2017 Annual Report

COMMUNICATING
With Our Community

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

www.projectnow.org
An Early Education Program focused on Kindergarten Readiness Helps Families Achieve Their Potential.

**ENROLLMENT**

**“WE WELCOME NEW FAMILIES”**

- 375 children from 344 families participated with an average monthly enrollment of 301, or 91% of the 330 funded children.
- 83% of enrolled children were at or below poverty level. 7 were referred by child welfare; none were homeless when they enrolled.
- 9.3% of children were able to achieve their potential through treatment of their diagnosed disabilities by community partners.
- We were unable to serve 11 children.
- 30% of children spoke English as a second language.

**CHILD HEALTH**

- 100% of children enrolled had immunizations, medical & dental exams by year end; 100% were current on preventative health care.
- 99% of families had doctors & dentists when they left Head Start.

**RESOURCES**

- 54 volunteers assisted our Head Start Program.
- 337 Head Start fathers/father figures participated in Head Start.
- We received over $14,000 in local funding plus $668,223 in Donated Services including Family Engagement & Space.
- The 2017-18 Head Start budget includes $3,018,384 in public and private funding plus $705,952 In-kind. Budget items include: personnel, in-kind, indirect costs, occupancy, equipment, vehicles, nutrition/food, travel, supplies, parent services and other child costs.

**Project NOW is firmly committed to Affordable Housing by providing Home Weatherization, Property Rentals, Home Rehabilitation and Rental Assistance.**

**Weatherization** **IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS**

- This service increased energy efficiency for 64 Families in our 3 county area by providing essential home repairs, air sealing, insulation, caulking and furnace repair/replacement.

**Affordable Rentals** **PROMOTING FAMILY STABILITY**

- 231 Individuals, including 108 Families were housed in Project NOW Affordable Housing Rentals in Rock Island, Moline, Viola, Keithsburg, New Boston and Kewanee. We are committed to providing safe, affordable housing to low-income customers.
- 11 Commercial Rentals serve our communities by housing Project NOW programs and promoting small business.

**Home Rehabilitation** **IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS**

Project NOW received 2 new Illinois Housing Development Grants in 2016; The Housing Accessibility Program “HAP” and The Single Family Housing Rehabilitation grants to help 20 households with accessibility rehab, allowing them to continue to live in their homes.

**RIM RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION**

Project NOW provides Rural Public Transportation in rural Rock Island and Mercer Counties to residents of ALL AGES.

**CALL to SCHEDULE A RIDE TODAY!!!**

(309) 788-6335 or 1 (800) 788-6308

RIDE THE RIM!!

353 passengers received 9,990 rides this Year.

WWW.RIDETHERIM.ORG

**HEAD START CHILD OUTCOMES**

2016-17 Children Entering Kindergarten

- Social and Emotional Development: 3 Emerging, 63 Met, 34 Exceeds
- Language and Literacy: 9 Emerging, 80 Met, 11 Exceeds
- Approaches to Learning: 11 Emerging, 74 Met, 15 Exceeds
- Cognition: 11 Emerging, 71 Met, 8 Exceeds
- Perceptual Motor and Physical Development: 11 Emerging, 75 Met, 14 Exceeds

Emerging, Met, Exceeds
SENIOR SERVICES

Seniors (aged 60 & over) are able to live in their own homes thanks to Meals, Transportation, Information/Assistance and Outreach.

75,610 Units of Service were provided to 4,067 Seniors

Transportation Services INTEGRATING SENIORS
• 5,466 One Way Rides provided to 295 Seniors in Rock Island and Mercer Counties—to medical appointments & shopping.

Senior Meals IMPROVED NUTRITION & SOCIALIZATION
• 14,518 meals were served to 336 seniors at 7 Meal Sites in Rock Island and Mercer Counties.
• 51,047 Home Delivered Meals were served to 533 Seniors thanks to a tremendous volunteer effort!

Outreach Services IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS
• 1,309 Seniors received 2,306 units of Info & Assistance.
• 687 Seniors received 1,312 units of Outreach at home.
• Benefit Access services were provided to Seniors.
• 325 Farmers Market Coupon Books ($8,125) were passed out to Seniors for healthy food at local Farmers’ Markets.
• Seniors were assisted with Senior Health Insurance Program.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Improving the conditions in which people live and strengthening our communities by meeting basic needs.

IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS, STRENGTHENED FAMILIES:
• 281 Families in crisis received emergency assistance, including 49 medical & dental needs.
• 313 vouchers helped 540 people with clothing and household items at no cost at Project NOW’s Good Things NOW Quality Used Clothing Stores. Many more customers shop here for everyday bargains. These stores are open to the public.

HELPING CUSTOMERS ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL:
• Transitional Housing served 27 Families with 9,532 nights of housing along with extensive case management. 8 units serve homeless Youth ages 16-21, Sojourner House houses up to 8 single women and 6 units house families.
• 17 Families received Supportive Housing Case Management.
• 132 Families/335 people received Rent/Deposit help.
• 19 Economic Development Scholarships were awarded to pay for job training classes for CNA, CDL & Welding certifications.

IMPROVED LIVING CONDITIONS - Warm Homes:
• 7,399 Families were kept warm thanks to Utility Assistance (LIHEAP); the average benefit was $533 per family.
• 82 Families received extra energy-related help with water heaters, utility bill assistance and other energy related minor repairs made possible by MidAmerican Energy & Ameren funding.
• 21 Families received Emergency Furnace Assistance.

REDUCED HUNGER, INCREASED NUTRITION:
• 1163 summer lunches were provided to 95 children.

To Volunteer CALL (309)788-6335

GOOD THINGS NOW
QUALITY USED CLOTHING STORES at Garage Sale Prices
2000 3rd Ave, Rock Island (309) 793-6353
605 SW 3rd Street, Aledo (309) 582-3244
332 People received clothing at NO CHARGE! A Big THANK YOU for all of the generous Community Donations!
Communicating with Our Community is our 2017 focus and on behalf of the Project NOW Board of Directors and Staff, thank you for taking an interest in Project NOW.

In 2017 we have focused on strategically listening to our communities as we plan for the future. One thing we have learned is that you would like to hear more from us and we hope this Annual Report is helpful to you. We continue to assess and work to improve our communications and impact on poverty.

Fighting poverty requires many things including resources. We are thankful to have very diverse funding, 45% of which we spend on direct customer assistance, another 33% on staff pay and benefits to deliver that assistance and a very low 5% on administrative costs.

We are ever watchful of national and state decisions being made that can have devastating effects on those living in poverty. Thank you all for helping us to keep an eye on this as well.

Maureen “Mo” Hart
Executive Director

The Promise of Community Action
Community Action Changes People’s Lives
Embody the spirit of Hope,
Improves Communities
And makes America a better place to live.
We care about the entire community and We are dedicated to helping people Help themselves and each other.

Project NOW’s 2017 Audit expressed an Unmodified Opinion.