

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Rock Island, IL
Permit 73

Project NOW

Community Action Agency

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

ENROLL Your Child in HEAD START !! (So they will be KINDERGARTEN READY)

For Children 3 - 5 Years Old
499 27th St., East Moline 309 792-4555
109 South Elm St., Kewanee 309 852-4346
307 NW 7th St., Aleo 309 582-3668



Call or Visit us at:

Main Office 418 19th Street, Rock Island (309) 793-6391
Branch Offices
711 4th Avenue, Moline (309) 764-8092
207 W. 2nd Street, Kewanee (309) 852-4565
605½ SW 3rd Street, Aleo (309) 582-2644
Rock Island County Senior Center
2221 11th Street, Rock Island (309) 788-6335
Head Start Enrollment Sites:
499 27th Street, East Moline (309) 792-4555
109 S. Elm Street, Kewanee (309) 852-4346
305 NW 7th Street, Aleo (309) 582-3668

www.projectnow.org

Project NOW

Community Action Agency

Annual Report 2015

Utility Assistance Homeless Services Financial Literacy Case Management
Scholarships RIM Rural Public Transportation Head Start
Rents & Security Deposits Summer Lunch Transitional Housing Foreclosure Prevention
Case Management Good Things NOW Clothing Stores School Readiness
Head Start Weatherizing Homes Emergency Assistance Supportive Housing
Foreclosure Prevention Senior Transportation Homebuyer Homeless Services
School Readiness Emergency Assistance Health Care Assistance & Referrals Housing
Supportive Housing Outreach Home Rehabilitation Homeless Services
Homebuyer Senior Meal Sites Utility Assistance Homeless Services
Affordable Housing Volunteers Rents & Security Deposits Summer Lunch
Home Rehabilitation Home Delivered Meals Homeless Services Financial Literacy Case Management
Scholarships RIM Rural Public Transportation Head Start Weatherizing Homes
Summer Lunch Transitional Housing Foreclosure Prevention
Case Management Good Things NOW Clothing Stores School Readiness Emergency Assistance
Weatherizing Homes Emergency Assistance Supportive Housing
Foreclosure Prevention Senior Transportation Homebuyer Senior Meal Sites
Emergency Assistance Health Care Assistance & Referrals Affordable Housing
Supportive Housing Outreach Home Rehabilitation Home Delivered Meals
Senior Meal Sites Utility Assistance Homeless Services
Affordable Housing Volunteers Scholarships Senior Transportation
Home Delivered Meals Rents & Security Deposits Summer Lunch
Homeless Services Financial Literacy Case Management Outreach
RIM Rural Public Transportation Weatherizing Homes
Summer Lunch Transitional Housing Foreclosure Prevention Outreach
Good Things NOW Clothing Stores School Readiness
Weatherizing Home Emergency Assistance Supportive Housing Financial Literacy
Senior Transportation Homebuyer Homeless Services
Emergency Assistance Health Care Assistance & Referrals Housing Transitional Housing
Outreach Home Rehabilitation Home Delivered Meals
Senior Meal Sites Utility Assistance Homeless Services Emergency Assistance
Volunteers Scholarships RIM Rural Public Transportation
Home Delivered Meals Rents & Security Deposits Summer Lunch Utility Assistance
Financial Literacy Case Management Good Things NOW Clothing Stores
RIM Rural Public Transportation Head Start Weatherizing Homes Rents & Security Deposits
Transitional Housing Foreclosure Prevention Homeless Services
Good Things NOW School Readiness Emergency Assistance
Emergency Assistance Supportive Housing Outreach
Senior Transportation Homebuyer Senior Meal Sites School Readiness
Health Care Assistance & Referrals Home Delivered Meals Homebuyer
Outreach Home Rehabilitation Home Delivered Meals Homeless Services
Volunteers Financial Literacy
Utility Assistance Homeless Services RIM Rural Public Transportation Rehabilitation
Rents & Security Deposits Summer Lunch Transitional Housing
Financial Literacy Case Management Good Things NOW Clothing Stores
Head Start Weatherizing Homes Emergency Assistance
Transitional Housing Foreclosure Prevention Senior Transportation Case Management
School Readiness Emergency Assistance Health Care Assistance & Referrals
Emergency Assistance Supportive Housing Outreach Foreclosure Prevention
Homebuyer Senior Meal Sites Utility Assistance
Health Care Assistance & Referrals Volunteers Supportive Housing
Home Rehabilitation Home Delivered Meals Rents & Security Deposits
Utility Assistance Homeless Services Financial Literacy Affordable Housing
Scholarships RIM Rural Public Transportation Head Start
Rents & Security Deposits Summer Lunch Transitional Housing Homeless Services
Case Management Good Things NOW Clothing Stores School Readiness
Head Start Weatherizing Homes Emergency Assistance Summer Lunch
Foreclosure Prevention Senior Transportation Homebuyer
School Readiness Emergency Assistance Health Care Assistance & Referrals Homes
Supportive Housing Outreach Home Rehabilitation
Homebuyer Senior Meal Sites Utility Assistance Emergency Assistance
Affordable Housing Volunteers Scholarships
Home Rehabilitation Home Delivered Meals Rents & Security Deposits Senior Meal Sites

