A Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2009 was a year distinguished by huge challenges and new opportunities. In the face of deteriorating economic conditions, P.E.A.C.E., Inc. saw an increase in the need for programming to support individuals and families as they try to make the perilous journey from poverty to self-sufficiency. Whether mentoring at risk youth through our Big Brothers Big Sisters Program, preparing free, accurate tax returns through EITC or providing healthy nutritious meals through Senior Nutrition, all of the programs of P.E.A.C.E., Inc. aid individuals as they struggle to overcome the obstacles of poverty.

In response to the economic crisis, Congress enacted the Americans Reinvestment and Recovery Act, under which P.E.A.C.E., Inc. received approximately 8 million dollars in stimulus funds to be used by three of our programs. Through our Energy and Housing Program, low income homeowners will receive weatherization services which help save energy, lower utility costs and increase property value. Our Early Head Start Program is adding 80 slots so that more low income families can participate in this high quality child development program which emphasizes healthy family relationships. A new program, Connect2Work, has been created to provide job training and support to prepare individuals to obtain and retain jobs.

We are grateful to all of our loyal supporters and community partners. We thank you for your continued generous support.

Every Kind Wish,

Joseph E. O’Hara
Executive Director
Head Start/Early Head Start is a comprehensive, family-focused child development program that serves pregnant women and children birth to five years of age throughout Onondaga County. In 2009, we added 80 children to the program, hired 24 new staff and created a bilingual program.

Big Brothers Big Sisters matches children ages 6 through 12 with mentors to provide support and guidance. In 2009, we offered mentoring to 669 at-risk youth and 91% of “littles” were promoted to the next grade.

Project Connection offers preventive youth services on the Eastside of Syracuse. In 2009, Project Connection served 217 individuals.

K.I.C.K.S. Camp (Keeping It Cool...Kids Between School) is a unique and stimulating day camp for children kindergarten through sixth grade held during school breaks. In 2009, we added science experiments and karate to the curriculum and provided a day camp experience for more than 100 children.

Family Resource Centers are community-based sites offering afterschool and summer programming, book clubs, field trips and tutoring for the youth in our community. In 2009, we expanded our afterschool and summer programming.

Family Resource Centers offer services for adults such as emergency assistance, crisis intervention, advocacy, supportive services, employment support, education and family development partnerships. In 2009, we served 1,223 individuals through our family resource centers.

Healthy Marriage teaches the necessary skills for individuals to build lasting healthy relationships. In 2009, 247 individuals received training for a happy, healthy relationship.

EITC You’ve Earned It! is a program that prepares and files taxes for families with low to moderate income. In 2009, EITC brought 3.2 million dollars back into our community in tax refunds to hard working individuals.

Energy and Housing Services provides weatherization and energy use reduction measures to low and moderate income people. In 2009, we provided energy conservation services to 1,097 home owners and an additional 4,000 low-income renters.

Connect2Work prepares individuals for employment through funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. In 2009, we created 15 new programs to train, support and prepare people in our community to obtain and retain quality jobs.

Frank DeFrancisco Eastwood Community Center offers a number of intergenerational programs, including lunch, exercise, classes, day trips, volunteer activities and more. The Eastwood Senior and Teen Task Force won the 2009 Intergenerational Program from Onondaga County Office of Aging & Youth.

Senior Nutrition prepares lunch for seniors at 24 nutrition sites throughout Onondaga County. A healthy lunch is available to anyone over 60 years of age. Food Service expanded services by offering a breakfast program. In 2009, over 3,000 seniors received services.

Foster Grandparent Program offers senior citizens the opportunity to share their time and talents with children and young adults in local schools, day care centers, Head Start locations, and detention centers. Income eligible Foster Grandparents receive a small stipend and lots of love. In 2009, 99 foster grandparents enriched the lives of children in our community.

Project R.O.S.E. (Reach Out to Serve the Elderly) provides information and referral services to isolated and homebound seniors within the townships of Camillus and Jordan/Elbridge. Services include information and referrals, advocacy and coordination.