



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2022



May is Community Action Month!

Throughout this month join us in celebrating accomplishments of NEMCSA and other Community Action Agencies. At 1000 strong, CAAs reach individuals and families in 99 percent of America's counties with life-changing services that empower people to live enhanced lives.

Consider giving this month to support the agency mission and help alleviate hardship affecting people that are struggling in our communities.

Whatever Your Why, Thank You!

Your donation - no matter the size - will help fulfill our mission to reduce the effects of poverty, empower individuals, strengthen families, and build communities.

Visit www.nemcsa.org to donate today!

\$25

\$50

\$100

Other

Last month NEMCSA partnered with Alcona Health Center to distribute FREE COVID-19 home test kits, program resource information, and provided a 2nd chance food pick up. Alcona Health Center offered walk-in COVID vaccines (first dose/ boosters) to adults. There will be another similar event on June 13 in Ossineke.

"I appreciate this event, especially the COVID vaccine opportunity. Everyone was so helpful and kind."

Enhancing quality of life by empowering individuals and strengthening communities.



We need your help collecting responses to our Community Needs Assessment. We have less than a third of the desired responses and just a few weeks left to obtain them. The Community Needs Assessment is an important tool used to determine programming and services, please share.



1. Which county do you live in or represent?

Alcona	42
Alpena	145
Armack	26
Charlevoix	55
Crawford	54
Isaac	129
Montmorency	80
Ogemaw	25
Oshtemo	15
Ontonagon	22
Pembae Isle	41
Roscommon	22
Other	100

We asked our staff why they like working for Community action- see one responses below.

I do not just "like" working for NEMCSA, I LOVE it. To me there is nothing that aligns more with my personal values and morals than the work that is done at a community action agency. NEMCSA embodies helping others all with a smile. From the work that we do supporting our communities, to supporting each other, NEMCSA feels like a home and I am proud to work with so many amazing individuals who strive to make a positive impact on the world each and every day they show up to work! - Together we are stronger

Community Program Updates

Lisa Werth SSP Liaison, Mary Skiba SSP liaison, Dorothy Pintar, Director Community Programs spent some time in Mrs. Krafts, 2nd grade class room helping the class work on relaxation techniques and controlling their emotions.



Alpena Alcona Credit Union staff presenting Dorothy Pintar, Director Community Programs a check in the amount of 1,000 for the School Success Partnership Program



The Amazing Food Program Team: Amanda Bergeron, Tammy Dean, Norm Aspey and Pete Muszynski smiling and working hard at their TEFAP Distribution.

Kristen Wisniewski, School Success Coordinator getting ready for the School Success Amazing Race activity.



Early Childhood Services

PROGRAM IMPACT

COMMUNITY
ACTION
MONTH May 2022



Head Start/GSRP children recently helped Tricia Grifka make a big decision: which postcard design to send to families this summer to notify them of acceptance into preschool next Fall.

Over 700 children voted, and the winning design is shown above.

Huge thanks to all the classroom staff who helped with the voting process!



"Working for a Community Action Agency has allowed me to be true to the essence of my personal professional goal- contributing to the support of families and aiding families to feel accomplishment in their world."

"Everyone who works for a Community Action Agency is part of a much larger system that is making our communities stronger. I love being a part of that!"

"I love working for a community action agency because the work I do isn't making a company more money supporting and enriching my community."



Early Childhood created a new recruitment video in hopes to get the word out about how awesome it is to work in Head Start...check it out!

Food Services

PROGRAM IMPACT

COMMUNITY
ACTION
MONTH May 2022



The Food Program has been busy working with our grant writer, Tracey Wood. We have submitted for two new funding opportunities that would allow us to grow our food programs by bringing fresh produce to three pilot counties, establishing a pantry, mobile delivery program and potentially 24/7 food locker access.

In addition, May is a busy month for the Food Program. We have both CSFP & TEFAP distributions running, along with 2nd chance pick up at our Ossineke Office/Warehouse location.

