

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

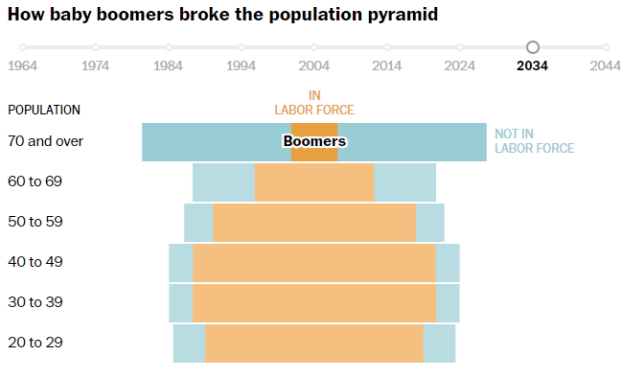
October
2023



Did You Know?

The average cost of a disposable diaper in the US is \$0.29. Disposable diapers for a single baby will cost approximately \$70 a month (\$840 a year). Babies will use around 6,000 diapers during the first two years of life.

HOW BABY BOOMERS BROKE THE POPULATION PYRAMID:



“So nobody wants to work around here?” I feel like I hear that all the time. Is that really true? Love or hate the Washington Post, they did a great article called, “The Boomers are Retiring. See Why That’s Bad News for Workers.”

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/interactive/2023/aging-america-retirees-workforce-economy/>

In this interactive article, you can type in your birth year and see how the number of workers per retiree changes in your lifetime. When I was born, that number was 5.0 workers per retiree. By the time I am 60, that number will be 2.9 and is projected to keep falling. Think about that in the context of Northeast Michigan – we are more senior than other places already. That tells me, we have few working-age people behind the boomers to backfill.....

I also love a good population pyramid diagram. In the article, they show how boomers move through the population pyramid:

Program Impact

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Fall Prevention

September was Fall Prevention Month and Region 9 AAA staff was busy promoting the cause! One of the activities was creating a commercial to promote the evidence-based program, **A Matter of Balance**. The statistics around falls are terrifying. One out of every five falls causes a serious injury and falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injuries. Not only do they have a potentially devastating impact on health, but they also come with a high price tag with the average cost per fall at more than \$30,000.00.

A Matter of Balance is designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase the activity level of older adults who have this concern. The eight-week workshop meets weekly, and instructors cover how to set goals for increasing activity, make changes to reduce fall risks at home, and how to increase strength and balance, all with a larger goal of viewing falls as controllable. **For more information, contact Brooke at 989.358.4616 or mainvilleb@nemcsa.org for more information.**

A Matter of Balance Commercial Link:
<https://youtu.be/zQijBvLHjWY>



The Roscommon COA A Matter of Balance class on Sept. 18, had guest speaker and Regional Advisory Council member, Chuck Corwin! Chuck has been A Matter of Balance coach for over twelve years!

This past month, Region 9 Area Agency on Aging conducted its 2023 Annual Matter of Balance Leader training at the Otsego County Library. Thirteen Matter of Balance coaches attended from eight counties (Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, and Roscommon). Much appreciation goes to these folks for conducting these classes!

Home & Community Based Services Conference

Jaime Carney, Region 9 AAA Associate Director and Yvette Smigelski, Region 9 AAA Director of Business/Financial Resources-Aging attended the 39th annual national Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Conference in Baltimore, MD from Aug 27 – 31. Multiple breakout sessions were offered in addition to some great plenary sessions to keep up to date on network activities related to long-term services and support and issues in the aging and disabilities services field. Some of the sessions attended included HCBS Settings: Post transition (after PHE ends), Medicaid 101, addressing workforce shortages, and Electronic Visit Verification implementation.

There were approximately 86 vendor booths to visit and explore showcasing the latest and greatest products, technologies, services, and support available throughout the network. Jaime and Yvette were able to meet and connect with vendors and agents in attendance not only throughout Michigan but from all over the country.

