

Agency Newsletter

December 2023

Community Action of Orleans and Genesee

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

Hello Team:

The holidays are upon us, and our offices are now buzzing with food and toy distributions and other holiday activities. With that, it can be hard to be excited when so much is going wrong in our world. The news is filled with stories of war, threats of a government shutdown, hatred, and violence. When we are caught up with our day-to-day work, it can be easy to wonder if we can truly make a difference. I want this newsletter to serve as a reminder of all the important work that our agency does for our communities.

Because of you...

A family is warmer in a home that is more energy efficient.

An adolescent graduated from high school and is now in college when the plan was to drop out of school. A child has a collection of books.

A family enjoyed a wonderful holiday meal. A person had shelter on a cold night. A mother learned how to prepare healthy meals with food that is readily available.

A recently unemployed person knows where to get food and personal goods. A toddler is now up to date with immunizations.

A young adult now has health insurance and is connected with health services. A meal box was delivered to a family who had no transportation.

An elderly woman received transportation for important medical care. A single dad can hold a job because he has daycare for his children.

An incarcerated individual learned job skills and is ready for a second chance at life. A young couple was able to purchase inexpensive furniture for their first apartment.

A teenager learned to make smart choices about family planning. An elderly man enjoys weekday lunches and activities with a trusted group of friends.

These are just small examples of what you do every day.

People who once lost hope are now self-sufficient and can see a brighter future.

Because of you.

Thank you for your commitment to our agency, our customers, and for everything you do for our communities! Whether you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, Bodhi Day, Posadas Navidenas, or other special events, please take time to count blessings and enjoy family and friends.

Happy Holidays!

Renée





EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH Danielle Riches

Danielle joined us at a turbulent time during which we were overhauling our finance processes, restructuring the finance team, moving to a new finance system, and all without a full-time staff CFO in place. Danielle has been pulled in multiple directions and changing priorities to meet the numerous deadlines imposed by our grantors, regulators, auditors, and internal processes. Even under stress she has kept a positive attitude and continues to persevere. It is easy for back-office work to go unnoticed.

We appreciate all that Danielle does to keep moving our Agency forward.



December 2023

COMPLIANCE CORNER

News from CAPLAW

Why Should CAAs Care about Ethics and Compliance?

Community Action Agencies (CAAs) regularly face challenges due to ongoing, and often increased demand, for their services, decreased government funding, and intensified competition for that funding. As seen by the implementation of the CSBG Organizational Standards (Standards), CAAs are being held to higher standards of accountability in terms of their ability to exercise effective financial oversight and stewardship, to comply systematically with the many laws and regulations that apply to their operations, and ultimately, to demonstrate their effectiveness in helping low-income people achieve economic security.

Yet at the same time, a few CAAs have encountered ethical lapses and compliance crises that have jeopardized their funding and required them to lay off staff, terminate programs and, in some cases, close their doors. These disruptions have negatively affected not only the CAAs and their employees, but also the individuals, families and communities they serve. The CAAs involved in these situations may represent only a small portion of the nationwide network of CAAs and the incidence of these challenges may be no more prevalent in this network than in other networks of nonprofit or even for-profit organizations. Nevertheless, the publicity resulting from these situations adversely affects the entire CAA network and fuels attacks by critics of government programs for low-income people.

According to research by the Ethics Resource Center (now the Ethics & Compliance Initiative), a best practice community of organizations that provides independent research on ethical standards and practices,¹ a nonprofit's leaders can virtually eliminate their organization's ethics risk by taking steps to adopt a strong organization-wide ethical culture and to establish a well-implemented ethics and compliance program.² Presumably, the same principle holds true for government entities and for-profit organizations.

In the face of increased scrutiny, it is more important than ever for CAAs to establish and maintain a strong ethical culture within their organizations, to adopt policies and procedures that address the many legal, financial and administrative requirements with which they must comply, and to implement effective systems for complying with those policies and procedures. The purpose of this Guidebook is to outline actions CAA boards and management can take to achieve these goals.

(Continued on next page)

Here are 10 actions CAA leaders can take to ensure compliance and ethical behavior within their organizations:



Keep up the great work you do every day to serve our communities!

Melinda Daniels



The Agency will be closed on
Monday, December 25th &
Monday, January 1, 2024.

Are you a Caregiver?



Please join us for a weekly respite Care Program!

Find us on Facebook at: Caregiver's Revitalize - Orleans County, NY



1st & 3rd Thursdays from 1 - 4 p.m.
Albion at Christ Church Episcopal
26 S. Main St. Albion, NY 14411

Please use PARK STREET ENTRANCE ONLY.



