#### COMMUNITY ACTION OF ORLEANS AND GENESEE EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Our mission:

To provide services, with dignity and respect, that help people become self-sufficient

Hello Team:

Autumn is here and things sure cooled down quickly. Before you know it, we will be in our busy holiday season. Last week, Jackie and I had the opportunity to travel to Buffalo to receive an award from the Highmark Blue Fund which will support a new program called Food Rx: Stone Soup Success. Our plan for this project is to improve health outcomes in Orleans county by increasing access to healthy food but also by ensuring people have the tools and knowledge to prepare tasty meals with the food that is available. We are partnering with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orleans in this effort and give special thanks to Matt Holland of The United Way of Orleans County for assisting us in writing the grant. In the story "Stone Soup" a delicious soup emerged as different ingredients were found even though in the beginning of the story all that was available was a stone, a pot, and some water. Ingredients came about through generosity and eventually something wonderful came about when at first, they thought they had nothing. We currently offer "Pop Up" pantry food distributions but sometimes find that people don't know how to prepare some of the ingredients. Other times they may not have the tools and utensils to prepare a meal. This program will arm people with the tools, the knowledge, and the access to healthy and nutritious ingredients and at the same time benefit our local farmers and our community. Prescriptions for healthy food items will encourage people to make healthy choices and our hope is this will contribute to healthier people with better health outcomes. Here is a link to a press release about all of the winners.

https://spectrumlocalnews.com/nys/buffalo/news/2022/09/22/highmark-blue-cross-blue-shield-donatesmillions-to-16-non-profits-

We saw some very impressive projects and are proud to be among the 16 winners selected from hundreds of applicants.

Another exciting topic is that we are the recipient of an Innovation Award for our Axis of Care Program. The Directors team and I attended the NYSCAA conference where the award was presented. We are grateful for this honor and had a great week. I co-presented about our program with our partners at Continual Care Solutions, the creator of ImPowr. In addition, Melinda and I were honored to be asked to participate in a recorded panel discussion about Community Action. This recording will be available at NYSCAA Learns in the near future. I will be sure to let you know when it is available.

Just a reminder, I have been working with our fiscal team to update our Fiscal Policy. This is the place to look for processes on expenditures, approval levels, accounting structure, and document retention schedules. Look for a communication and link to the manual in October.

Also coming soon will be a name change contest for the Main Street Store. We will be asking customers to stop in, look around, and come up with ideas for a fresh new name that tells the world how it is SO much more than a thrift store. Stay tuned for details.

As always, thank you for all that you do. Together we are making our communities stronger, healthier, and resilient!

Be Part of the Solution Be Well! Renée

#### **OCTOBER 2022**



## <u>Support Your Community</u>



Join us in supporting Community Actions of Orleans and Genesee Inc.

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

Bring this **PRINTED** coupon to

Tully's Good Times

522 East Main Street, Batavia, NY

Have dinner and support your community! Tully's will donate 10% of the sales from all receipts collected and accompanied by this coupon, excluding tax and tip. A printed coupon must be surrendered in order for the above organization/group to receive credit. Tully's gift cards cannot be used as a form of payment to count towards the 10% donation total.



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www.caoginc.org

#### OCTOBER 2022



# Halloween Party

Where: Holley Community Center

75 Public Square

Holley, NY 14470

When: October 29th 2022

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

### Kids Ages: 0-14

<u>Costume Contest!</u> Donuts and Cider will be provided