Flu Shot Clinic

Region 9 Area Agency on Aging partnered with District Health Department #4 to provide a walk-in flu clinic at the Hillman Senior Center on September 19, 2023. The walk-in clinic provided twelve participants with their annual flu shots.



Kinship Community Awareness Summit



- In Michigan over 185,926 children are living in homes where a relative is head of household.
- In Michigan over 54,000 children are being raised by kin with no parent present.
- 54,917 grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren in Michigan.

Region 9 AAA staff member, Brooke Mainville, attended the second annual Kinship Community Awareness Summit presented by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023, in Lansing.

The summit addressed issues and service gaps kinship caregivers often face. Featured was Dr. Krista Thomas, a Senior Policy Fellow at Chapin Hall, as well as presentations on the Opioid Settlement Spend Plan, Child Welfare Improvement Task Force's kinship work, Children Trust Michigan Re-source Centers.

Elder Abuse Prevention

The AAA's Annual Elder Abuse Prevention Conference was held Sept. 21 in Otsego County. The event provided information about identifying and reporting elder abuse and was attended by partner agencies, staff, and community members. **To report suspected abuse, call 855-444-3911.**



Program Impact

EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

NEW PRESCHOOL UP AND RUNNING

A recent article was published in the Alpena News by news writer, Temi Fadaymoi, regarding a new Head Start classroom opening up in Alcona.

A few details from the article are below.

Alcona Community Schools and Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency have partnered together to open a new three- and four-year-old Head Start preschool on the Alcona campus. "Seeing more of an incline in student numbers. It just kind of told us that there's a need for more preschool slots out there," Robyn Hart, Family Services Coordinator for NEMCSA Head Start, said. "So here we are, we've added another Head Start program to Alcona Community Schools. And thankfully, (Alcona Superintendent) Dan (O'Connor) and the Principal Tim Lee have worked real hard with (NEMCSA Area Manager) Jess (Pelto) and I to find a room for us at the corner elementary school."

The new preschool is located inside the Alcona Community Schools elementary building using a repurposed room and is currently at full capacity with 18 students.

To view the full article, visit The Alpena News website.

Please revise the statement to say Robyn can do enrollments for any of the Alcona preschool classrooms.

Contact information: call or text at 989-590-7217.

Check
this
Out

PARTNERSHIPS

NEMCSA, along with several other businesses, received a shout out on Facebook from the Bay City Public Schools Work Based Learning Program! The partnership between NEMCSA and the High School supports career development for youth and works to make the community stronger. NEMCSA is proud to be included with so many businesses and partners.



Bay City Public Schools Work Based Learning

August 25 · 📍

A successful first week for the 2023-2024 school year. We are very excited for our new and continued employer partnerships with Bay City Western High School!

Please choose to patronize these local businesses as they are making efforts to support our development for our youth and making this community stronger!

There may be even more to add to the list next week!

Advance Auto Parts

Aerospace America Inc.

Arby's

ATS Printing

Auburn Optical / Dr. Martin

B's Electric LLC

Barton Woods Assisted Living

Bay-Arenac Behavioral Health

Bay Composites, Inc.

Bob Evans

Burger King

Cafe One 3

Dow

Dow Bay Area Family YMCA

Dow Credit Union

Dow Gardens

Dresco Machining & Fabrication

DuPont

Durbin & Lang Obstetrics & Gynecology

Experience Your Eye Specialist

Elevated Salon

Imagine Theatres

Encompass Therapy Center

Falcon Asphalt Repair Equipment

Feinauer Farms

Frank's Great Outdoors

Game Changer Therapy Services LLC

Garpiel Group

Midland County, Michigan

Mid-Michigan Eye Care

MyMichigan Health

Nemcsa Head Start

O's Pub & Grill

Pat's Gradall Service

Pet Pals

Roger's at Auburn

RW Transmission

SC Johnson, A Family Company

Smith & Brooker, P.C.

