

## OUR MISSION

SERVING COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES IN MICHIGAN,  
STRENGTHENING THEIR CAPACITY TO ALLEVIATE  
THE CAUSES AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF POVERTY.



### SERVICE

Empowering member agencies



### RESOLVE

Never veering from the quest to reduce poverty



### COMMUNICATION

Leading the discussion about issues that matter

## YEAR IN REVIEW

### A message from Kate White, Executive Director

Founded in 1975, Michigan Community Action begins its fifth decade of service to our member agencies. We are happy to share this review of our accomplishments and activities in 2015-16, our 40th year. We are proud to be a part of this network of Michigan's 29 Community Action Agencies as they confront the causes and effects of poverty in our state and help their clients create better lives for themselves and their families. We hope that our role as the state association contributes to their success.

*MCA's financial statements are available for review at [Guiderstar.org](http://Guiderstar.org). Enter "Michigan Community Action" into the search field.*

**40** YEARS  
ANNIVERSARY

## HIGHLIGHTS

### COLLABORATIONS

Throughout the year, MCA worked with allied groups to improve conditions for our member agencies and working families. Among the most significant partnerships and outcomes, were the following:

- MCA was a sponsor of the 2015 Building Michigan Communities Conference, the largest gathering of community development professionals in the Midwest.
- MCA co-sponsored the 2015 Michigan League for Public Policy's forum, Secure Parents and Successful Kids: A Two-Generation Approach to Tackling Poverty.
- MCA hosted monthly meetings of the Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm, a broad-based organization of nonprofit and government agencies, utility companies, and private partners promoting energy assistance programs for low income families.
- MCA supported conferences of the Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan and Michigan Interfaith Power and Light. MCA was recognized for its work promoting energy efficiency at the Power and Light Conference with its corporate partners Consumers Energy and CLEAResult.
- MCA continued to support the Silver Key Coalition which promotes "aging in place" and increased resources for older adult programs.
- MCA was chosen as the charitable partner in Central Michigan University public radio station's Warm Hearts, Warm Homes fundraiser in partnership with Consumers Energy.

**1975–2015**



# NETWORK IMPACT

A sampling of how Community Action Agencies are making things better for Michigan's low income families:

## 202,000

MICHIGAN RESIDENTS SERVED BY THEIR LOCAL CAA IN FY14-15

## 26,033

CLIENTS RECEIVED FREE TAX PREP HELP AND APPLIED FOR APPROPRIATE CREDITS AND REFUNDS



## 6,440

CHILDREN IMPROVED HEALTH AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CAA NUTRITION PROGRAMS



## 45,500

MICHIGAN SENIORS MAINTAINED INDEPENDENT LIVING WITH HELP FROM THEIR CAA



## 18,534

CLIENTS OBTAINED HEALTH CARE SERVICES

## 2 MILLION

VOLUNTEER HOURS DONATED TO LOCAL CAAS

## 10,777

HOUSEHOLDS HELPED WITH UTILITY PAYMENTS

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE

MCA was awarded a \$12.6 million grant from the Public Service Commission to provide energy assistance to qualified households through the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP). The program year ran from October 1, 2014-September 30, 2015. MCA subcontracted its 29 member agencies to implement the program and distribute funds to eligible households, as well as to provide their clients training in energy efficiency, household budgeting, and other ways to increase family self-sufficiency. By the end of the program year, MCA's member agencies had served 10,777 households expending \$10,175,750 in direct assistance payments to the utility providers, exceeding its original program goal of serving 4,650 households.

In addition to participating in MEAP, 23 CAAs held a **Walk for Warmth** or similar fundraiser in 2015, raising **\$909,225** in private donations for local families who needed help paying their utility bills.



Highschoolers participate in Macomb Community Action's Walk for Warmth to raise money to help neighbors in need.

### LEGISLATIVE

In 2015, MCA led the effort to revise legislation overseeing the distribution and use of federal **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** funds. The passage of HB 4544, sponsored by State Representative (and now State Senator) Dale Zorn, changed the law to permit a percentage of the state's LIHEAP allocation to be used to weatherize the homes of income qualified residents. In appreciation for his leadership, MCA named Senator Zorn its 2015 Legislator of the Year.



State Senator Dale Zorn of Monroe expresses his thanks at being named MCA's Legislator of the Year during the Day at the Capitol event.

### TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

As part of its mission to support member agencies, MCA hosted 20 webinars and dozens of live training events in 2015, focusing on professional development, agency management, and customer service:

- Board Roles and Responsibilities
- Agency Wide Budgeting
- Building Relationships and Collaborations
- Leadership Development Institute
- Your Money, Your Goals (financial literacy)
- Certified Community Action Professional
- Results Oriented Management and Accountability
- OMB Administrative Guidance Training
- MCA Summer Conference

### EVENTS

MCA held a **Community Action Day** at the Capitol on April 30, 2015. The day included exhibits on the main floor of the Capitol Building and an awards ceremony for agency clients and volunteers. State Representative Sam Singh of East Lansing provided the keynote address, while both Houses of the Legislature issued proclamations citing May as Community Action Month in Michigan.

MCA's 2015 **summer conference** drew 246 Community Action Agency staff and supporters to Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, MI. The two and a half day conference featured keynote presentations from leading antipoverty professionals and breakout sessions in agency operations to improve client outcomes and agency performance.



Michigan Community Action lost a couple of pros to retirement in 2015. Steve Walker, executive director of Genesee County Community Action Resource Department (left) and Bill Dubord, executive director of Menominee Delta Schoolcraft Community Action (second from right) were thanked for their careers of service by MCA president John Stephenson and executive director Kate White at the Summer Conference.



Kate White presents a Community Action Award to a Wayne Metro CAA client who became a homeowner with help through the agency's Individual Development Account program.