

PEACE, Inc.'s Mission: Helping people in the community realize their potential for becoming self-sufficient

A letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

It has been a challenging year for all of us. While we faced uncertainty and fear, we also witnessed heroism and generosity of spirit nationally, locally, and in our own homes. At PEACE, Inc., our board provided steadfast support by allowing programs the flexibility that they needed to make necessary adjustments to meet unique and changing needs. Our staff rose to the occasion to help the most vulnerable in our community in new ways. And as a community action agency, we continued to prioritize social justice as a primary means of fighting poverty.

In this moment, we have many reasons to be optimistic. With increasing vaccine availability and decreasing infection rates, we are making progress every day. In addition, a recent focus on racial injustices has nourished a renewed commitment to racial equity.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “only when it is dark enough can you see the stars.” At PEACE, Inc. we choose to shift our gaze from the despair of darkness (disease, selfishness, and racism) to the beauty of the stars (wellness, generosity, and justice). Working together, good days are ahead for all of us.

Every Kind Wish,

Joseph E. O’Hara



STABILIZING FAMILIES
4,315

INDIVIDUALS SERVED AT OUR FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRIES

ENERGY & HOUSING
340

HOMES WERE WEATHERIZED IN ONONDAGA & OSWEGO COUNTIES



1,450 

TAXPAYERS RECEIVED

\$2,601,204

IN REFUNDS THANKS TO OUR FREE TAX PREP PROGRAM

EDUCATING YOUNG CHILDREN
513

HEAD START STUDENTS SUCCESSFULLY TRANSITIONED TO KINDERGARTEN

1,043
HEAD START CHILDREN RECEIVED A VISION SCREENING



54 OBTAINED GLASSES

HEAD START 

1,588

PARENTS VOLUNTEERED WITH THE PROGRAM

SUPPORTING SENIORS

CASE MANAGEMENT WAS PROVIDED TO OVER **120** SENIORS SO THEY MAY REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES



OUR SENIOR NUTRITION PROGRAM SERVED **79,443** MEALS

94%

OF SENIORS AT OUR EASTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER REPORTED IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH



MENTORING YOUTH
80%

OF YOUTH IMPROVED THEIR SCHOOL PERFORMANCE



AmeriCorps Seniors

96%

OF FOSTER GRANDPARENTS FEEL HAPPIER AND MORE SATISFIED WITH LIFE

97% OF CLIENTS FELT WELCOME WHEN THEY ENTERED A FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER



Remote Learning Made A Little Easier

Lafayette Head Start partners with local charity to deliver handmade desks to students in need of ways to learn virtually

From the outset of the pandemic, Lafayette Head Start family worker Patty Lopez noticed that remote education presented a critical challenge. Several families lacked the space for virtual learning and support services like speech therapy. How could Head Start staff continue to engage with pre-school children in a crucial brain development stage? How could staff and families continue to encourage learning in the home? A possible solution presented itself in school desks made and delivered home to families.

“I wanted our children to have a space of their own to feel inspired to do virtual learning with the staff,” said Lopez. She soon discovered Operation Northern Comfort, a local CNY nonprofit that mobilizes volunteers to provide carpentry services and handmade wooden desks. They were happy to help the cause.

Through this partnership, 34 desks were delivered to the Lafayette site and its Head Start families in January. Children quickly embraced the desks, using them to draw and learn. Parents expressed gratitude, and “our families tell us that there is less fighting among siblings now that everyone has space.”

Creative community collaborations like this one allow us to help our families in new ways. Thank you Patty and Operation Northern Comfort for making virtual learning during the pandemic possible.

ALL SMILES for this Head Start student as he enjoys his new desk.



It Takes a Village...

A new staff member gains self-sufficiency through Community Action

At the start of the year, Bruce was homeless and living in a Syracuse shelter. A chance encounter between our Department of Energy and Housing Services (DEHS) Director Sally Ward and “In My Father’s Kitchen” sparked a conversation, an opportunity for a job, and a promise for self-sufficiency. Bruce was game.