For more information on distributions visit www.nemcsa.org.

Note from a Food Participant:

"You all are angels here on earth, you have been so accommodating to me making sure that I get my food every month since I can't get out to the distributions due to my health. I really do not know what I would do without you all. Thank you for all that you do and to everyone who makes these types of assistance possible."

During a recent staff meeting, our team was asked what they loved most about their career with NEMCSA. They responded:

"The people we serve, helping others and building long standing relationships"

Weatherization Services

PROGRAM IMPACT

COMMUNITY
ACTION
MONTH

May 2022

Help us Celebrate!



State of Michigan Deferral Reduction Funds Making a Difference in Northeast Michigan



The home pictured above was a going to be deferral in the Weatherization Program due to the condition of the flat roof. Thanks to the influx of these specialized funds our program has replaced the entire roof system and added insulation to a home that would not be able to have attic insulation without these funds. Now the Weatherization process can move forward and make this home more energy efficient and in the end save this client money each and every month moving forward. This was our first home to take advantage of the deferral reduction program and it was a perfect example of the impact it can make.

Details are being released for the upcoming expansion in the Weatherization Program. With the passage of the Infrastructure Legislation a sizable increase in the Weatherization budget at the Federal level will translate into a tripling of our local program funding. We are in the process of ramping up our production capacity. With this in our future we have added another Weatherization Inspector to our staff. We are proud to welcome Cheryl Laban into that position and she will hit the ground running May 2nd.



PROGRAM IMPACT



Homeless, hungry and freezing. Read the story below to find out how NEMCSA changed his life.



John (Alpena): When his caseworker Ashley started working with him, he was living in an uninsulated garage using a pellet stove for heat. He had no income and could not always get pellets donated. There were many weeks this winter he went without heat. After 7 months of being in that garage, Ashley found him a home and his landlord hired him for work! John called his NEMCSA case worker on his way home from work and said "Wow, I can't believe I actually get to go home tonight! I have not been excited to head home in a very long time and be able to be warm!"

After living at the homeless shelter for six months with no income or family support, Nathan has moved into his own apartment and gained employment. When Nathan moved in, he had no household items. His caseworker, Ashley Smart, got him Goodwill vouchers and a basket of supplies from The Kindness Closet. With Nathan beginning his new employment, his case worker arranged for budget counseling with our Financial Coach to work through barriers and ensure Nathan always has a house to come home to.

Over this past year we have been able to place and keep over 1,000 people in their homes!

Volunteer Services

PROGRAM IMPACT

During Community Action Month I wish to shout out what I love most about being part of a Community Action Agency... the community part.

During April's monthly in-service meeting, our volunteers were able to benefit from presentations by Doug Tallant, Weatherization Program Manager and Ashley Gagnon, Financial Coach. Accompanying Doug was Kristen Thoman, Central Intake Supervisor and following Doug's presentation, Kristen was able to sign up nine of our volunteers for the program across our 12-county area.

Our FGP and SCP volunteers are active community members and often act as conduits of program information to friends and family throughout the area. Furthermore, by sharing information across programs that may benefit a volunteer or their circle of influence, we are better able to serve the purpose of AmeriCorps Seniors by removing barriers to service and better enable our low-income seniors to serve as volunteers.

Having been forced into an early retirement from his construction job due to injuries, Kevin Bleau felt depressed and anxious with the lack of purpose and social connections employment provides.

Kevin became a Senior Companion the spring of 2018 and soon started to notice his depression and anxiety began fading away. Kevin had no idea he could make a difference for someone else or that they, in turn, would have such a positive impact on him. He considers volunteering "a no brainer and not just something I want to do but must do... it makes perfect sense to improve upon oneself by serving others".

Kevin is pictured below along with NEMCSA Central Intake Supervisor Kristen Thoman, signing up for the Weatherization Program.



COMMUNITY
ACTION
MONTH May 2022

Help us Celebrate!



