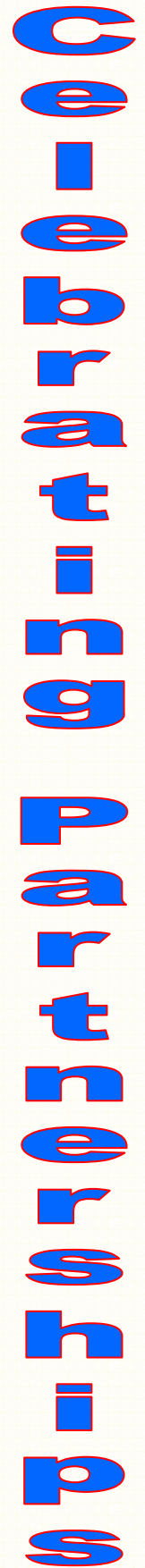


2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Barnes & Noble Community Relations Manager Amy Dickinson reads to Head Start children at Cornerstone Center in Utica from one of the nearly 400 books that generous customers of the bookseller donated during the 2007 holiday season.



NOTES FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AMY TURNER



AMY
TURNER



The 2007 annual report focuses on partnerships and the importance they have in winning battles in the “War on Poverty.” No major campaign can ever be won without the allies and this war is no different. We have been engaged in this war for forty plus years during lean times and more prosperous, but we all keep moving forward towards the ultimate goal of some day eliminating poverty.

Our partners played many roles. The Order of the Eastern Star donated 200 pairs of socks for our Head Start families; Stewarts Shops donated \$1,500 for our housing efforts; The Upstate Empowerment Fund gave us nearly \$800 for our beneficiaries fund; Barnes & Noble donated hundreds of books for our Head Start and Family Literacy initiative; Kohl’s provided 900

stuffed animals to accompany our early reading program.

The alliances we share with you in this report only begin to suggest the power of partnerships.

And while we celebrate our successes, it is imperative that we stop shrinking our ideas around ending poverty. Martin Luther King Jr. did not advocate the elimination of some portion of racism. He asked the nation to eliminate all racism. The United States and its allies did not want some of Nazi Germany to go away. We wanted to dismantle the Third Reich altogether. I challenge each and every one of you to look at poverty the same way!

Poverty has not been a national priority since the sixties; in fact, there have been many attempts over the years to dismantle many of our programs. Absent from the recent presidential electoral campaign was any discussion of poverty at all. Instead, tax cuts for the wealthy, saving the middle class and protecting the homeland became the dominant themes and set the parameters for the debate. While millions of Americans lack adequate housing, health care, and income supports, the campaign and national dialogue continue to include discussions that omit poverty or any mention of our responsibility to end it.

While 1% of the population owns 41% of the nation’s wealth, 36 million people were living in poverty, an increase of over 4 million people in just the last 3 years! During this time, battles in Washington for funding of many of our programs have been more controversial and difficult than ever.

Is this country really okay with poverty? Is it acceptable to have some? How about some racism, or some cancer or some gang violence? Are we willing to accept that? How about some shootings in some school buildings? Or just some terrorism in some states? Poverty is as important a national crisis as these other very serious issues this country faces.

The agency’s original mission from the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was to “eliminate poverty in the midst of plenty.” It is important to remember our purpose and why we do what we do.....

As you review our accomplishments and financial status, please also enjoy this sketch of the diversity of the partnerships that we cultivate and celebrate every day as we reach out to the thousands of families that we serve each year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Mathis, Chairman
Rev. Thomas Hast, Vice Chairman
Carole Torok-Huxtable, Treasurer
Mary Kline, Secretary

Harry Bilton	Karla Knapp
Darlene Mack-Brown	Patricia Langendorf
Dorothy Clark	Terry Leonard
Regina Clark	Ruth Morgan
Rose Ann Convertino	Ann Paoni
John Wesley Daniels Jr.	Harry Robbins
Rev. Arthur Gary	Susan Woods
Pam Gydesen	Peter Zawko

