FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The road that leads our customers to Project NOW is not recommended in travel guides. People do not look to their future and say, “Oh, I’d like to be broke, with nowhere to turn and get to go and ask for whatever help may be available.” That is not where individuals and families care to be.

Our customers find themselves in situations that challenge their sense of self-worth. Because of this, Project NOW focuses on Protecting their Human Dignity. We highlight dignity in our vision and embrace it as one of our five core values. We firmly hold that what distinguishes mere service delivery from social change is the recognition of the intrinsic worth of each customer.

Protecting Human Dignity starts with the individual, extends to another and ultimately defines the world in which we live.

Thank you for being a part of Community Action.

Maureen "Mo" Hart
Executive Director

Our Vision

We envision the whole community. Working hand in hand to meet human needs, protect human dignity and restore hope.

Service  Dignity  Integrity  Community  Hope
**Head Start** is a School Readiness Program providing Early Education & Comprehensive Family Support for very low income families with 3-5 year old children.

**2012 HEAD START ENROLLMENT SUCCESS**
- A vulnerable population was supported and families were strengthened by 426 children from 318 families participated in Head Start in 2012.
- Over 90% of Head Start families were below poverty level.
- 7 families were homeless when they came to Project NOW Head Start.
- Average monthly enrollment was 360 children which is 100% of funded enrollment.
- Over 12% of the children received treatment for diagnosed disabilities through community partnerships.
- 57% of all the children needing Head Start were served.
- Over 35% of the families served spoke English as a second language.

Over 705 volunteers with 607 Head Start parents, including 163 fathers or father-figures, supported Head Start. Partnerships were strengthened in 2011-12, utilizing $19,515 of private funding and over $800,000 of donated services, most of which are provided through Family Engagement.

Head Start's 2012-13 budget includes: $5.4 Million in public & private funding; $2.75 Million which is public funding. Budget Expenditures included: Personnel, In-Kind, Cost Allocation, Occupancy, Furniture, Equipment, Vehicles, Nutrition, Travel, Supplier, Parent Services, & Other Child Costs.

**Senior Services** offered at the Rock Island County Senior Center provide a variety of services designed to help persons aged 60 and over stay engaged and live independently in their own homes. Services include: Home Delivered & Congregate Meas, Transportation & Outreach Services.

**Senior Meals** 9,000 Congregate Meals helped 1,063 seniors receive nourishment and enjoy the company of others. 59,104 Home-Delivered Meals helped 843 seniors continue to live independently.

**Transportation**

**RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

**RIDE THE RIM!!**

Project NOW continued to expand Transportation Services in Rural Rock Island and Mercer Counties. 3,003 rides helped rural residents get to the destination of their choice.

**Senior Outreach Services**

713 seniors received 1,064 units of Outreach services.

1,150 seniors received 3,075 units of Information & Assistance.

477 Circuit Breaker online applications were filled out and submitted for seniors.

365 seniors received 212 coupon books to purchase $11,825 of fresh food at our local Farmers’ Markets.

**Resources**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENTALS**

In 2011-12, 100% of children enrolled for the year completed their dental & medical exams, including immunizations, by program year end.

Each family had their own doctor and dentist, and every age-eligible child made successful transition from Head Start to Kindergarten.

Project NOW strengthens neighborhoods by providing affordable rentals to our 3 county area. In 2011, 91 units were rented to 114 families & 247 individuals throughout the year. These rentals help people improve their living conditions by providing decent, safe, affordable housing to a vulnerable population.

Project NOW is committed to Affordable Housing!

**HOMEBUYER SEMINARS**

Project NOW partners with Rock Island Economics Growth Corp. and the City of Moline to educate potential home buyers. Topics include:

- Importance of good credit
- How to establish a budget
- How to obtain a mortgage
- How to shop for a home
- Life as a homeowner

119 individuals attended these Home-Buyer Seminars in 2012, which provided them opportunities to own a stake in their communities.

**Housing Services** Offer a variety of programs to residents of our 3 County area.

**WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS**

A total of 300 homes were weatherized, improving the home’s energy efficiency, saving both energy & money for customers!

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Help our customers meet their basic needs & move toward self-sufficiency in their lives.

In 2012, we provided Outreach Services to 17,917 customers!

**BASIC NEEDS**

203 Families in crisis were helped with emergency needs.

41 Families’ medical and dental needs were met, improving health.

4,046 Meals were provided through our Summer Food Program, providing health & physical development to children in need.

18 Customers accessed higher education with Community Service Block Grant Scholarships.

**UTILITY ASSISTANCE**

Customers were assisted with utility bills & furnace repair or replacement, reducing their energy burden and helping them maintain their housing through the following programs:

6,278 Families’ homes were made more livable with Utility Assistance through LIEAP.

66 Families received energy related help with Weatherization Program.

56 Families received Emergency Fuel Repair/Replacement.

442 Families with dislocated utilities had utilities restored.

**HOMELAND SERVICES**

Homeless Services strengthen vulnerable populations and help customers achieve self-sufficiency by working towards employment, asset building, and providing families Intensive Case Management.

18 Families, 33 individuals, received 14,232 nights of shelter in Project NOW Transitional Housing.

26 Families, 49 individuals, received Supportive Housing Case Management.

162 Families, 428 individuals, received housing assistance, preventing/reducing homelessness.

**GARAGE SALE PRICES EVERYDAY!!**

In 2012, we served 677 families in need of no cost to them. Stop by and see the great deals for yourself!

7000 N 3rd Avenue, Rock Island (309) 789-4744

605 SW 3rd Street, Aledo (309) 582-3244

**GOOD THINGS NOW**

Bship Usada De Calidad! POR TIEMPO EN FAMILIA

**SMALL BUSINESS LOANS**

Project NOW assists Small Businesses with start-up or expansion funds, helping create & retain jobs for low-income persons.

This Community Services Rock Grant Loan Funding promotes economic growth in Henry, Mercer, & Rock Island Counties!

Up to $20,000 per job created.

Find out more at: www.projectnow.org