Soldani's Pet Supplies

Specialty Concrete

Taco Bell

Valley-Ob Gyn Clinic

Washington Woods Housing

Wildfire Credit Union

XLT Engineering

Zion Lutheran Preschool - Auburn

Program Impact

FOOD PROGRAM

🍎 NEMCSA Food Program Update: Celebrating Our Long-Time Volunteer Elna Bishop 🍎

At NEMCSA, our commitment to supporting our community runs deep, and it's made possible by the dedication of our volunteers. Today, we want to spotlight someone exceptional—Elna Bishop, a long-time volunteer who has been an integral part of our NEMCSA family.

Elna Bishop: A Pillar of Our Community

For years, Elna Bishop has been the heart and soul of our Food Program. Her unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have been instrumental in ensuring that families in Cheboygan have access to the food and resources they need. Elna's compassion, enthusiasm, and boundless energy have left an indelible mark on all of us at NEMCSA. We would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to Elna for her years of service. Her selflessness and commitment have profoundly impacted the lives of countless individuals and families. Thank you, Elna, for being a shining example of what it means to give back to the community.

EmpowOR: The Engine Behind Our Success—

We're excited to share that our new software, EmpowOR, is exceeding our expectations. This powerful tool has streamlined our operations and made it easier than ever to manage applications and inquiries. With EmpowOR, we're able to efficiently process requests, ensuring that assistance reaches those in need without delay.

In August 2023, we proudly served 2,534 households through our Golden Groceries Giveaway Program, formally known as CSFP/Commodity Supplemental Food Program.



BRIDGES OF SELF SUFFICIENCY



Farewell to Two BOSS Mentors – Traci S & Brooke M:



First and foremost, we bid a heartfelt farewell to two incredible BOSS mentors, Traci S. and Brooke M. Their commitment and dedication over the past year have left a lasting impact on the families they served and supported. Traci and Brooke, you will be greatly missed, and your contributions to the BOSS program will be remembered with gratitude. Don't worry they are still providing excellent service in their full-time roles within their departments, Housing & Aging!

Our Community Resource Coordinator has been on the move, actively engaging with our communities throughout September. Here's a snapshot of CRC's involvement:

1. A Day of Caring in Otsego County: CRC joined a day dedicated to community well-being, contributing to the removal of invasive plants. This event exemplifies our commitment to environmental stewardship and community care.
2. Recovery Resource Fair in Atlanta, MI: CRC's presence at this fair underscores our dedication to supporting individuals on their journey to recovery, providing valuable resources and guidance.
3. Speaking Engagements: CRC's active participation in local service clubs, including the Kiwanis Club in Alpena and the Rotary Club of Oscoda, highlights our commitment to fostering community connections and sharing valuable insights.

Top Information Shared at Events:

At these events, we've been privileged to share essential information with our community members. Here's a breakdown of the topics covered:

- Annual Reports: Distributed 26 copies to keep our stakeholders informed about our progress and impact.
- Community Resource Coordinator Info: Shared insights and resources with 33 individuals interested in CRC services.
- Head Start, Financial Literacy & Food: Provided information to 9 attendees, emphasizing the holistic support we offer to families.

- General NEMCSA Overview: Engaged with 7 individuals, spreading awareness of our diverse range of services. These engagements exemplify our commitment to building strong, supportive communities across Northeast Michigan.

Program Impact

SCHOOL SUCCESS



Alpena High School student, Anthony LaFave
with SSP Area Manager, Liz Skiba.

"I am very proud of Anthony. We worked together for over a year at TBJH. Anthony and I worked tirelessly on classroom attendance and resiliency. Even though he had a wonderful 8th-grade year, I was concerned about his journey to 9th grade. Anthony is doing awesome at the high school. He will continue with the SSP program with Bryan Robarge at AHS. I am grateful for the program being available during critical transitions!" -Liz Skiba

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Hale Schools, School Success Liaisons, Melanie Downing and Steve Bradley, spreading JOY with their inter-active bulletin board where students can spread positivity in the school environment by adding kind messages and comments.❤️



Welcome Aboard new School Success Liaisons, Left to Right; Amanda Lynch (Iosco Alternative Ed. Tawas/Oscoda), Kay Woodruff (Fairview/Mio Schools), Paige Bruski (Besser Elementary Alpena). Transitioning into school after the first few weeks of the year has its challenges but these 3 liaisons are jumping right in. Welcome to SSP!