BASIC NEEDS

Service

- 8,471 households, received **LIHEAP Utility Assistance** keeping homes livable. 421 families' disconnected utilities were restored.
- 406 months of **RENT** & 107 **DEPOSITS** helped 302 families.
- 159 families received **EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE**.
- **SUMMER FOOD** served 3,088 lunches to children.
- 26 customers went to college or trade school thanks to CSBG **SCHOLARSHIPS** /Economic Development funds.
- 85 Families received **Additional Energy-related help** thanks to **Ameren & MidAmerican** funding: water heaters/ utility bills /minor repairs.
- 39 Families received **Emergency FURNACE Repair/Replacement**.



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING served 46 Families and 82 individuals with extensive case management & **13,161 nights of housing** to help them end homelessness and achieve self-sufficiency. **51 other** families received Supportive Housing Case Management.



25% of U. S. jobs pay below the poverty line of \$24,230 for a family of 4.

Project NOW's **SOJOURNER HOUSE** provides shelter for up to 7 single homeless women at one time. This beautiful home gives these women time to achieve their goals while they work closely with a Project NOW Case Worker. **16 women** were housed at Sojourner House during the past year. Of the 10 women who exited the program, **100%** secured **safe, decent & affordable permanent housing**. **7 women (100%) maintained sobriety** after exit and **7 women (100%) maintained employment**.



SENIOR SERVICES

- 91,119 units of service were provided to 2,885 seniors and disabled individuals.
- 19,034 meals served at 9 **MEAL SITES** helped seniors eat nutritiously & socially at sites in Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, Port Byron, Milan, Edgington/Reynolds & Aledo.
- 56,346 **HOME DELIVERED MEALS** helped 489 homebound seniors live independently.
- **OUTREACH** was provided to **840 HOMEBOUND SENIORS**
- **INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE** was given to 1,502 Seniors.
- 475 Seniors received **FARMER'S MARKET COUPON** booklets worth \$9,975 to purchase fresh food at local Farmers' Markets.



Over 90% of entitlement benefits go to elderly, disabled, or working households.

Dignity

Integ



SENIOR TRANSPORTATION

- 8,626 units of **door-to-door transportation** were provided to **377 seniors** in Rock Island & Mercer counties to medical appointments, therapy, community appointments, work, banks, meal sites and grocery shopping.

KEEPING SENIORS in MOTION!