Though there were barriers, Bruce and the community overcame them together. Pursuing its mission to combat homelessness, “In My Father’s Kitchen” provided the computer access and DMV fees that Bruce needed for his driver’s license and a 6-hour defensive driving course. Receiving donated tools as well, Bruce successfully interviewed with DEHS. Once hired, the DEHS team provided winter clothing and, more importantly, a community of support and encouragement. A sense of belonging.

Now established with a steady paycheck and benefits, Bruce is thriving. So too is the DEHS team, who has drawn inspiration from both Bruce’s quality work and resiliency. Together, the efforts of Bruce, “In My Father’s Kitchen,” as well as Sally and the DEHS team exemplify Community Action, “to create opportunities for all people to thrive, build strong, resilient communities, and ensure a more equitable society.”

THUMBS UP! With support and perseverance, Bruce is thriving in his new job at PEACE, Inc.



PEACE, Inc.'s Nine Programs

Provide supports and opportunities for development along the lifespan

HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START prepares children for kindergarten by offering a comprehensive, family focused, early childhood education program that serves pregnant women and children birth to five years old.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS improves the lives of school-aged children through a variety of mentoring programs including school based, workplace and one-to-one mentoring.

FOSTER GRANDPARENTS provides senior citizens the opportunity to share their time and talents mentoring at-risk children in our community.

FREE TAX PREP trains and supports volunteers who prepare and e-file tax returns for people with low to moderate income so that they can receive the largest refund possible and access all eligible tax credits

ENERGY & HOUSING reduces the energy burden on our clients in Onondaga and Oswego Counties by providing cost-effective, energy-efficient solutions to households with low and moderate incomes.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTERS are safe, secure neighborhood hubs where trained staff provide emergency assistance, advocacy, supportive services, employment support, youth activities, and family development to low-income individuals.

SENIOR NUTRITION provides healthy meals to seniors using nutritious, local, and fresh ingredients. Seniors gather together at dining rooms throughout the county to eat together, share stories, and build friendships.

FRANK DEFRANCISCO EASTWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER offers residents of Onondaga County, particularly seniors, opportunities to socialize, volunteer, learn, and contribute to their community.

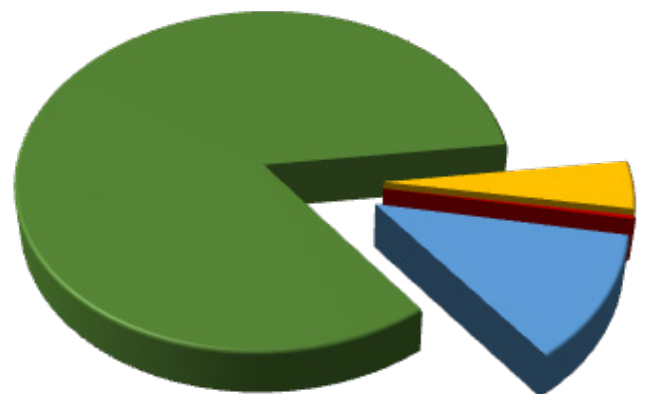
SENIOR SUPPORTS helps connect isolated and home-bound senior citizens to the services they need to live independently and remain in their own homes.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 315.470.3300 OR VISIT PEACE-CAA.ORG**

Financial Report Budgeted Income & Expenses for Feb. 1, 2019 through Jan. 31, 2020.

