



Hope Inside



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Across our community, need continues to grow

You ensure that no matter what, your neighbors can get the support they need to thrive.

Every day, we're meeting new neighbors. Community members who have never before needed to ask for support, are coming to us now because of one thing: **They know you will be there** for them. No matter what they need.

At the Gathering Place, for example, you're helping serve more meals than ever before.

This June, the Gathering Place served 4,059 meals. In July, we served 4,359.

This August, we served 4,405 meals at the Gathering Place—the most ever served in a month.

Recently, a new guest, John, shared with us that, "I never needed this place before. But I'm glad you're here now that I do." Need in our community is growing rapidly. It's only because of you that so far, we've been able to meet it.

Thank you.

But these increased levels of need go beyond the Gathering Place. We are regularly receiving over 1,000 calls for emergency rent, utility, and deposit assistance each month—a level of need

greater than the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Action is one of the largest emergency rent, utility, and deposit assistance providers in our service area, which makes your support even more critical. By giving to Community Action, you ensure your neighbors like April, can stay safely and stably housed.

Recently, April underwent an emergency surgery and was unable to pay her electricity bill. She faced a utility disconnection as a result. April called Community Action, unsure of where else to turn. April worried she would be released from the hospital to

a home without electricity. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to work with April and her utility provider to pay her past-due bill and ensure service was reconnected the following day.

Need in our community is growing rapidly. It's only because of you that so far, we've been able to meet it.

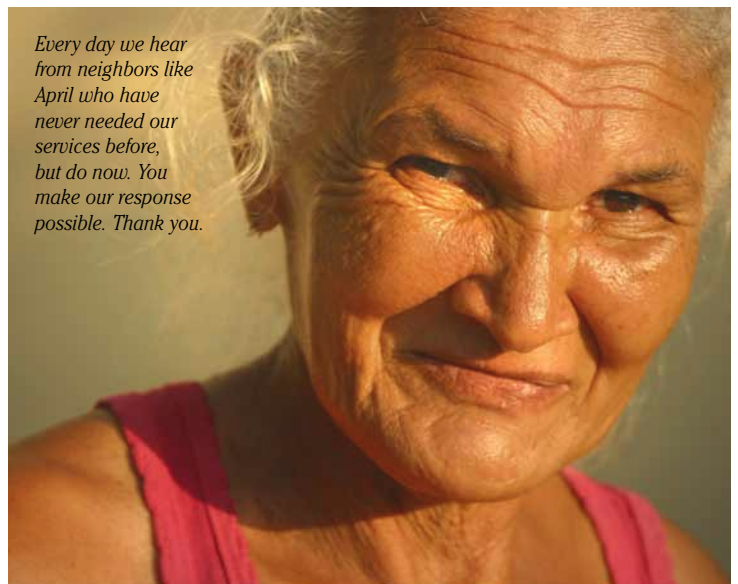
"Thank you," April said, "I'm so grateful that now I can focus on healing."

Every day, need in our community is growing. Every day, neighbors like John and April turn to Community Action for support in a time of crisis. **Your neighbors need you now more than ever,** and you continue to show up for them. **You build stability.** You create opportunity. **Thank you.**