HOMEBUYER & HOME REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

- 9 Families purchased homes through our **HOMEBUYER W/REHAB Program**. Homebuyer Education, Counseling, Closing Costs, Down Payment assistance and Rehabilitation are all a part of this great service.
- Monthly **HOMEBUYER SEMINARS** educated 198 potential home buyers.
- 4 Families had their homes brought up to Housing Quality Standards thanks to **SINGLE FAMILY OWNER OCCUPIED REHAB**.
- 4 Families had essential upgrades to their homes through **HOME MODIFICATION Program**.
- 9 Families were able to stay in their homes thanks to major home repairs through the **EMERGENCY REPAIR Program**.



1 in 4 (25%) children under age 5 and 1 in 6 (16 %) seniors over age 65 in our 3 counties live in poverty.

WEATHERIZATION makes improvements to homes, increasing the home's capacity to hold heat. Insulation, caulking, sealing and furnace repairs/replacement are the focus. **126 homes** were weatherized, saving customers both energy and money.



90 AFFORDABLE HOUSING RENTALS housed 131 families in single family homes, duplexes, & multi family complexes in Rock Island, Moline, Viola, Keithsburg, New Boston and Kewanee.

Old Chicago Apartments, Rock Island, received a much-needed facelift this year

HOUSING PROGRAMS



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, Mental Health, Transportation, Parent/Family Support and Volunteer Services.

ENROLLMENT

- 418 children from 383 families participated in Head Start. During the school year, **average monthly enrollment** was 357 or 99% of the 360 funded children.
- 88% of enrolled children were at or below the **POVERTY LEVEL**, 7 were **homeless** when they came to us and 11 were referred by child welfare.
- 9% of the children were able to achieve their potential through treatment of their **diagnosed disabilities** by community partners.
- We were unable to serve 46 applicants which means that 90% of the eligible children that needed Head Start were served
- 6% of the children spoke **English as a second language**.

CALL to enroll TODAY!! You will be glad you did.



CHILD HEALTH

- 100% of children enrolled had immunizations, medical and dental exams by year end, with 95% current on preventive health care.
- 98% of families had doctors & dentists when they left Head Start.

Poverty can impede children's ability to learn and contribute to social, emotional, behavioral problems as well as poor health.

RESOURCES

- 575 **VOLUNTEERS**, including 299 Head Start fathers or father figures assisted our Head Start program.
- Head Start's 2014 **Federal Review** noted a need to enhance Annual Report data on school readiness, ensure children are screened within 45 days and receive necessary treatments within 90 days of start date. No deficiencies were noted.
- Over \$14,000 in local funding was received and \$767,200 in **donated Services** (primarily through Family Engagement) and donated space.
- The 2014-15 Head Start budget included \$3.46 Million in **public & private funding**. The 2015-16 Budget is the same. Budget Items include: personnel, in-kind, cost allocation, occupancy, equipment, vehicles, nutrition/food, travel, supplies, parent services and other child costs.

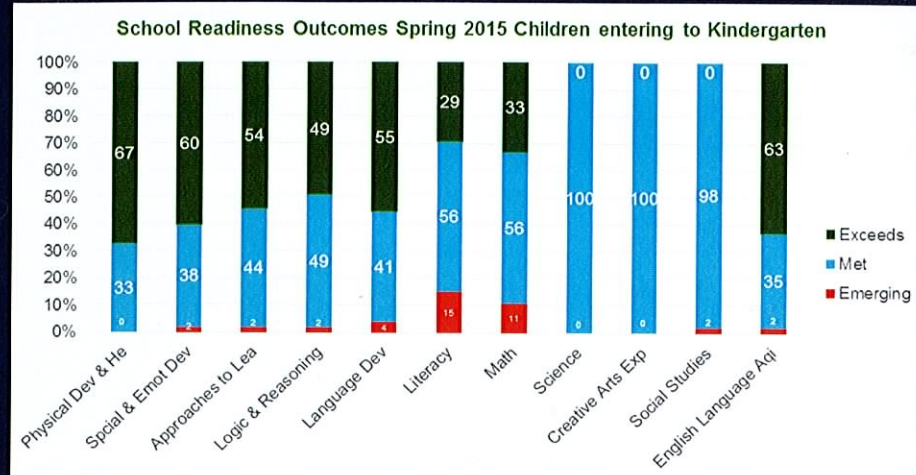


Go to www.projectnow.org for more about Head Start **PREPARING CHILDREN FOR KINDERGARTEN!**



RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

HEAD START SCHOOL READINESS OUTCOMES



GOOD THINGS NOW

QUALITY USED CLOTHING!!