Kaye Woodruff (pictured middle) previously with Head Start has been with NEMCSA for 10.5 years and is eager to learn a new program (WOW!) Thank you, Kaye, for your dedication to NEMCSA!

Program Impact

HOUSING

THANK YOU TO OUR TEAM!

This month:

- 10** households out of homelessness
- 9** households prevented from homelessness
- 8** previously were living on the street
- 2** previously were staying in a women's safe house

In 2023:

278 adults assisted

165 children assisted

\$656,055 spent on security deposit and rental payments



NEMCSA was awarded a Permanent Supportive Housing Grant through Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This grant will provide intensive in-home services for chronically disabled individuals and families who had been homeless.

NEMCSA has also received a grant for Water Affordability. This funding will assist renters and homeowners with water and sewer shut offs, bill arrears and support to relieve cost burden.



We are getting ready for homeless awareness month in November. Many local businesses and agencies are already taking steps to support the cause. Here is a picture of a preschooler who with her school collect over 300 pairs of socks for "Sock it to September".

To find out more about Homeless & Prevention Services, call: 989-358-4678.

How can you help?
Canned food with metal tab, baked beans, canned chicken/tuna, granola bars, water

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

In the month of September, staff worked with **3 households** to complete **Pre-Purchase Counseling** to better help them become prepared to complete the homebuying process.

Family Self-Sufficiency Program
In the month of September, NEMCSA had **6 new households** sign up to participate in the **FSS program**. These households will meet with staff quarterly to set and reach housing goals for the next 5 years, while growing to financially support their households.

Staff are still working with members of the communities to assist them with applying for assistance with the MIHAF program through MSHDA.

In the month of September, staff assisted **6 households** with applying for assistance through MIHAF. Homeowners that have fallen behind are able to apply for assistance with the following items:

Delinquent Mortgage, Delinquent Property Taxes, Condo Dues, Homeowners Insurance, Mobile Home Lot Rent, Land Contract Payments, Utility bills, Heat, Power, Water, Internet

This month staff also worked with **2 households** through **rental counseling**. These households were homeless and working with housing staff in partnership with our housing counselor to make sure that they would be able to afford new units when found.

To find out more about the Financial Empowerment Programs, Call: 989-358-4627.

Program Impact

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS



Volunteers and staff from NEMCSA's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program commemorated the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks by joining in patriotic acts of volunteer service as part of the September 11th National Day of Service and Remembrance, commonly known as 9/11 Day.

It's been more than 20 years since the 9/11 tragedy. To honor and commemorate the anniversary of this solemn moment in our history – now recognized as a National Day of Service and Remembrance – community members are asked to pay tribute to those we lost and the many who rose in service on that fateful day by rekindling the spirit of compassion and volunteer service that unified our nation.

The events of 9/11 and the heroism of our first responders inspired thousands of people to get involved and ultimately, led to the birth of the September 11 National Day of Service and Remembrance, founded by the nonprofit 9/11 Day with the support of the 9/11 community, AmeriCorps, and bipartisan leaders in Congress. Many voluntarily enlisted during wartime and knowingly risked their lives to protect our country, while others found their calling in national and civic service. “As we reflect on 9/11, it is important to remember that community service is a powerful act of remembrance and unity,” says Rick Houchin, NEMCSA RSVP Project Director and event planner. “By selflessly giving back to our communities, we honor the lives lost and help create a brighter future built on compassion and solidarity.”

To promote community service across NE Michigan, NEMCSA RSVP volunteers and staff held community service events in Alpena, Crawford, Presque Isle and Roscommon counties the week of September 11th. These “donation drive” events were staffed by volunteers across the region and collected needed toiletries, cleaning and paper products, nonperishable food and more. All donation items went to the regional agencies of River House, Lydia’s Gate, Oasis of Hope House, Rogers City Area Senior Center, and NEMCSA’s Homeless & Prevention Services.