20	Members of the Board of Directors
870	Hours volunteered by board members

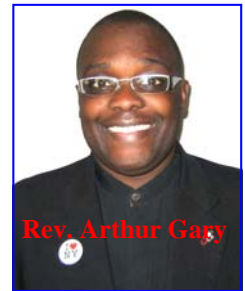
HEAD START POLICY COUNCIL

Kara Leigh Plane	Paul Sylvester
Mary Mosley-Forbes	Tanya Fiore
Krystal Harmon-Burton	Sandy Jones
Edith Franklin	Diane Godlewski
Jessica Sylvester	Dosrine Jenkins
Tammy Schremmer	Nancy Gaston
Stephen Reeves	Ann Paoni
Jennie Leigh	Oare Beyah
Allison Pavelka	

NEW WENACABA BOARD MEMBERS - 9-2002



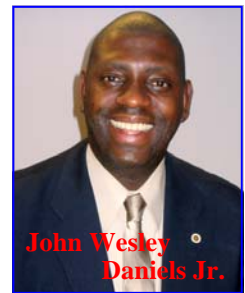
Susan Woods



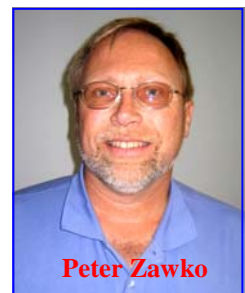
Rev. Arthur Gary



Pamela Gydesen



John Wesley Daniels Jr.



Peter Zawko

Partnerships take many forms to best serve our customers



One of our largest and most diverse partnerships is the Head Start Health Services/ Nutrition Advisory Committee. Meeting quarterly with directors and managers of our Head Start services and the Head Start Policy Council are representatives of many health-related agencies, including Cornell Cooperative Extension, county health departments, the Perinatal Network, county WIC, Utica College, Central Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Central New York Dental Coalition and the Family Nurturing Center. Committee Chair Dr. Charles Burns, shown in the center of the rear row, a local dentist, also devotes many hours of care to children, setting an example for committee members.



Some partnerships go on in different forms.

Carolyn Trimbach spent her working years as a licensing representative for the state Office of Children and Family Services. Her job was to make sure Head Start was teaching current

skills in their field.

Carolyn retired and now drives an hour and a half from her home in Old Forge four or five times a year to teach those skills as a Head Start volunteer.

“I miss these people,” she said. “This lets me keep my hand in. I like to be able to keep in touch.”

It’s a nice touch for Community Action, too.



The Communications Club for students of Donovan Middle School in Utica was organized by Family Services to help youngsters deal with the sometimes overwhelming pressures of day-to-day school activities and after-school influences. It is one of many programs done in collaboration with area schools.

And, of course, we partner with the families of Oneida and Herkimer counties to help them make their own lives better.

In 2007, 6,224 persons used our Family Resources services. Here are just a few of the measurable results:

136	Found a job
40	Obtained safe, affordable housing
36	Obtained EITC payments of \$115,064
445	Demonstrated ability to maintain a budget for at least 90 days
619	Seniors were able to maintain independent living
1,088	Received assistance to pay energy or housing bills
30	Received legal assistance
53	Received temporary shelter

PARTNERS HELP US SERVE BASIC NEEDS AS WELL AS LOFTY IDEALS

A 61-year-old man lived with his mother in her home until she died in 2007. The Little Falls city codes department declared the home uninhabitable because of numerous codes violations. The codes department contacted Herkimer County Social Services and DSS moved him into an elder housing facility and referred his case to Community Action for counseling. When MVCAA's outreach worker visited the man's small efficiency apartment, she found that his only furniture was a kitchen set and a living room chair, where he slept every night. The worker called several local agencies before one was found with a small bed and mattress for Arthur. It took a while because it was important to find one that folded up during the day so the man still had enough living space. "It may seem like such a small thing, but he's delighted," the hard-working family specialist said.