Donate and Shop at Good Things NOW!

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

In 2015, 253 families received \$7,356 in clothing at no cost to them. Many more found bargains at garage sale prices to stretch their money!



Our Mission

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

RURAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Project NOW provides **RIM Rural Public Transportation** in rural Rock Island and Mercer Counties to residents of all ages. CALL to SCHEDULE A RIDE TODAY!!!

1-800-788-6308

RIDE THE RIM!!

545 passengers received 7,757 rides this past year.

WWW.RIDETHERIM.ORG



Audited Financials for Year Ending 06/30/2015

Revenue

Federal	\$	8,850,699
State	\$	3,045,606
Local	\$	88,272
Project Income, Donations & Other	\$	785,058
In-kind	\$	227,422
Total Revenue	\$	12,997,057

Expenses

Utility Assistance	\$	5,104,907
Head Start	\$	2,977,359
Senior Services	\$	922,197
Outreach	\$	798,502
Weatherization	\$	736,452
Housing-Homebuyer/Home Rehab	\$	734,200
Homeless Services & Transitional Housing	\$	593,558
Rural Public "RIM" & Senior Transportation	\$	564,413
Property Rentals & Unrestricted Activities	\$	454,851
Total Expenses	\$	12,886,439

Project NOW's 2015 Audit expressed an Unmodified Opinion.

2015 Family of Distinction

When Keonna interviewed for Project NOW's Transitional Housing, she was enthusiastic about her goals to become a Certified Nursing Assistant, enroll her children in day care and find permanent housing. Keonna entered Transitional Housing in July, 2014. She started her CNA classes at Scott Community College in August and completed her classes and clinical a month later. She quickly found fulltime

employment and enrolled her children in day care. Keonna

found permanent housing with the Rock Island Housing Authority and she successfully exited from Transitional Housing in January, 2015. When she entered our program, Keonna was unemployed. Now, she has a career as a CNA (the type of work she enjoys), has enrolled her children in day care, and is living in permanent affordable housing. Keonna accomplished everything she set out to do in 6 short months! Congratulations Keonna!!

The maximum federal benefit for SSI (seniors, children & disabled adults) is \$721/month, < 75% of the poverty line.

PROJECT NOW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015



Barrett Essman
Treasurer



Bob Hepner
Vice Chair



Cathy Bizarrri
Chair



Linda Work
Secretary



Carla McElrath



Clarence Darrow



Darlene Swim



Sonia Berg



Ted Pappas



Dr. Debbie Lee



Marshall Jones



Steve Doye



Abel Zertuche



Sammie Wool

From the Executive Director

The Project NOW Board of Directors and Staff thank you for taking a minute to reflect upon poverty. As you reflect, please note that the state of Illinois has stopped payment to us and critical services are seriously affected.



For instance, Home-Delivered Meals to the most vulnerable Homebound seniors is 70% state funded and is highly dependent on state funding. LIHEAP Utility Assistance is operating on only Federal funds (40% of our last year funding) and is expected to run dry during the cold month of December; Weatherization, Rental Assistance and other critical Homeless Assistance, Senior Transportation and Home Rehabilitation State funding has come to a complete halt.

As you read this report, it is our hope that you will reflect upon poverty, the people and the politics. It has somehow become acceptable to place judgement on those in poverty, when the bottom line is, they are broke and need help. And help is being seriously hindered right now.

Thank you for your interest.

Maureen "Mo" Hart,
Executive Director