2nd & 4th Thursdays from 1 - 4 p.m.
Community Action's Eastern Orleans Community Center
75 Public Square. Holley, NY 14470

Email: Caregiversrevitalize@gmail.com

Phone: 585-209-9151 or 585-209-3416

Please email or call for more information, to register your care recipient or for volunteer opportunities.

We're offering:
Organized activities,
support, and respite
for caregivers with
supervision for
those they care for.

This program is free
to all caregivers in
Orleans County





WINTER COAT DRIVE

5073 Clinton St Rd | Batavia, NY

Community Action in Batavia is in need of new and used winter coats in all sizes and genders.

We are in particular need of kids coats.

No broken zippers, broken buttons, rips, or stains.

**We also accept clothing
for kids and adults all year.**



**To schedule a donation or to receive services:
585-343-7798 x114 | ddodge@caoginc.org**

A distribution day was held on Monday, November 27, 2023

From the Batavian

By Joanne Beck 11-27-2023

Just in time for chilly temps: Community Action has winter coats

If you're a Genesee County resident in need of a winter coat, Community Action of Orleans and Genesee may be able to help.

The nonprofit has winter coats for people of all ages and sizes, Case Manager David Dodge says. They are free for low income families, and only require some simple paperwork to be completed, he said.

People may select their coats through 4 p.m. Monday or from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday this week, he said.

As for donations, "we are always in need of gently used or new clothing and coats," he said.

Community Action is at 5073 Clinton Street Road, Batavia.



WINTER PREPARATION CHECKLIST ✓



Winter will be here soon, here's a handy list to help you stay warm & cozy this season!

☐

Check your heating system: have your heating system inspected & cleaned by a professional.

☐

Insulate your home: check windows, doors, and walls for any leaks or drafts, seal them appropriately. Wrap pipes if exposed to the elements to prevent freezing.

☐

Clear your gutters: prevent ice dams from forming, as they can damage your roof and cause leaks in your home.

☐

Inventory Check: make sure you have enough supplies to last you through a winter storms or power outage. This includes food, water, batteries, necessary medications & plenty of warm blankets.

☐

Prepare your car: check your car's tires, brakes, and fluid levels. It's also a good idea to keep an emergency kit in your car in case you get stranded. Always clear your car of snow!

☐

Stay informed: keep up-to-date with the latest weather forecasts and emergency alerts.



DOING THE
MOST GOOD®

HELP us HELP your community. Community Action of Orleans & Genesee and the Genesee-Orleans Ministry of Concern partner to bring the Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign to three locations this year!

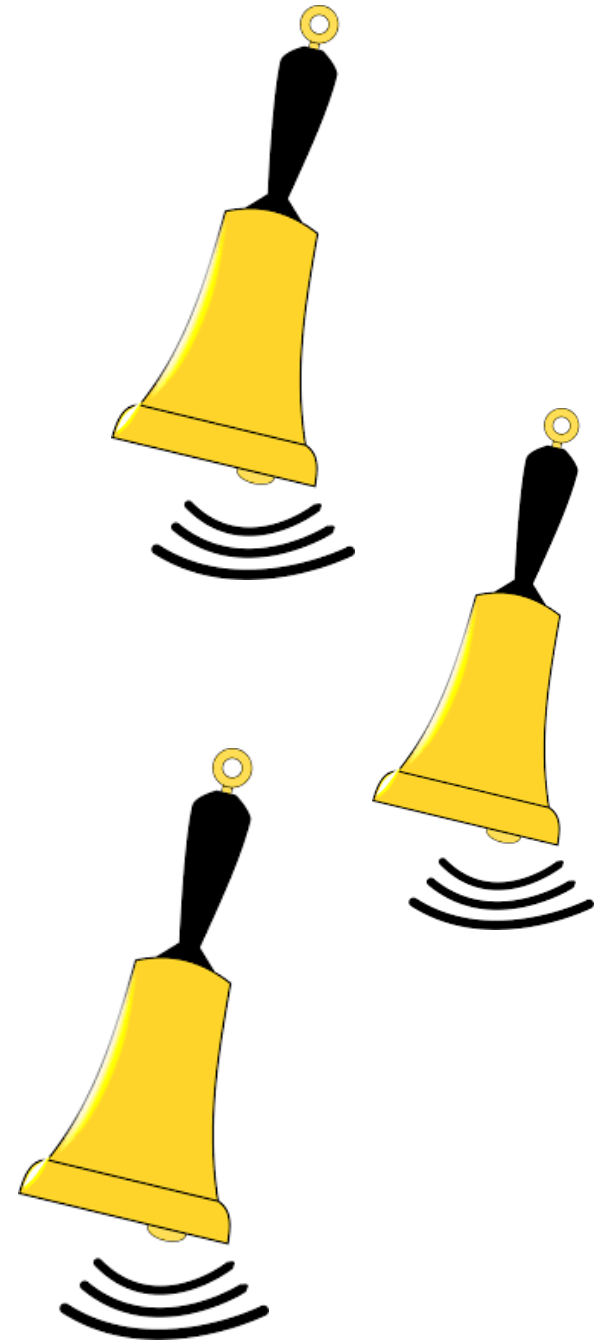
[TOPS Albion Bell Ringing signup](#)