PROTECTING YOUR MONEY IS KEY

It doesn't matter how much, or how little, money you have, it's important to watch it carefully. Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency teamed up with the Mohawk Valley Asset-Building Coalition on free financial wellness programs in Utica and Rome in 2007, open to the general public. The Coalition led "Money Works" workshops in January and February in Utica and MVCAA hosted the New York State Consumer Protection Board in Rome in January for a presentation on identity theft, financial awareness, credit reports and cyber security. Also in January the Rev. Thomas Hast, MVCAA board vice president and a financial planner, led two financial planning seminars in Utica and Rome for the public.

MONEYMAKER AND MONEY SAVER

MVCAA's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance volunteers partnered with volunteers from the State University of NY Institute of Technology and the Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network to file 94 income tax returns. Their average adjusted gross income was \$11,947.33. The effort resulted in total tax refunds for our customers of \$115,064, an average refund of \$1,224.09. Not only was that money in the pockets of our customers, it was money pumped directly into the local economy, helping many businesses and other citizens. The volunteer filings also meant a hefty savings to customers. Program managers estimated that they would have had to pay commercial tax preparers a grand total of more than \$8,000 for the same services.

Housing services made sure hundreds of families had safe and affordable homes



340	Homes were weatherized to make them more energy-efficient
154	Homes were audited by Empower to see where they were wasting energy
122	Families learned how to cut their electric bills with Empower's help
10	Boonville commercial and civic buildings renovated by Rural Preservation Program
374	Families got help with their rent from the HUD Section 8 assistance program



3,984 persons took advantage of Child Development services.



The Order of the Eastern Star designated Head Start as one of the Christmas charities for the residents of its Eastern Star Home in Oriskany, NY. The residents collected 200 pairs of socks for Head Start families and turned them into a Christmas tree that was presented to Head Start executives and teachers.

983	Children and infants received immunizations and medical and dental care
490	Children developed school readiness skills
1,300	Youth improved physical health and development
25	Youth improved social/emotional development
185	Youth participated in before- or after-school programs
110	Parents improved their parenting skills

All told, MVCAA served 13,319 people in 3,846 families in 2007.
 Those we served also served us well by revealing information that will let us develop our strategic plan as we go forward.

Some Examples:

Of 10,134 persons who provided health information, 3,273 had no health insurance and 1,089 were disabled.

814, or 39 percent, were headed by a single female; 337 had no source of income; 167 were homeless; 501 owned their homes.

And who is serving our people?

258	Full-time MVCAA workers	
52	Part-time MVCAA workers	
839	Program volunteers	
93,218	Hours worked by volunteers	

We celebrate our partnerships, but we also thank our own workers who have brought recognition to the agency.

One we were pleased to honor in 2007 is Family Development Program Director Carmine Jadoo. She was recognized by the Family Development Association of New York State as winner of the fifth annual Betsy Crane Award . Jadoo joined Community Action in 1988 as an emergency and client services representative, helping families with their housing, food, clothing and fuel emergencies. Today she supervises the agency's Youth Advocates and Family Specialists and their daily work with families across Oneida and Herkimer counties. The statewide award is named for Betsy Crane, a founder of the Family Development Credentialing program and a national authority on family development.



2007 Golf Tournament Partners

Our annual tournament supports our discretionary account, which we use for emergency assistance not covered by our traditional services. NBT Bank and Scalzo, Zogby & Witting Insurance renewed their longtime roles as our Eagle Sponsors, with donations of \$2,000 each. Birdie Sponsors, at the \$1,000 level, were Relph Benefit Advisors and Empower Federal Credit Union. Teams and tee sponsors added another \$4,425. They were Kevin Donovan & Friends (our mixed team champs), Ber-Mor Gas, Vaccaro Construction, Hart's Hill Inn, SYSCO (our men's team winners), Securitronics, Pezzolanella Construction, Rome General Lumber, ESI, Bolan GMC Isuzu, REM Fire Systems, Arcuri's Heating & Air Conditioning, Gizzi Printing and Promotional Sales, Gilbert Supply Co., and Northern Safety Co.

In tough times, success is sweeter



A woman came to us in July after her husband was arrested for domestic violence and left her with two daughters to care for alone.