Total Operating Revenue: \$24,323,686

- 84.60% Government Agencies
 - 4.46% Program Service Fees
 - 0.28% Other Income
 - 10.66% Contributions* includes In-Kind
- 100%**



2020 A Year in Review

Faced with the challenges of the 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic, PEACE, Inc.'s programs, services, and staff have continued to pursue the work diligently. Most importantly, the agency has sought to triangulate 1) the safety of our staff and clients; 2) federal, state, and local guidelines; and 3) the basic needs of the community. Adapting findings from its COVID-19 Community Needs Assessment, PEACE, Inc. staff and volunteers adjusted their services and worked both on-site and remotely to ensure client needs were met. Focuses were placed on our clients' basic needs, food and nutrition, and social isolation. The agency also responded with several new initiatives, including a Home Delivery Meals Project, a Senior Nutrition Meals-to-Go Program, a Family Services' Employment Program, a Family Services' Food and Toiletry Delivery Services, the Frank DeFrancisco Eastwood Community Center's Clothing Distribution Initiative, and a Rental Eviction and Education Program. PEACE, Inc.'s Board of Directors is proud of the work that was accomplished by the staff and is endlessly grateful for the agency's many volunteers and supporters.



From left to right in the large photo

Back row: Joseph E. O'Hara, Robert T. Tackman (Treasurer), Jason J. Wallace, Nicholas J. DeMartino, Xander Hope, David A. Scharoun (President)

Middle row: Tonia L. Thornton, Pastor Phyllis Lee-Williams, Paula Freedman, Elizabeth Hakanson, Judge James H. Cecile (1st Vice President), Steve Hodgens, Erich W. Shafer (Secretary)

Seated: Shirley Copes (2nd Vice President), Patricia Usherwood Fitzpatrick

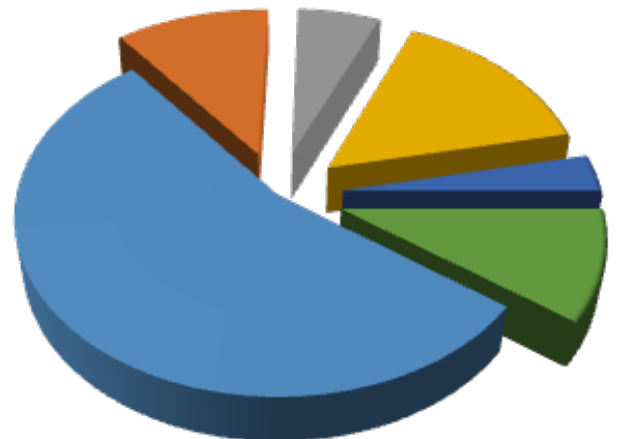
Head shots from top to bottom: Eric J.T. Caballero, Charles E. Garland, Edward Perry

Total Operating Expenses: \$23,255,039

- 54.58% Head Start/Early Head Start
- 10.83% Energy & Housing
- 6.69% Senior Nutrition & Senior Services
- 14.99% Children & Family Services
- 3.38% Other Agency Programs
- 9.53% Support Services

100%

In the fiscal year ending Jan. 31, 2020, 90.47% of the expenses were directly related to programming.





EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO THRIVE | EST. 1968

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be made to your address,
please email us at info@peace-caa.org
or call 315.634.3740.*

HELP CHANGE LIVES

WHY HELP

EVERY YEAR SINCE 1968, PEACE, INC. HAS HELPED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ACROSS ONONDAGA COUNTY BUILD THE SKILLS AND SELF-CONFIDENCE NECESSARY FOR MOVING FORWARD IN THEIR LIVES. PEACE, INC.'S EXCELLENT STEWARDSHIP OF THE RESOURCES ENTRUSTED TO US BY FUNDERS MEANS YOUR CONTRIBUTION GOES TO THE MOST URGENT AND HIGHEST PRIORITY NEEDS.

HOW TO HELP

SHARE YOUR TIME. LEARN MORE. SCHEDULE A TOUR.

- [PEACE.CAA.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://peace-caa.org/volunteer)
- 315.470.3300

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

- @PEACEINCSYR

GIVE TO PEACE, INC.

- SEND A DONATION TO: PEACE, INC.
217 SOUTH SALINA ST., SYRACUSE, NY 13202 OR
- [PEACE.CHARITYPROUD.ORG/DONATE](https://peace-charityproud.org/donate)

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