[TOPS Medina Bell Ringing signup](#)



[Walmart Albion Bell Ringing signup](#)





Contact your local Department of Social Services during regular business hours
Call 2-1-1 for more information about referral services
If a referral agency is not available and you are about to spend the night outside,
please call the local sheriff.

Genesee DSS	585.344.2580	585.345.3000	Genesee DSS	585.344.2580	585.345.3000	Genesee DSS	585.344.2580	585.345.3000	Genesee DSS	585.344.2580	585.345.3000
Sheriff's Dept.			Sheriff's Dept.			Sheriff's Dept.			Sheriff's Dept.		

ORLEANS COUNTY WARMING CENTER

What to do when it's

CODE BLUE



32°F

When the temperature is **below 32 degrees** you can do the following:

• Monday through Thursday 8:30am-8pm

• Friday 8:30am-5pm

- Saturday 10am-2pm

For recorded information on the warming center please call 585-895-4090

Oak Orchard Community Health Center

Warming Center Info:
(585) 895-4090

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ALBION EMERGENCY SERVICES WALK-IN HOURS

Effective Tuesday, September 5th

Tuesday **9am - 4pm**
Thursday **9am - 4pm**
Friday **9am - 12pm**

CLOSED 12pm - 1pm for lunch

Alternate times are available

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

(585) 589-5605



NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES WALK-IN HOURS Batavia

Tuesday 9am - 4pm
Thursday 9am - 4pm
Friday 9am - 12pm

CLOSED 12pm - 1pm for lunch

Alternate times are available

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

585-343-7798

ddodge@caoginc.org

Main Street Corner Thrfts, Gifts and More

131 S. Main Street, Albion, New York



The Wishing Tree

For the month of December, we will have our Christmas tree up and ready. At the front counter community members can fill out a form for a wish and hang their wish on the tree. These wishes are for all to see and completely anonymous, BUT we urge the community to reach out and help. Take a wish, and grant it. Let's help one another this holiday season as recent years have been hard for everyone.

Don't see a wish you can grant?

Stop by the register to purchase a clothing coupon to hang on the tree to help someone in need.

CCR&R

Child Care Resource and Referral is here to help you!

Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) supports parents and families, child care providers, businesses and community partners by providing the following services:

Parents and Families:

- Provide listing of local child care programs based upon family need
- Inform about child development, early learning and quality child care
- Give information about state licensing requirements
- Share information about the Child Care Assistance program (Subsidy) administered by Department of Social Services

Child Care Provider:

- Support through licensing process
- Assist with compliance issues and increase/ improve quality
- Provide convenient and flexible on site staff trainings
- Free assistance with Health Care Plans

Businesses and Community Partners:

- Share information about child care needs and availability in area
- Work with employers to support employee child care needs
- Advocate for quality child care and early childhood workforce



