It is hard to believe that we are only a year away from celebrating our 50th year of providing direct service and advocacy to low income and otherwise disadvantaged people in northeast Michigan. As we begin to look back over our rich history, we are proud of our accomplishments toward the goal of addressing poverty and its effects on thousands of residents throughout the region; yet we are always mindful of how much more needs to be done. Using our Strategic Plan as a roadmap, NEMCSA continues to build on its strong foundation becoming more efficient and effective as we move into a more digitized, electronic age.

Many important changes have happened internally to prepare a framework for the future. With the need for better outreach in mind, we undertook a major rebranding effort including hiring a communications/marketing/outreach staff member, revamping our logo and redesigning our website. The web, along with a renewed Facebook page, increased our online presence. The NEMCSA Board of Directors modernized by receiving computer tablets and by having a Board portal on our website. We also ramped up in-person outreach and advocacy by prioritizing interaction with partner agencies through attending meetings such as the Human Services Coordinating Councils and the Continuums of Care. The new Outreach and Communication Coordinator is providing a reintroduction of our services to community groups, local government, service clubs, job and health fairs and the like. Because NEMCSA covers such a large geographic area of nearly 7,000 square miles, it has been challenging to be a household name or to have instant community recognition. We hope to change that in the future.

As NEMCSA comes of age, we continue to lose senior administrative staff to retirement. This past year we honored the service of Linda McGillis, Early Childhood Services Director, 40 years; Bob Cain, Client Services Director, 24 years; and Barbara Dault, Volunteer Services Director, 20 years. Our Board of Directors said goodbye to Jack Mahank who passed away in January and to Bob Cudney who retired in March. Jack served on the NEMCSA board for 20 years as a representative from Crawford County, and Bob represented Iosco County for 15 years. With change comes opportunity so we welcomed Valerie Williams as the new head of Client Services; promoted Trisha Grifka as the Early Childhood Services Director; and folded the senior volunteer programs under the Region 9 AAA/Aging umbrella. Despite all of the changes, NEMCSA was named by the Detroit Free Press as one of the Top Workplaces in Michigan of 2016.

Change seems to be the ever present theme for Community Action as a whole and for NEMCSA as the local link. We will embrace these changes, continue to work collaboratively, engage with our community partners, leverage additional resources and create or maintain innovative anti-poverty and community building programs. Together we will build pathways for our children, families, and seniors to move from surviving to stability. Please join us in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Lisa Bolen
Executive Director/CEO
SERVICES PROVIDED

- **2,836** CHILDREN received early childhood services
- **8,552** HOUSEHOLDS received food boxes
- **614,114** MEALS provided to senior & homebound individuals
- **2,690** YOUTH enhanced their academic success
- **336,537** HOURS donated to programs
- **$470,212** EMERGENCY payments distributed
- **16,192** SENIORS maintained independent living
**Program Impact**

**Grateful mother went from long term renter to a thankful homeowner!**

A heart-broken mother who had little hope of ever owning her own home connected with NEMCSA to learn more about the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) and Individual Development Account (IDA) programs. The woman said she wanted to do something with her life and had always dreamed of owning her own home. She was willing to do what it took to clean up her credit and start saving for a down-payment. For the IDA program, she was required to open up a special savings account and deposit a minimum of $20 each month until she met her saving goal of $1,000. The program would then match her savings goal at a 3:1 ratio for a total down payment of $4,000.

**Without the School Success Partnership it would have been nearly impossible to overcome these hurdles we have jumped through!”**

Over the course of several years, she was diligent about increasing her savings and attending the required financial capability and home-buyer education classes. Through this entire process she was steadily paying down her debt and became qualified for the Key to Own Program. As a result of her hard work she was finally ready to start searching for her dream home. Thanks to the support of NEMCSA’s FSS and IDA staff she is no longer a renter but a grateful homeowner!

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**“The Foster Grandparent Program has changed my life!”**

Grandma Bonnie is a new volunteer to the Foster Grandparent Program. At almost 70 years old, Grandma says “she feels like 30” since she began interacting with the children a few months ago. This has been confirmed by her physician who encourages her to keep doing what she’s doing as a Foster Granny “because you’re looking younger every time I see you.” And who doesn’t want to look younger?

**“I will be Head Start’s advocate!”**

Jennifer Lopez first heard about the Head Start program from her son’s doctor. Jennifer’s son was having a hard time staying focused, and the doctor thought that the program could help with socialization skills. Jennifer quickly enrolled her little boy. After one year in the program, she was amazed at his behavioral difference. He was much calmer and better able to interact with his peers.

As soon as Jennifer’s daughter was old enough, she was enrolled in the Head Start program. “For my daughter, Head Start was not just a preschool program, it allowed my daughter to see.” Jennifer thought her daughter had a short attention span. She was encouraged to have her vision tested, which was something Jennifer had not even thought of doing for her daughter. The testing results were profound—her daughter needed glasses. “It was an eye-opening experience. It’s been life-changing for both of my kids. I will be Head Start’s advocate!”

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*FGP Volunteer Bonnie Whitehouse*

*Head Start Parent Jennifer Lopez*

*Happy School Success Student*

*Fun Head Start Cass Activity*
**REVENUES & EXPENDITURES**

**Revenue by Source**
1. Federal Share: $26,512,445 (50%)
2. State Share and Various Contracts: $21,522,602 (41%)
3. Local/In-Kind Share: $4,739,241 (9%)
Total: $52,774,288 (100%)

**Expenditures by Division**
1. Early Childhood Programs: $27,466,379 (52.0%)
2. Community Based Care Programs: $11,887,219 (22.5%)
3. Aging Programs: $4,984,750 (9.5%)
4. Client Services Programs: $4,046,749 (7.7%)
5. Youth Services Programs: $1,477,785 (2.8%)
6. Volunteer Programs: $651,924 (1.2%)
7. Community Development Programs: $239,269 (0.5%)
8. Management/General: $2,020,213 (3.8%)
Total: $52,774,288 (100%)

**PROGRAMS**
- Adult Day Care Services
- Care Management (CM)
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)
- Congregate Meals
- Creating Confident Caregivers™
- Early Head Start
- Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
- Family Rehousing Program (FRP)
- Family Self Sufficiency (FSS)
- Foreclosure Services Program
- Foster Grandparent Program (FGP)
- Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP)
- Head Start
- Home Delivered Meals
- Homebuyer Education & Financial Capability
- Homeless Assistance Programs
- Homeless Technical Assistance
- Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV)
- Individual Development Account Program (IDA)
- In-Home Services
- Legal Services
- Long Term Care Ombudsman
- Matter of Balance
- Medicaid/Medicare Assistance Program (MMAP)
- MI Café
- Michigan Assistive Technology Loan Fund
- Michigan Enrolls (Maximus)
- MI-Choice Waiver Program
- National Family Caregiver Support
- Personal Action Towards Health (PATH)
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)
- School Success Program
- Senior Companion Program (SCP)
- Tailored Caregiver Assessment and Referral (TCARE®)
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)
- Utility and Deliverable Fuels Program
- Weatherization
Our mission is to provide quality programs and services to strengthen and enhance the self-sufficiency of individuals, families and communities through the best use of human and financial resources, focusing on those who are experiencing an economic hardship.

This map represents NEMCSA’s core service area. For a complete listing of all NEMCSA’s programs by county, please refer to our website: www.nemcsa.org