Program Impact

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

SENIOR COMPANION & FOSTER
GRANDPARENT PROGRAMS



*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

The Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs are excited to welcome back Grandma Madeline Hibner! Grandma Madeline retired from the Foster Grandparent program in 2022 after volunteering for six years at Wilson Elementary School in Herron, Alpena County. Everyone felt the loss of her dedication to the students, her ever-smiling face, and the wisdom and experience she was willing to share. Upon hearing Head Start would be opening a new center within seven miles from where she lives, she knew she needed to come back. She missed the kids, the purpose of the program, and all the feel-good moments. But let's be real... she missed the kids!

Grandma Madeline's return is bringing us an exciting opportunity. She will be serving at the new Head Start center opening in October in Herron. She will be the first Foster Grandparent volunteer placed in a NEMCSA Head Start classroom in five years. We are very excited to partner within our own NEMCSA family and we are hoping Grandma Madeline will be the start of a long partnership between our divisions.

Program Impact

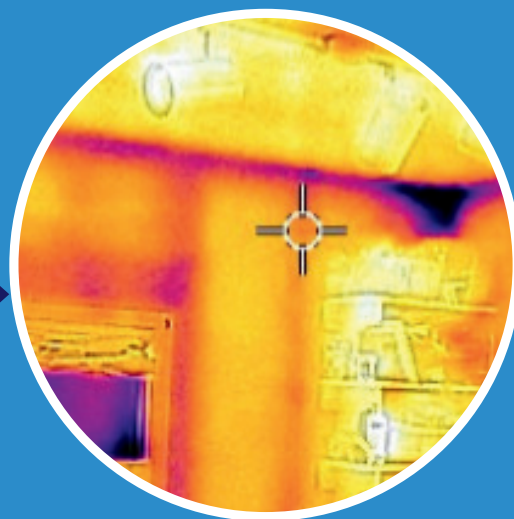
WEATHERIZATION

The Weatherization staff are commonly asked what tools our inspectors use to determine what best suits your home for assistance, and if so, how much assistance is needed.



The Blower Door - This tool will provide a measurement of actual air leakage happening in the home in real-time, with that measurement, staff can assess how much air sealing a home will need.

Infrared Camera - This camera is used in conjunction with the blower door. It can show exactly where the cold air is coming into the home, and this will guide the workers to air sealing in the correct places.



Manometer - Also known as a pressure gauge, this tool allows the inspector to measure differences in pressures and air flows in a home. This helps quantify air leakage for planning a work order.

NEMCSA is
proud to
announce that
in year 22-23, 76
homes have
been assisted,
and still have 38
in progress!

USE UP TO
40%
LESS ENERGY

with the Weatherization Assistance Program.



MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

WELCOME TO NEMCSA!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS

The important role of the new Career Development Coordinators; (from left to right) Brian Colorite (Tawas HS) & William Rings (PIVOT Alpena). Brian is implementing Academic Seminars where students get important information regarding funding opportunities for tuition and other events for students and families to feel at ease about college and future careers. Will is working one-on-one with students in the PIVOT program (court-partnered youth), making connections to sustainable work plans and career pathways. AND they do so much more! In terms of connecting with youth, they are amazing, and we are so lucky to have them!

H E C T O R



Hector Villarreal was born and raised in Corpus Christi, Texas and joined the United States Coast Guard shortly after high school. Married my high school sweetheart (Becky) and have two kids' daughter (Rae) and son (Ramsey) and have been married for 29yrs. Spent 23yrs in the Coast Guard and retired in 2018. The last few years in the Coast Guard I volunteered as a Reserve Sheriff's Deputy in Calcasieu Parish and upon retirement worked for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness as a regional coordinator until 2021 when we relocated to Alpena, to be close to granddaughters. Enjoy spending time with the family, playing golf, hunting, fishing, and wood working. Excited about being part of NEMCSA, working with the team, and the water program.



BRIAN



WILLIAM