A brief job ended and she was evicted when she couldn't pay her rent and was living on the streets or with friends. She sent one daughter to live with the child's biological father and the other daughter to live with friends.

The Homelessness Intervention Program Specialist helped her find an affordable apartment as she searched for a job. She has been able to maintain the apartment with the help of Public Assistance and Food Stamps, and now has her daughters living with her again. She is now fully employed, has a new boyfriend who helps with the rent and bills and she is saving money toward the purchase of a car.

Her long-term goal is to purchase a house.



A mother came to us in November on a referral from Child Protective Services. CPS had removed her 2-year-old in the summer for lack of supervision. She had left the child in the care of a caregiver and the caregiver had permitted the child to wander out of her apartment. The customer was referred because she was responsible for the child's primary care.

Poor housekeeping was another issue, but it was immediately resolved after counseling.

She worked with a family specialist on parenting skills for toddler age children and her "final exam" during the skills training was successfully potty training her child.

The specialist said, "She's very motivated and determined and I see her accomplishing all her goals.

She works at (a local manufacturer) on the midnight shift. Her goals are to work on appropriate supervision of her child, and to purchase a vehicle and obtain a larger apartment. I'm confident she will reach her goals."



A family of four was facing eviction by the Little Falls Housing Authority for non-payment of rent. The father is on Social Security Disability and the mother had been working as a nurse's aide until she had to leave the job to care for her own elderly mother. The cut in family income could not cover their rent, so she appealed to Social Services which worked with MVCAA to get Federal Emergency Aid and Shelter assistance to avoid an eviction. The Housing Authority agreed to recalculate the rent to an affordable level.

DSS worked with MVCAA to get the woman into our Tutorial Intervention Program, and she recently received her GED and applied for a job with a health care facility. Her goal now is to earn an LPN and she is researching available tuition assistance.



A woman came to MVCAA in 2006. She had lost custody of her three children because of her drug use and she was referred by Child Protective Services .

At the time she was homeless and children were in custody of her mother.

She tried to cooperate with the family specialist, but at first she didn't think she'd have to put much effort into the change. She gradually realized that unless she tried harder, she wouldn't get her children back.

She completed drug treatment and she regained custody of the children, she has an apartment and she is now gainfully employed.



A mother and her teenage son, both immigrants who recently became U.S. citizens, were left homeless after her boyfriend threw them out. The mother is on Workers Compensation because of a work injury, and she reluctantly asked Social Services for help. DSS referred them to the Family Reunification Program, where it was determined they were eligible for section 8 Rental Assistance. Herkimer Hunger Coalition provided a partial security deposit from its Security Deposit Program for the apartment, and the family furnished it with furniture donated by other agencies that had been alerted by the Community Action family specialist. The son also was eligible for the Tutorial Intervention Program, which allows him to attend summer school without paying tuition and to remain in the school he had been attending so he can graduate with his classmates.

The two say they are happy with their new home and they have been making friends of their new neighbors.

Much of our success comes from the work of our generous volunteers

47	Number of volunteers in Foster Grandparents program
44,405	Number of hours volunteered by Foster Grandparents



Each year we invite our Foster Grandparents to lunch to recognize all that they do for the young people they serve. Senior Program Director Ann Perry, center, thanks Pat Ferlo, left, and Clara Ellis at the 2007 luncheon.

HONORING OTHERS WHO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency takes time out from the ongoing war on poverty each year to honor community leaders who devote themselves to our vision of a world free of poverty.

Rose White of New Hartford was presented with the Treva Wood Community Activist Award, given each year in memory of the former longtime Community Action executive director. White is executive director of Hope House in Utica and worked closely with Treva Wood on Community Action's Runaway and Homeless Youth Program.

