

Who we serve:

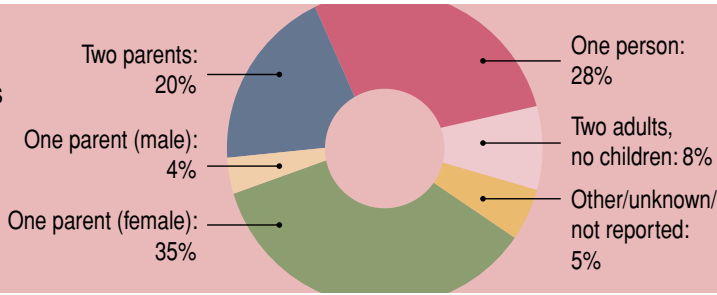
The following data demonstrates characteristics of those served by Community Action in 2020 for whom demographic information was known/collected.

66% of households served had income at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (\$26,200/year for a family of four).

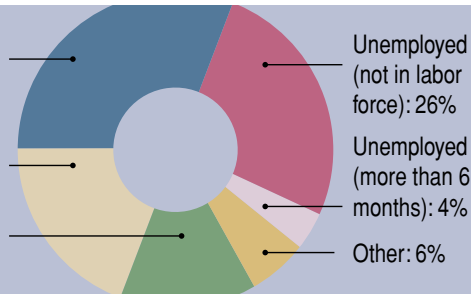
36% of households served were living in extreme poverty (annual income at or below 50% of the federal poverty level, or \$13,100/year for a family of four).

Family Type

62% of households served had children in the home.



Employed full-time: 31%  
Employed part-time, including seasonal: 19%  
Unemployed (6 months or less): 14%

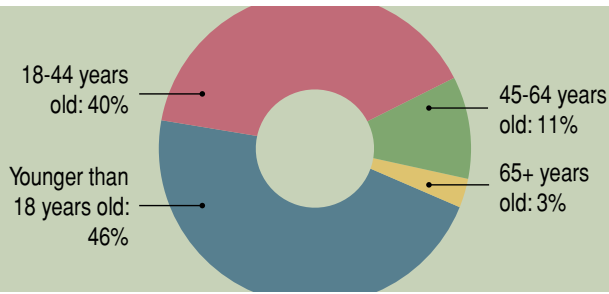


Work Status (Age 18+)

50% of individuals served were employed, either part-time or full-time, during the past year.

Ages of Individuals Served

46% of those served were under age 18.



2020 Revenue

\$15,684,093

Grant Revenue	67.66%
Program Revenue:	5.51%
Donations	11.51%
Miscellaneous Income	15.32%

2020 Expenses

\$15,579,343

Hunger Relief	1.75%
Early Childhood Education	53.26%
Community Services	11.63%
Homelessness Prevention	8.76%
Housing Services	5.14%
Financial and Family Well-Being	5.35%
Management and General	14.11%

Board of Directors

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Helping People. Changing Lives.

community Action

PARTNERSHIP

LANCASTER AND SAUNDERS COUNTIES

210 O Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

www.communityactionnetwork.org

Consider leaving your legacy

through a planned gift to

Community Action.

