

# Project NOW

Community Action Agency

418 19th Street  
PO Box 3970  
Rock Island IL 61204-3970

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Rock Island, IL  
Permit No. 245

## GOOD THINGS NOW

### QUALITY USED CLOTHING!!

In 2014, we served 253 families (439 individuals) with \$7,356 worth of clothing at no cost to them.

Donate and Shop at Good Things NOW!

2000 3rd Avenue, Rock Island (309) 793-6353  
605 SW 3rd Street, Aledo (309) 582-3244

# Project NOW

Community Action Agency

Employment  
Home Modifications  
School Readiness  
50 YEARS OF ECONOMIC

Recycled Clothing  
Small Business

HELPING PEOPLE...CHANGING LIVES!!!

Basic Needs  
Home Ownership  
Transportation

OPPORTUNITY  
Senior Independence

Affordable Housing Rentals

Scholarships

ANNUAL REPORT 2014  
[www.projectnow.org](http://www.projectnow.org)

# HOUSING SERVICES

Project NOW's **HOUSING SERVICES** promotes Affordable Housing and helps residents buy homes and improve the quality of the housing in which they live.

## HOMEBUYER & HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

- ◆ 15 Families purchased homes through Project NOW's **HOMEBUYER with REHAB** Program. These families received education, homebuyer counseling, closing costs and down payment assistance and rehabilitation.
- ◆ Monthly **HOMEBUYER SEMINARS** are held in partnership with Rock Island Economic Growth to provide information to 236 potential home buyers.
- ◆ 12 Families lives were hugely impacted by bringing their homes up to Housing Quality Standards, thanks to the **SINGLE FAMILY OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB PROGRAM**.
- ◆ 4 Families had their homes reconditioned or enhanced with essential upgrades through our **HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM**.



## WEATHERIZATION

Project NOW's Weatherization program makes improvements to homes, increasing the home's capacity to hold heat. Insulation, caulking, sealing and furnace repairs/replacement are the typical focus of this work. This year, a total of **131 homes** were weatherized, resulting in saving both energy and money for customers throughout our 3 county area.



## AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENTALS

Project NOW **STRENGTHENS NEIGHBORHOODS** by providing Affordable Housing Rentals across our 3 county service area.

- ◆ **90** units of Affordable Housing were rented to low income individuals and families. These scattered housing sites include single family homes, duplexes, 4-plexes and 8-plexes in Rock Island, Moline, Viola, Keithsburg, New Boston and Kewanee. Affordable Housing remains a critical need in our communities.
- ◆ **124** families representing **262** individuals were housed throughout the year in Project NOW's Affordable Housing units.



# HEAD START



**HEAD START is designed to PREPARE CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN!** School Readiness is accomplished through an Early Education and Comprehensive Family Support Program for very low income families with 3-5 year old children. Our Center-Based or Home-Based options provide: Education, Health, Disability Aid, Mental Health, Transportation, Parent/Family Support and Volunteer Participation Services.

## ENROLLMENT

- ◆ **430** children from **390 FAMILIES** participated in Head Start.
- ◆ During the school year, **AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT** was **328** or 91% of the **360 funded children**.
- ◆ **92%** of enrolled children were at or below the **POVERTY LEVEL**, **5** were **HOMELESS** when they came to us and **11** were referred by child welfare.
- ◆ **10%** of the children were able to achieve their potential through treatment of their **DIAGNOSED DISABILITIES** by community partners.
- ◆ We were unable to serve 261 applicants which means that **62%** of the eligible children that needed Head Start were served
- ◆ **32%** of the children spoke **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**.



## CHILD HEALTH

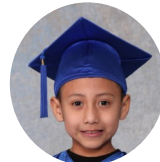
- ◆ **100%** of children enrolled had immunizations, medical and dental exams by year end, with 77% current on preventive health care.
- ◆ **100%** of families had doctors & dentists when they left Head Start.



JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME...

## **WE ARE READY FOR KINDERGARTEN !!!**

In fact.... Out of 193 age-eligible children, **100%** of us met or exceeded the school readiness goals and successfully transitioned into Kindergarten.



## RESOURCES

- ◆ There were **586 VOLUNTEERS**, including **220** Head Start fathers or father figures.
- ◆ Head Start's 2014 **FEDERAL REVIEW** noted a need to enhance Annual Report data on school readiness, ensure that children are screened within 45 days and receive necessary treatments within 90 days of start date. No deficiencies were noted.
- ◆ Over **\$18,000** in local funding was received, with **\$740,000** in **DONATED SERVICES**, primarily through Family Engagement.
- ◆ The 2013-14 Head Start budget includes **\$3.46 Million** in **PUBLIC & PRIVATE FUNDING**. The 2014-15 Budget will be the same. Budget Items include: Personnel, In-Kind, Cost Allocation, Occupancy, Equipment, Vehicles, Nutrition/Food, Travel, Supplies, Parent Services and Other Child Costs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on how we **PREPARE CHILDREN FOR SCHOOL**, go to [www.projectnow.org](http://www.projectnow.org)

# SENIOR SERVICES



Project NOW's **SENIOR SERVICES** offers a variety of services designed to help persons aged 60 plus stay engaged and live independently in their own homes.

## SENIOR MEALS

◆ 24,447 meals served at 9 **MEAL SITES** help seniors eat nutritiously, get out and about and socialize. Meal Sites located in Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, Port Byron, Milan, Edgington, Reynolds and Aledo



◆ 60,746 **HOME DELIVERED MEALS** help seniors live independently.