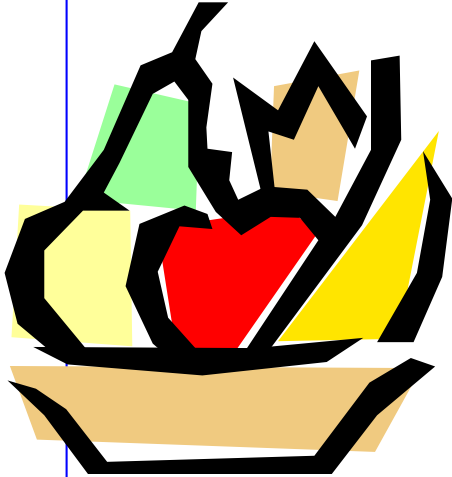
Laura Vieira-Suarez of Holland Patent, former academy principal at Thomas R. Proctor High School in Utica, won the Community Builder Award for being a mentor and inspiration to students and for her volunteer activities.

The Rev. Philip Hearn, pastor of St. Mary's and St. Peter's Roman Catholic Churches in Rome, won the Community Visionary Award for his leadership in the Syracuse Diocese and his charitable activities.

Maurice Pauline, a youth counselor in MVCAA's Transitional Living Program in Utica, received the Community Achiever Award. He overcame two decades of drug use to graduate from college and to become a role model for youth. He also works with the Life Skills Project in Oneida County Jail.

The 2007 Community Champions Honorees, from left to right, are Rose White (Treva Wood Community Activist Award), Laura Vieira-Suarez (Community Builder), The Rev. Philip Hearn (Community Visionary) and Maurice Pauline (Community Achiever).





We Help Our Workers to Healthier Living

Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency held its fourth annual Head Start and Early Head Start Employee Wellness Day in August at Utica College, one of our most faithful partners.

The program, presented by MVCAA's Child Development Division, offered a menu for good health, both figuratively and literally.

The theme of the program was "A Cookbook of Caring," and participants received a cookbook of recipes "for health, simplicity, joy and enrichment" prepared by the agency's health and nutrition division.

The keynote speaker was Ann Tabrizi of Attitudes Unlimited. Her topic was Lighten Up! He/She Who Laughs, Lasts! Utica College Dean of Health and Human Studies K. Della Ferguson and Vice President of Academic Affairs Judy Kirpatrick also spoke.

Group activities included presentations on "Saving Lives One Story at a Time," "Living and Learning from Nature," "Laugh Your Way to Wellness," "Getting all of the Chefs to Work Together in the Kitchen," "Create Your Mind and Create Yourself," and "Nutrition Choices."



We Encourage People of All Ages to Be Good Citizens of Their World

Linda Wisheart, past president of the Rome VFW Post 2246 Auxiliary, recently presented American flags and certificates of appreciation to more than 50 children in Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency Head Start classes in Sylvan Beach, Camden and Rome for learning the Pledge of Allegiance. Below, two children admire the handsome flags Wisheart gave to every child.



Thank-yous are nice, too

The hard work we do pays off in the success stories of our customers, but it's always good to know others appreciate our efforts. Leonard R. Hendrix, Chairman of the Herkimer County Legislature, was among the county and city officials that declared May as National Community Action Month and showed their appreciation in a tangible way. Herkimer County Legislator Vincent Bono presented a proclamation on Hendrix's behalf to MVCAA Board Member Ann Paoni before a gathering of more than 75 elected officials and area residents.