Scool Success Partnership Services

PROGRAM IMPACT

COMMUNITY
ACTION
MONTH May 2022



Axel's Success Story

I have worked with Ms. Oliver-Allen for quite some time in the School Success Program. I have gained self-confidence, leadership skills, and have increased my grades. I went from procrastinating all my assignments to showing up to class daily and on time. Some days I want to sleep in class or not go to school, but after participating in the program I have found new responsibilities and ways to avoid my old habits.

I have also gained new friends while participating in group activities such as tutoring. Tutoring was always a chore, but now I see it as a positive experience and fun. I have worked on building new relationships and being able to identify a good support group.

Each day, I'm thankful to have a job I truly look forward to go to. NEMCSA School Success offers me the opportunity to make a difference in my community.

Anne Proctor, Senior School
Success Liaison



Sanborn 2nd graders completed the Super Hero Social Skills Curriculum over the last 8 weeks with Mrs. Weide and celebrated National Super Hero Day by enjoying Super Kid Ice Cream! I read the students a story called Be Who You Are and each student received a Super Kid Certificate for completing the social-emotional learning curriculum.

Volunteer Services

PROGRAM IMPACT

COMMUNITY
ACTION
MONTH May 2022



April was National Volunteer Month, a time for leaders across the country to celebrate those that dedicate their lives to community building through volunteer service. At NEMCSA, we believe our volunteers have the power to create lasting change.

Every day, RSVP volunteers across the region rise to the challenge and tackle some of our toughest issues. Homelessness, food insecurity, social isolation, are just a few of the pressing issues facing our region. RSVP volunteers are on the front lines, alongside local leaders, doing the work to improve the lives of others.

Join us by thanking a volunteer for making a meaningful difference in our communities.

"I love talking to people and making them laugh. When I can help others, I really feel like I've done something worthwhile." Deb in Ogemaw County

"Being an RSVP volunteer has made me realize how many people need our help. I am happy that I am able to help fill that need." Wayne in Roscommon County

"I love getting out of the house and meeting new people while being active and using the skills I have." Andy in Alpena County

AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP pairs Americans aged 55 and older with organizations making change in their communities. RSVP volunteers choose how, where, and when they want to serve, with commitments ranging from a few hours per month to 40 hours per week.

RSVP volunteers themselves report better health and longevity having served their community.

Senior Services

PROGRAM IMPACT

COMMUNITY
ACTION
MONTH May 2022



May is Older Americans Month How will you celebrate?

Advocacy is a huge piece of what an Area Agency on Aging does and so May 9-13 is designated as Senior Action Week. During this week, community members are encouraged to contact legislators on important issues that impact the day-to-day lives of older adults in Michigan.

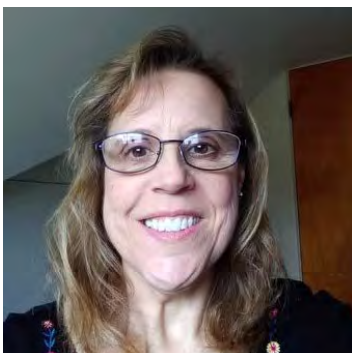
The week's biggest event is Older Michiganians Day on May 11 which includes a rally in Lansing at the Capitol. There are four spots open to attend in person.

Contact Laurie Sauer at 989-358-4663 if you would like to join in the effort to highlight older adults needs to the Michigan legislature.



Here's what a Creating Confident Caregivers Workshop Participant has to say about the course:

"Thank you for providing these classes. It gives caregivers something to use as a reference since dementia is always changing. The text book is good because you can go back. Some chapters can be more relevant at different times. I really enjoyed all the caregivers sharing, it is surprising how some things are the same, and makes me feel like I am not the lone survivor or the only one having these issues."



Connie McQuarrie, a 30-year employee, has this to say about working in a community action agency:

"I love working for a community action agency because the programs and services we provide help so many people in the communities we serve."