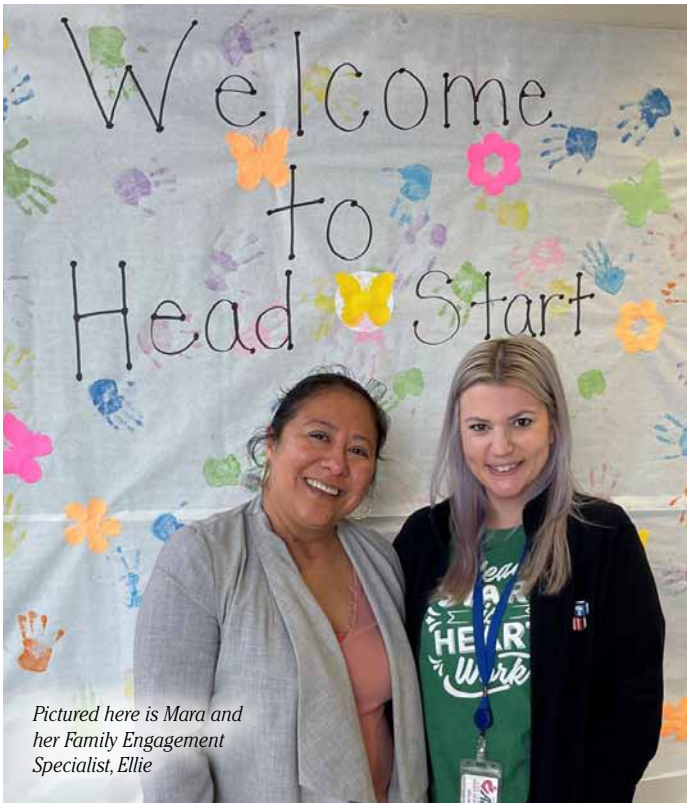
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Every day we hear from neighbors like April who have never needed our services before, but do now. You make our response possible. Thank you.



Where do you find your reminders of “why”?



Pictured here is Mara and her Family Engagement Specialist, Ellie

Every day, you give young children and their families the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Dear Friend,

Over my years of working at Community Action, I often experience fleeting and unexpected reminders of my “why.” One of these occurred just a few months ago.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with Mara, the mother of one of the infants enrolled in our Head Start program. I knew ahead of time the reason for her visit: to deliver us a donation in appreciation for the service we provided to her family. We do not expect or encourage this, of course, but were happy to accept such a meaningful gift.

I got to share with Mara a little bit more about the plans

we have for our Head Start program, including walking her through the renovations underway at our K Street center. She smiled as I showed her our big new classrooms with lots of windows and connected bathrooms; her eyes widened as I shared where our new activity room would be, with so much space for children to run and play. I’ve had the opportunity to give this tour many times over the past year; to give it to a parent is a moment I will never forget.

As we were saying our goodbyes, Mara shared with me that she didn’t know where she would be without Head Start. With tears in her eyes, she recalled learning that her son was accepted into the program right around Christmas. *It was the best gift she could have received, she said, as it meant she was going to be able to*

continue schooling to get her college degree. And as we stood there on that day, she’d just come from class.

The impact of Head Start is vast. It eases the financial burden of childcare for parents and caregivers who are working hard toward achieving their goals, like Mara. It provides access to high-quality educational experiences, ensuring children are intellectually, socially, linguistically, and emotionally ready for school. It connects children and families to critical health services from immunizations, to medical, dental and mental health support, to nutritional services, and early development screenings. And it has been proven to result in positive long-term outcomes, from greater high school graduation rates, to increased higher education enrollment and completion rates, to less likelihood to live in poverty, and beyond.

You know the importance of Head Start. It may even be part of your “why.” And it is only because of your support, combined with the dollars we receive through our Head Start grant, that this crucial service is available to parents like Mara, and their children, in our community.

Within this newsletter, we’ve included an update on our Home for Head Start Campaign and renovation of our K Street Center. **Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, we have raised 80% of our goal!** Just a few more “bricks” are needed to complete our forever home. **If you’ve not yet had the opportunity to support, we’d love to discuss the giving opportunity best suited to you.**

Thank you for being part of our incredible Community Action community.

Sincerely,

Heather Loughman
Chief Executive Officer





Julian's mother worked with Head Start staff to build skills to support her son's speech development. She shared, "Hearing my son speak brought me such joy. Thank you for helping us make so much progress."

Writing a new chapter

You gave Julian and his mother the chance to write a new story.

Around Julian's third birthday, his mother noticed he seemed to be experiencing some speech difficulties. Julian's mother knew he likely needed some extra support. She contacted Community Action Head Start to enroll her son.

Soon after, Julian began attending our program and receiving special education services. His mother contacted her Family Engagement Specialist, asking, **"What can I do at home to support my son?"**

Julian's teacher, his mother, and their Family Engagement Specialist worked together to find additional support strategies. They

also connected Julian to a community service that provides free speech therapy to families, and he began attending. Our Head Start team also suggested reading Julian books before bed—possibly even the same book on repeat, if Julian was interested.