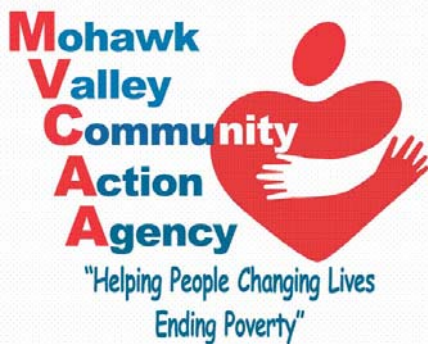
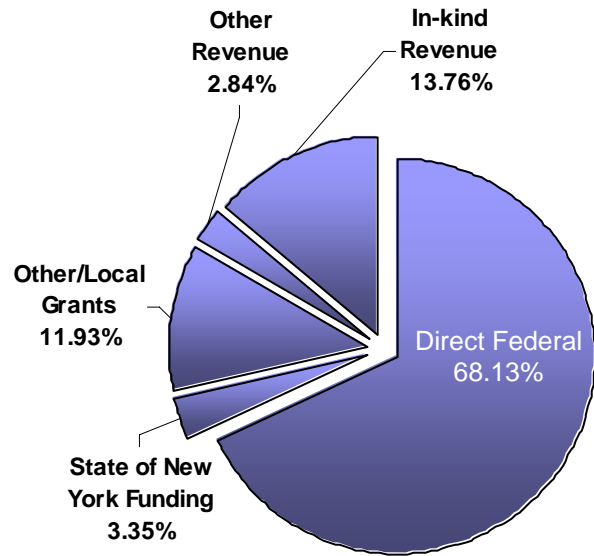
Others saluting their partnerships with MVCAA and Community Action in May included the cities of Utica and Rome and Oneida County.



Our Funding Partners Make Our Visions Reality

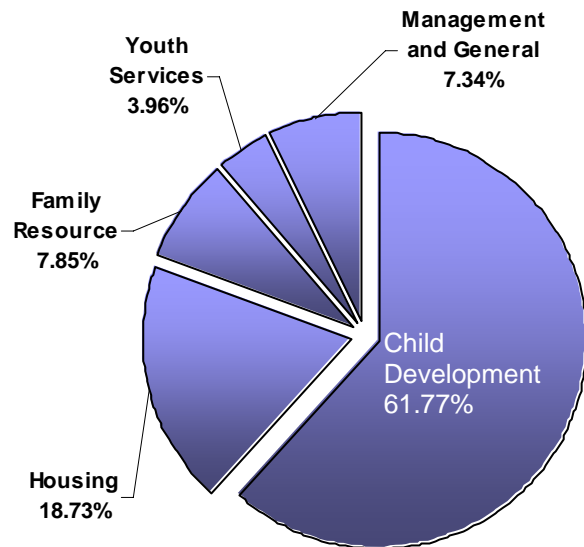
Source of Funds

Direct Federal	\$10,004,334
New York State	491,829
Other/Local Grants	1,751,850
Other Revenue	417,173
In-kind Revenue	2,020,052
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$14,685,239</u>



Use of Funds

Child Development	\$9,000,772
Housing	2,729,601
Family Resources	1,194,796
Youth Services	577,382
Mgt and General	1,069,161
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$14,571,712</u>



**MOHAWK VALLEY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

July 31, 2007 and 2006

	<u>Assets</u>	
	2007	2006
<i>Current Assets</i>		
Cash and equivalents	\$616,389	\$402,142
Fees and grants receivable	642,748	490,486
Other receivables	9,580	13,509
Prepaid expenses	27,298	31,430
Inventory	9,893	0
<u>Total current assets</u>	<u>\$1,305,908</u>	<u>\$937,567</u>
<i>Investments, at fair value</i>	\$708	\$708
<i>Property</i>		
Property and equipment, at cost	\$3,170,835	\$3,122,231
less accumulated depreciation	1,592,679	1,381,015
Net property and equipment	1,578,156	1,741,216
<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$2,884,772</u>	<u>\$2,679,491</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
<i>Current Liabilities</i>		
Accounts payable	\$179,593	\$116,147
Accrued expenses	586,083	417,963
Refundable expense	43,786	19,548
Deferred revenue	142,012	141,408
Other liabilities	24,178	25,755
<u>Total liabilities</u>	<u>\$975,652</u>	<u>\$720,821</u>
<i>Net Assets</i>		
<i>Unrestricted:</i>		
Available for operations	\$330,256	\$216,746
Investment in property	1,406,331	1,557,541
<u>Total unrestricted</u>	<u>\$1,736,587</u>	<u>\$1,774,287</u>
Temporarily Restricted Assets	172,533	184,383
<u>Total net assets</u>	<u>\$1,909,120</u>	<u>\$1,958,670</u>
<u>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</u>	<u>\$2,884,772</u>	<u>\$2,679,491</u>