## SENIOR OUTREACH

- ◆ 1,220 units of **OUTREACH** to 739 **HOMEBOUND SENIORS**.
- ◆ 2,897 units of **INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE** to 1385 Seniors. 645 Seniors received **SENIOR HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SHAP) COUNSELING** and 461 received assistance with SHAP applications.
- ◆ 475 Seniors received **FARMERS' MARKET COUPON BOOKLETS** worth \$9,975 to purchase fresh food at local Farmers' Markets.
- ◆ 132 Caregivers received 137 Units of Family Care Giver Assistance.

## SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ 7,715 units of door-to-door transportation were provided to 354 Seniors in Rock Island & Mercer counties. This critical service transports seniors to medical appointments, therapy, community appointments, work, banks, meal sites and grocery shopping. Keeping seniors connected!



## RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Project NOW is providing Public Transportation in Rural Rock Island and Mercer Counties. We call this service RIM and we are encouraging rural residents of all ages to call

**1-800-788-6308 and RIDE THE RIM!!**

- ◆ 6,678 riders took advantage of **RIM Rural TRANSIT**
- ◆ 1,086 individuals utilized the **84 EXPRESS**, transporting them to the work destination of their choice along the upper Rock Island Route 84 Corridor. This service runs at several route times in the morning and evenings, provided in partnership with MetroLINK.

[WWW.RIDETHERIM.ORG](http://WWW.RIDETHERIM.ORG)

# COMMUNITY SERVICES

Project NOW's **COMMUNITY SERVICES** helps thousands of Customers with basic needs while they move towards increased self sufficiency.

In 2014, we provided Outreach services to 25,257 individuals!

## BASIC NEEDS

- ◆ 454 **MONTHS OF RENT** and 76 **RENTAL DEPOSITS** were provided to individuals and families.
- ◆ 88 Families in crises received **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**, including 47 **MEDICAL & DENTAL** needs.
- ◆ 2,922 Meals were provided through our **SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM**, providing health and physical development to children in need.
- ◆ 6 customers went to college or trade school thanks to Project NOW Community Service Block Grant **SCHOLARSHIPS**.



## UTILITY ASSISTANCE

Customers were assisted with **UTILITY BILLS** and furnace repair or replacement through the following programs to reduce their energy burden and helping them maintain housing.

- ◆ 9,054 homes were more livable thanks to **UTILITY ASSISTANCE (LIHEAP)** including assisting 8214 Heating and 840 Cooling customers.
- ◆ 119 Families received additional **ENERGY RELATED HELP** thanks to Ameren & MidAmerican funding, replacing Water Heaters, paying Utility Bills and paying for minor repairs.
- ◆ 650 Families had **UTILITIES RESTORED** after being disconnected.
- ◆ 54 Families had Emergency **FURNACE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT**.



## HOMELESS SERVICES

Homeless Services allow customers to achieve self-sufficiency by working towards employment, asset building, and providing families with Intensive Case Management. **TRANSITIONAL HOUSING** served 42 Families and 100 individuals with extensive case management and 13,914 **NIGHTS OF HOUSING**, helping them end homelessness and achieve their goals.

- ◆ 58 Families received Supportive Housing Case Management.
- ◆ 198 Families received **RENTAL AND DEPOSIT ASSISTANCE**, preventing or reducing homelessness.

# PROJECT NOW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2014



Darlene Swim      John Brandmeyer      Sonia Berg      Larry Stone      Carla McElrath      Barrett Essman Treasurer      CathyBizarri Board Chair      Bob Hepner Vice Chair      Linda Work Secretary      Jessie Lisle      Clarence Darrow      Abel Zertuche      Ginny Welin      Debbie Lee

## Audited Financials for Year Ending 06/30/2014

<u>Revenue</u>	
Federal	\$ 9,130,603
State	\$ 3,141,737
Local	\$ 211,126
Project Income, Donations & Other	\$ 890,491
In-kind	\$ 187,213
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 13,561,170</b>

<u>Expense</u>	
Utility Assistance	\$ 5,545,109
Head Start	\$ 2,812,398
Housing–Homebuyer/Home Rehab	\$ 953,147
Weatherization	\$ 951,738
Senior Services	\$ 804,977
Outreach	\$ 775,765
Homeless Services & Transitional Housing	\$ 660,075
Property Rentals & Unrestricted Activities	\$ 527,440
Rural Public “RIM” & Senior Transportation	\$ 523,313
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 13,553,962</b>

Project NOW’s 2014 Audit contained an unqualified opinion.

## SMALL BUSINESS LOANS

We assist Small Businesses with start-up or expansion funds, helping create & retain jobs for low-income persons. This **Community Services Block Grant Funding** promotes economic growth in Henry, Mercer, & Rock Island Counties! Up to \$20,000 per job created. Find out more at: [www.projectnow.org](http://www.projectnow.org)



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY** is being celebrated in 2014 as we mark 50 years since the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964. At Project NOW, we focus on linking our customers to opportunities that will help them improve their standard of living.

**ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY** may mean different things to different families, depending on their particular challenges. It may come in the form of Preschool Education, Basic Needs Assistance resulting in payments to local landlords and utility companies, Affordable Housing, Homebuyer Programs, Small Business Loans, Scholarships, Recycled Clothing & Household Goods, Home Rehabilitation, Rural Public Transportation or services to keep Seniors Living Independently.

Project NOW celebrates **ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY**, knowing that this holds the key for our customers to navigate their way out of poverty.

*“We strengthen communities by helping people help themselves and one another”.*

**Maureen “Mo” Hart**  
Executive Director