Our Programs and Services

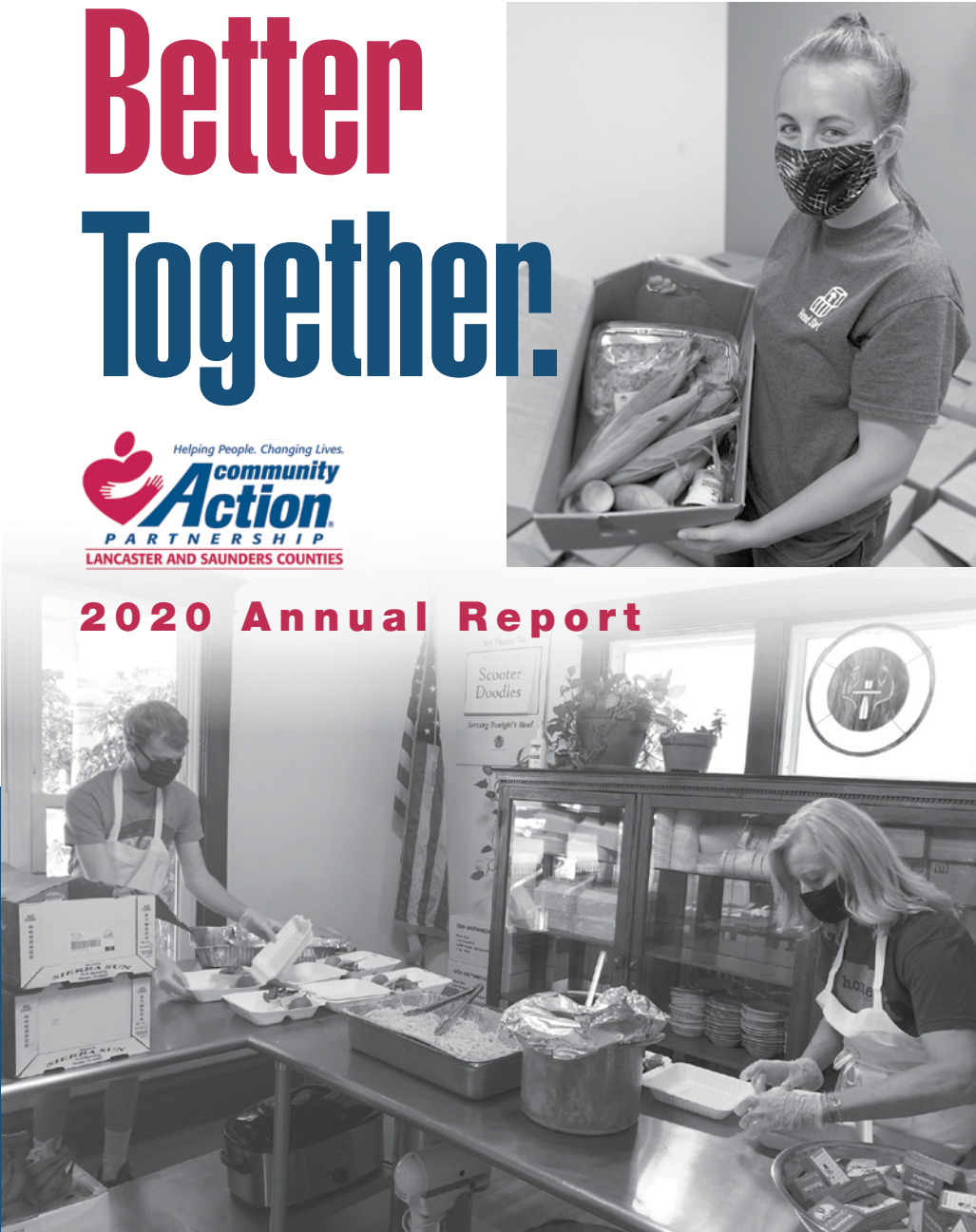
Early Head Start & Head Start / Foster Grandparent Program / Emergency Services: rent, utility, and deposit assistance / Supportive Housing / Tenant Support Services / Affordable Housing / Displaced Tenant Assistance / Free to Save / Opportunity Passport™ / Financial Coaching / Lancaster County Community Response / ITIN Application Assistance / Weatherization / Community Action's Gathering Place: hot, nutritious evening meals / Healthy Food Access Program / FEAST Wellness Program



Better Together.



2020 Annual Report





# We empower people living in poverty to reach economic stability.



We all know that 2020 was a difficult year for many. Those who used to make ends-meet found themselves facing job loss, reduction in work hours, or other unforeseeable circumstances. And as the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic grew, so did the need for Community Action's services. Many reached out for support for the first time in their lives, to remain housed, warm, and fed, and to ensure their children did, too. And thanks to our community's profound generosity, we've been able to continue offering opportunities for support and stability to those who've needed it most.

As much as the past year was full of uncertainty, **it was also full of hope.**

We saw **hope** in employees who every day showed up to empower community members and each other.

We saw **hope** in volunteers who sewed cloth masks for participants and staff; who packaged hot, nutritious meals at the Gathering Place every night; who learned how to use technology to stay connected with children in Head Start classrooms.

