterans to visit the memorial in our nation's capitol. In support of area Veterans, also assisted the Veteran's Freedom Park which is establishing a permanent location to honor local heroes. The Community Nutrition Network is supported so they are able to provide monthly food to low-income families while the Depot Restoration Project is renovating a historical facility into a community center that will host multiple organizations creating an educational hub in an impoverished rural area.

Taking the lead is a natural for Community Action Agencies, and we remain proud that our accomplishments can affect our program participants and the communities in which they live. We strive to share our skills and expertise so that success can be shared with others.

Thank you for your support as we continue to lead the way on poverty issues and community development making it possible for "Helping People, Changing Lives."

Fondly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jill Sutton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Sutton, Executive Director

# Outreach Services

## Heat and Utility Assistance

Multiple funding sources allow Mid Michigan Community Action to serve families who are experiencing utility and heating emergencies. Deliverable fuel is available such as LP Gas, fuel oil, firewood, wood pellets, corn and other home heating fuels. Funding is also available for electric and natural gas. As a supplement to grant funding, Annual Walk for Warmth events raise money for this program to further assist families who may not meet program eligibility requirements but are struggling to keep their homes warm.

**4143**

heat and utility emergency services provided.

**\$1,930,490**

was expended to ensure customers did not go without heat.



2015 Bay/Midland Walk for Warmth

## Food Assistance

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program(CSPF) offers a free monthly box of food to seniors. The Emergency Food Assistance Program(TEFAP) offers a free quarterly box of food to qualified families (including seniors).The agency also operates the Clare County Emergency Food Pantry.

**36,972**

boxes were provided to seniors through CSFP.

**12,375**

nutritional boxes of food were provided to seniors and families through TEFAP.

**516**

households were provided emergency assistance through the food pantry.

## Water/Sewer Assistance

In 2015, Mid Michigan Community Action was able to respond to an unmet community need, utilizing the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funding. Beginning in June, water and sewer assistance was made available to mid-Michigan residents. Help included city water and sewer shut-off notices, well/water pump repair and septic tank cleaning. In most counties, this is the only financial assistance available for this type of help. Mid Michigan Community Action continues to be a leader in the community by staying well-informed to emerging community needs.

**107**

customers helped with water/sewer issues.

# Outreach Services

## Homeless Assistance

The Emergency Solutions Grant provides funding that allows (ESG)staff to serve those who are homeless or are at imminent risk of becoming homeless, receive case management and housing assistance. The Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) grant is specific to helping homeless veterans and helping families. Veterans Homeless Resource specialists not only make sure participants are housed but also that they receive VA benefits and other services.

**640**

services provided.

**210**

customers found safe and stable housing.

## Employment Support

The Employment Support program helps remove obstacles that keep people in Bay County from being employed. Help includes auto repairs, license renewal, past due auto insurance, vehicle registration renewal, uniforms, tools and other items necessary for employment.

**56**

customers assisted.

**61**

services provided.

## Tax Services

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program helps families avoid high tax prep fees, access all credits they are eligible for and connect families to services and programs that will help them increase their financial stability.

**2,100**

hours of volunteer time was dedicated to helping customers.

**967**

households assisted.

**\$613,093**

was claimed by customers in tax returns.



VITA Volunteers and  
Mid Michigan Community Action staff.



# Early Childhood Services



The Health Delivery Inc. Mobile Dental Bus program comes to Mid Michigan Community Action preschool sites every year to make sure children receive their check-ups.



Congressman John Moolenaar reads to preschoolers to celebrate Head Start Anniversary.



State Representative Joel Johnson reads to preschoolers to celebrate Head Start Anniversary.

Early Childhood Services encompass multiple programs such as Women Infants and Children (WIC), Great Start Readiness Preschool, Head Start, as well as Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) contracted services. The goal of these programs is to engage and empower families through comprehensive, high quality services based on strong, supportive relationships that prepare children and parents for future successes. This is done through education, support, home visits and providing access to resources. Services are comprehensive and modified to meet the needs of the family or individual.

Mid Michigan Community Action utilizes state (Great Start Readiness Program) and federal (Head Start) funding to provide free preschool to eligible 3-5 year olds. The teachers are highly-trained and are passionate about each child and family enrolled. Teachers incorporate a hands-on fun approach to learning which keeps children active and involved. The programs' comprehensive approach leads to healthy cognitive, motor and social-emotional development while also helping children achieve school readiness goals.



Celebrated 50th Anniversary of Head Start with a rose planting ceremony.

# Early Childhood Services

## Head Start Programs

Head Start programs provide comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families. For pregnant women, infants, toddlers and their families, Early Head Start is available to offer similar services along with other free resources such as a breast pump loan program.

**242** Head Start  
**248** Early Head Start

number of Families served.

**93.5%**

of children met/exceeded expectations for school readiness goals.

**99%** Head Start  
**77%** Early Head Start

were up-to-date on a schedule of primary and preventative health care.

**93%** Head Start  
**52%** Early Head Start

Children completed dental exams (HS) and oral health screenings (EHS)

**98%** Head Start  
**90%** Early Head Start

Children with up-to-date immunizations.