Julian's mother began implementing these strategies immediately. Recently, she shared some exciting news.

"We were reading Julian's favorite book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and he helped me to say the words, 'but he was still hungry.' It was so exciting! **Hearing my son speak brought me such joy. Thank you** for helping us make so much progress."

Every day, you create moments like these for families like Julian's. **You give children the chance to learn and grow toward their full potential. Thank you.**

A home for the future

You gave Paul and his son the chance have a fresh start in a new home.

Paul is a loving single father to his four year-old son. Every day, they play games together, tell stories, and more. And up until a few months ago, they were temporarily living in Paul's car.

Envisioning a better life for his family, Paul contacted Community Action. Through our Supportive Housing Program, we were able to connect Paul to a two-bedroom apartment. When he got the keys to his new home, Paul burst into tears.

"I'm so glad I'll be able to tell my son we're done waiting," Paul said. "We have a home now. Thank you."

"We're so happy here. My son loves having his own bedroom again."

You believe in Community Action's mission. You believe in your neighbors like Paul. Because of this belief and your steadfast support, **you not only helped Paul and his son find a place to live. You helped them make it a home.** Thanks to generously donated items like furniture, bedding, and kitchen supplies, Paul and his son were able to move into a space stocked with items that will help them build happy memories.

A week after their move, Paul called to give us an update.

"We're so happy here," he said. "My son loves having his own bedroom again. **It feels so good to be home together. Thank you.**"

You made this possible.

Paul, a participant of our Supportive Housing program, said, "I'm so glad I'll be able to tell my son...we have a home now. Thank you."



This year, your gift to the Gathering Place will double

Mark your calendars! From October 16 - December 31, gifts to Community Action's Gathering Place will be matched, \$1 for \$1, thanks to generous sponsors.

This match is made possible thanks to the generous support of lead sponsor Acklie Charitable Foundation, as well as sponsors Miriam Moeller Charitable Trust; Union Bank & Trust; Bukaty Companies; Rohn & Beth Loyd; INSPRO, a Marsh & McLennan Agency; and Sue Quambusch. Keep an eye out for more information

about this opportunity to double your impact.

Need for the Gathering Place's services has never been greater. Will you help us raise \$200,000 to continue providing a free hot, nutritious meal to every neighbor who needs one?



Daniel recently shared that he appreciates visiting the Gathering Place because it's somewhere he can get a good meal and feel like he belongs.



How do you want to be remembered?



Leave your legacy through a planned gift to Community Action.

Have you asked yourself this question? What legacy will you leave? Certainly, you've spent some time over the past year considering your passions – the causes closest to your heart. And you've taken time to consider what the world will look like for future generations. How you might make it better, brighter, and kinder.

Making a planned gift to support the work of Community Action is a powerful way to impact generations to come. By committing to a planned gift today, you will become a member of our Legacy Circle, a special group of donors who will play a significant role in advancing the work of Community Action well into the future. It's the perfect way to make a big impact for tomorrow without affecting your financial situation today.

Want to learn more or get started? Contact Heather Loughman at (402) 875-9319 or hloughman@communityactionatwork.org, or Jessie Hedrick at (402) 875-9338!

YES, I want to help empower people living in poverty to reach economic stability.

Please accept my gift of \$ _____

Your donation will go toward supporting:

- Feeding those who are hungry at the Gathering Place
- Preparing children for success in school
- Preventing and eliminating homelessness
- Helping families learn financial skills/save for major asset purchases

I would like to designate my gift to the following program (e.g. The Gathering Place, Head Start, Basic needs supplies for families)

I have included (or intend to include) Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties in my will or estate.

My name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

May we publish your name? Yes No

If so, how would you like your name(s) to appear?

Payment Options:

- Check payable to *Community Action*
- Credit Card: Visa MasterCard Discover

Account # _____

Exp. Date (mo/yr) _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For more information contact:

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