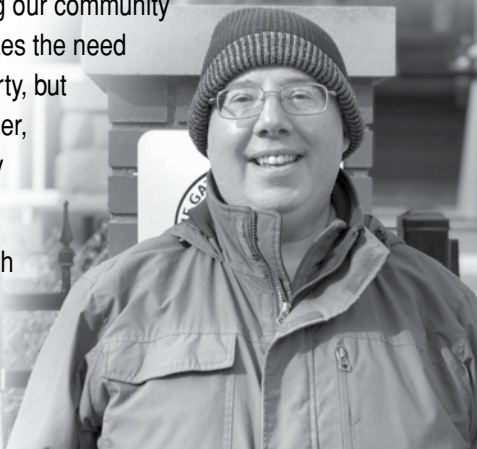
We saw **hope** in the additional resources we were able to distribute to participants to meet increased need, thanks to support received through CSBG CARES, Community CARES, the National Office of Head Start, and local foundations.

We saw **hope** in community members who donated funds to keep families safe, warm, and housed; and who helped us spread the word about services to all who might need them.

Most of all, we saw **hope** in our participants who demonstrated courage, strength, and resilience.

At Community Action, we embody our guiding principle of "Respect: We consciously embrace diversity and strive to eliminate injustice" through our words and actions. We are committed to involving our community along the way. Community Action recognizes the need to address not only the conditions of poverty, but also its causes. These include racial, gender, and other inequities visibly and undeniably heightened throughout the past year.

The journey to healing will be long. But with the continued support of our community, we'll move forward. **Better. Together.**



# Realizing greater than ever need.

The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were great, and were reflected through a heightened need for Community Action services.



## Early Childhood Education

Of **Community Action Head Start** families surveyed, **87%** indicated that their incomes had been negatively impacted by COVID-19.



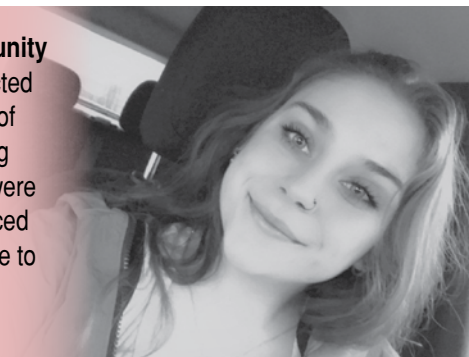
## Homelessness Prevention

From January – December 2020, individuals at risk of homelessness made **15,382 calls** to Community Action to request emergency rent, utility, or deposit assistance. This was **5,086 more calls** than in 2019.



## Financial and Family Well-Being

In April of 2020, our **Opportunity Passport™** program conducted a survey to measure impact of the pandemic on participating youth. Of respondents who were employed, **63%** experienced reduced hours or job loss due to COVID.



## Hunger Relief and Healthy Food Access

**Community Action's Gathering Place** soup kitchen served **34,971** free hot, nutritious meals to those experiencing hunger in Lincoln. In September 2020, the Gathering Place served the most ever meals in a single month: **4,158**.



# Innovating and adapting to meet new needs.

In 2020, Community Action provided **107,854** poverty-fighting services to **17,940** individuals.

**479** babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and **1,226** of their family members received opportunities to build skills for success through participation in our Head Start programs. In 2020, services provided included weekly deliveries of supplies such as diapers, food, and educational materials during remote learning.

*"Without support from Community Action, I wouldn't have made it to my CNA classes. Now I'm ready to be certified. To get a better job. To give my children a better life."* – Community Action Head Start parent

**5,435** individuals avoided homelessness/unsafe living conditions through receipt of emergency rent, utility or deposit payment assistance. This is an **increase of 30%** over 2019.

**1,190** individuals received tenant/landlord education and/or mediation geared toward eviction prevention.

*"I was doing fine. Then I had a stroke. I had to sell my assets. There was barely enough for medical bills, never mind utilities. I don't know what I would have done if [Community Action] hadn't been able to help."* – Emergency Services participant

During 2020, Community Action's Opportunity Passport™ program facilitated provision of **\$59,335.73** in COVID-related funding to support participants in maintaining stability during unprecedented crisis. Funds helped participants pay rent, utilities, and other basic living expenses.

*"The program helped me cover some essential bills so I could stay housed when I couldn't find work...They've helped me create goals I can work toward and achieve."* – Opportunity Passport™ participant

The Gathering Place permanently expanded its hours of operation from 5 days a week to 7 in 2020. **5,277** more hot, nutritious meals were served at the Gathering Place in 2020 compared to 2019.

*"This year, the Gathering Place is one thing that has not wavered."* – Guest of Community Action's Gathering Place