Breakfast With Santa

December 16, 2023
10:00am – 12:00pm

Eastern Orleans Community Center

*75 Public Sq
Holley, NY 14470
585-638-6395*

Pancakes
Sausage
Juice
Milk



Sponsored by
Clarendon Lions Club





From the desk of Bonnie Malakie, Director of Children & Youth Services

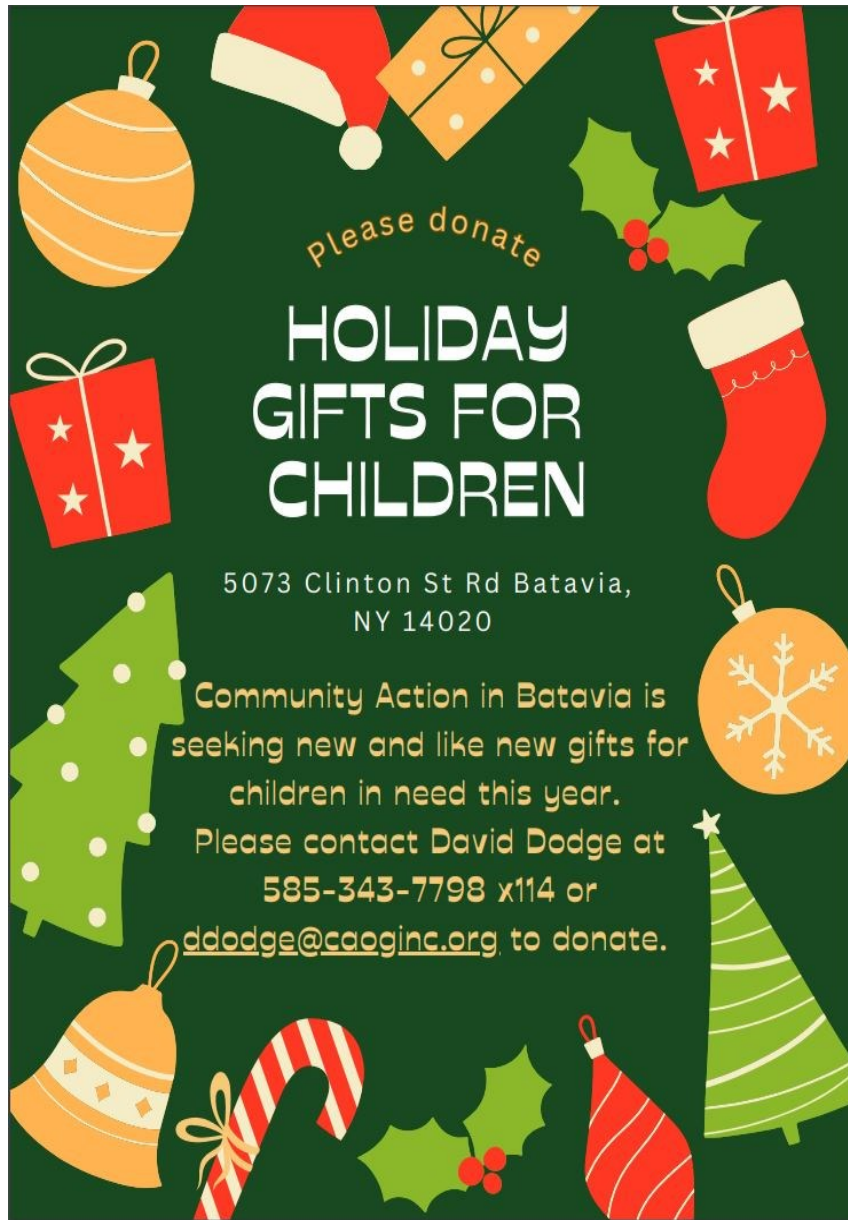
- Alishia Fox, CCR&R Specialist, has become certified to teach the 15 hour Health and Safety training for all licensed child care programs! Congratulations Alishia!
- Nevada Dressel, Head Start Education/Site Specialist in Batavia and Jessica Niles, EHSCCP Infant/Toddler Specialist both attended training facilitated by Theresa Cummings, Region II Office of Head Start Early Childhood Specialist, to become certified Practice-based Coaches in the Head Start Program. They join Janet Foppes, Christy Robertson and Nicole Struble in being able to formally coach Head Start Education staff for any/all of the Head Start Programs.
- The Office of Head Start has come out with proposed changes to the Head Start Performance Standards that, if passed, will address some of the issues that have been a concern for a long-time in Head Start. It is titled "Supporting the Head Start Workforce and Consistent Quality Programming". The National Head Start Association, of which we are a member, is also conducting some information sessions and doing a survey. I will be sending some additional information on these important changes to Head Start staff before the holidays. In the meantime, you can visit the Head Start Enterprise System, at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/> or the National Head Start Association at <https://nhsa.org/> and look for there information on these changes. Call or email Bonnie at 589-5683 or bmalakie@caoginc.org if you have any questions.



Head Start parents and staff in the Medina Parade of lights.

Thank you, especially to all of the parents for the donations and time it took!

It looks like all had a very good time!



Genesee county residents ...

If you would like to as an individual or organization adopt families for the holidays please reach out to me via email. If you know of individuals in need of holiday assistance, please have them contact me. They must not already be on Salvation Army's list.

Thank you.

David Dodge
Case Manager
Community Action of Orleans and Genesee
5073 Clinton St Rd
Batavia, NY 14020
585-343-7798 x114
585-343-4063 (fax)
ddodge@caoginc.org

Reminder ...
The Agency
will be closed on
Monday, December 25, 2023
-and-
Monday, January 1, 2024

Food Distribution

Municipal Parking Lot

165 South Platt Street, Albion, NY 14411



9:00 AM - until gone

(Due to traffic issues, please do NOT line up prior to 7:30 AM!!)

Family information is required. In order to keep the distribution coming to our community we have to report on those served.

2024 Scheduled Dates:

All are Mondays

- * January 22nd
- * February 12th
- * March 11th
- * April 8th
- * May 13th
- * June 10th



Questions: Please call (585) 589-5605 x 117.