## WIC

The WIC program supports mothers, infants and children up to 5 years old. Women enrolled receive WIC packages that include fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains and baby food. WIC staff educate women on maintaining a nutritional lifestyle for their family which also includes breastfeeding counseling. Each child ages 3-4 years receive a free preschool tote filled with school readiness materials. Children at age 6-9 months receive a free sippy cup to help parents wean their child from the bottle to prevent baby bottle tooth decay. WIC staff make sure services are as accessible as possible by offering an off-site WIC clinic available at West Midland Family Center once a month to overcome transportation barriers. A dental clinic is brought to the WIC site once a month for preventative dental services and is free for Medicaid recipients.

**280**

customers enrolled.



Displayed artwork at the Mid Michigan Community Action Administrative Office.

# Housing and Self-Sufficiency Services

## Housing Preservation Program

Housing Preservation assists homeowners in repairing and rehabilitating their homes. This program brings relief to families and individuals who struggle to find the funds to make much needed repairs and to keep their home safe.

## Weatherization Program

The Weatherization program continues to help homeowners live in a safer and more energy efficient home.

**26**

homes weatherized.

**\$371,199**

expended to weatherize homes.

## Navigator Services

The Lead Navigator ensures Michigan consumers are well informed about eligibility and insurance options and are provided with accurate and impartial information to help facilitate consumer selection of Qualified Health Plans. Services are customer driven as the navigator goes into the community and meet customers where they are.

**1831**

customers assisted.

**72**

education and outreach events were attended.

## Homeowner Empowerment Program

The Homeowner Empowerment Program includes foreclosure prevention, homebuyer education and down payment assistance. The foreclosure prevention specialist provides counseling to homeowners who are in danger of foreclosure while also providing financial management help. A housing education coordinator provides customers with homebuyer education and enroll eligible customers into the IDA program where they receive a \$4,000 match for a down payment on a home.

**168**

customers assisted with foreclosure process.

**4**

homes purchased through IDA program.

**\$330,500**

spent in home purchases.

**21**

IDA program participants are currently working toward a buying a home.





# FY15 Service Expenditures

Emergency Services	Services	Amount	Food & Nutrition Services	Services	Amount
CSBG		745,050	Food Assistance - TEFAP	4,057	316,016
Utility Assistance (Heat, Metered, Water)	4,181	1,983,009	Food Assistance - CSFP	4,124	988,784
Church Fund	33	4,071	Women, Infant & Children Program	2,080	357,764
Emergency Food Pantry	516	17,625	Child Care Food Program		142,558
Subtotal	4,730	\$2,749,755	Subtotal	10,261	\$1,805,122
Child & Family Services	Services	Amount	Self Sufficiency Services	Services	Amount
Early Head Start	270	1,596,036	Housing Counseling / FSS	145	55,674
Head Start	242	1,408,440	IDA	21	
Great Start Readiness Program	178	914,013	Tax Program	967	8,941
Tuition-Based Preschool	8	25,019	Employment Support	57	7,733
Strong Families Safe Children	154	105,928	Foreclosure Prevention	168	13,275
Subtotal	852	\$4,049,436	Subtotal	1,358	\$85,623
Housing Services	Services	Amount	Grand Total	Services	Amount
Home Energy Improvements	32	380,372		17,519	\$10,051,673
Shelter/Homeless Assistance	286	981,365			
Subtotal	318	\$1,361,737			

*“We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors.”*

**Lyndon B. Johnson**, 36th President who initiated the National Community Action Network in 1966.



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<p><b><u>ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE</u></b> 1574 E. Washington Road PO Box 768 Farwell, MI 48622</p>	<p><b><u>WAREHOUSE</u></b> 2300 Ludington Drive Clare, MI 48617</p>
<p><b>Outreach Services</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Bay County</u></b> 111 Washington Ave. Bay City, MI 48708</p>	<p><b><u>Clare County</u></b> 1574 E. Washington Road Farwell, MI 48622</p>
<p><b><u>Gladwin County</u></b> 1302 Chatterton Gladwin, MI 48624</p>	<p><b><u>Mecosta County</u></b> 14330 Northland Drive Big Rapids, MI 49307</p>
<p><b><u>Midland County</u></b> 1409 Washington Street Midland, MI 48640</p>	<p><b><u>Osceola County</u></b> 240 E Church Ave. Reed City, MI 49677</p>
<p><b>Early Childhood Services</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Beaverton CAPS</u></b> 106 Tonkin St. Beaverton, MI 48612</p>	<p><b><u>Gladwin CAPS/EHS</u></b> 1302 Chatterton Gladwin, MI 48624</p>
<p><b><u>Clare CAPS</u></b> 1574 E. Washington Rd. Farwell, MI 48622</p>	<p><b><u>Harrison CAPS</u></b> 579 N. Clare Ave. Harrison, MI 48625</p>
<p><b><u>Clare EHS/Farwell CAPS</u></b> 2050 W. Cadillac Dr. Farwell, MI 48622</p>	<p><b><u>Mecosta EHS</u></b> 410 N. 3rd Ave. Big Rapids, MI 49307</p>
<p><b><u>Farwell Preschool</u></b> 268 Ohio St. Farwell, MI 48622</p>	<p><b><u>Midland EHS, WIC</u></b> Longview ECC 337 Lemke St. Midland, MI 48642</p>
<p><b><u>Osceola EHS</u></b> 240 E. Church St. Reed City, MI 49677</p>	

