MISSION
Our Mission is to provide information, training, education, and other services that engage and empower families and communities to become self-sufficient.

VISION
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency is a premiere organization which fully understands and responds to the social and economic needs of the families, individuals, and communities we humbly serve. By working with our community partners and accessing a diversified stream of funding, we serve our customers and our neighbors with compassion, inclusiveness, and respect.

CONTENTS
Message from the Chair and CEO ............. 1
Agency Governance .................................. 2
Congratulatory Letters from:
  Governor Bruce Rauner ......................... 3
  US Senator Dick Durbin ........................ 4
  State Treasurer Mike Frerichs............... 5
  Representative Tom Bennett ................. 6
  Representative Chad Hays .................... 7
  Senator Scott Bennett .......................... 8
  County Board Chair Michael Marron ...... 9
  Danville Mayor Scott Eisenhauer .......... 10
  Georgetown Mayor Kay Sanders ............ 11
  Gilman Mayor Rick Theesfield .............. 12
  Hoopeston Mayor Bill Crusinberry ....... 13
  Community Action Partnership
    President / CEO Denise Harlow .......... 14
    IACAA President / CEO
      Dr. Dalitso Sulamoyo ..................... 15
  50th Anniversary Gala Program ............. 16
  Community Services Block Grant .......... 28
  Educational Talent Service ................. 30
  Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood
    Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) ....... 32
  Head Start Birth to Five .................... 37
  Human Resources .............................. 45
  Energy Assistance ............................ 46
  Weatherization ............................... 48
  Founders, Charter Board Members and
    Executive Directors ........................ Inside Back Cover
This year the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency celebrates 50 years of service which has focused on strengthening our tri-county community. Community Action offers many services with one goal in mind: self-sufficiency.

Community Action (CA) was the 1964 brain child of Dr. W.D. Henderson and Reverend Hershel Hughes. In 1956, Dr. Henderson and Rev. Hughes determined the first goal of CA was to establish early childhood Head Start centers. These preschool education centers would provide opportunities for the nearly 58% of Vermilion County parents who did not have a high school diploma to return to school to complete their education. By 1966, Head Start children began receiving medical and dental screenings; a youth work study program began along with additional adult educational programming. As CA continued to grow, legal aid services and home management programs were created in collaboration with the Danville Area Community College. By 1968, CA began employing VISTA workers; a meals-on-wheels program was started in partnership with the YMCA. The Upward Bound youth summer services and senior citizen health program were set up to address the medical needs of the elderly, CA again partnered with the DACC to provide job training under the Comprehensive Employment Training Act. CA has continued to grow and evolve based on the needs of the community.

Despite the positive historical footprint of CA in Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties, there is little time to spend relishing in CA’s past accomplishments; now we must outline our strategic blueprint for the next 50 years of service as we continue to combat the War on Poverty.

Our national societal landscape has changed and in spite of ever-fluctuating budgets, modest resources, and questions regarding our long-term effectiveness, Community Action continues to move forward. Community Action team members remain passionate about their charge to be agents of change in eradicating the causes and effects of poverty. The ECI CAA team has critically scrutinized, reassessed and will continue to enhance service delivery models and strengthen community partnerships to maintain a keen alignment with the ever-changing, complex needs our customers. We also pledge to continue to be responsible stewards of core and new grant funds, as well as carefully safeguard corporate and private donations.

Fighting the War on Poverty is an unrelenting, ever-changing battle. Armed with focus, resolve, and purpose, the members of the Governing Board of Directors and 120 employees are equipped to guide and support our customers as they work toward a self-sufficient life for themselves and their families for generations to come! As long as poverty persists in our communities, Community Action, along with our community partners and volunteers, will be on the forefront leading the charge!

The East Central Illinois Community Action Agency is a living, breathing organization; resilient and never static. Our focus now and in the future is what we have coined the THREE E’s—Quality Education, Employment Readiness, and Access to Equitable and Affordable Housing for the residents of Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties. Motivated by the principles of our mission and vision, Community Action will expand its community service footprint and continue to be an agent of innovation, change, and prosperity in our tri-county community!
Governing Board of Directors

Doug Ahrens, Chairperson
Leon Parker, Vice Chairperson
Gayle Lewis, Treasurer
Randy P. Berger, Secretary

Robert Boyd
Jacquelyn A. Collins
Ivadale Foster

Michael Goodyear
Michael LeBuhn
Ana Nasser

Elder Tyson Parks

Dr. Melvia Russell
Maria Sermersheim
Susan Wynn Bence

Head Start Policy Council

Michael LeBuhn, Chairperson
Shannon Juvinall, Vice Chairperson
Karen Short, Secretary/Treasurer

Nichole Dye
Courtney Gaston
Amber James
Jennifer Tuel
Kayla Thomas
Shirley Glenn
Heather Lamb

Tyressa Parker
Sadie Logan
Stacy Laird
Jessica Elliott
Hailey Wilson
Megan Shumate

Teresa Jennings
Dr. Melvia Russell
Tabitha Corbin
Georgella Blanden
Tammy Wilson
Michael Brown
Courtney Martin
Congratulations!

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to congratulate East Central Illinois Community Action Agency (ECICAA) on its 50th Anniversary.

Concerned with combating poverty among lower socio-economic communities in Illinois, ECICAA has provided services to more than 14,000 households of Ford, Iroquois and Vermillion Counties since 1965. The organization continues to focus on its core tenets: quality education; equitable and affordable housing; and employment, which are known as the “Three E’s”. Through dedicated and professional service, these values resound throughout the many lives it has reached.

To celebrate an anniversary such as this is a significant milestone for any organization. This is an excellent opportunity to reflect on everything the organization has accomplished over the past fifty years, and to make plans for the future to positively impact even more lives. ECICAA’s longevity is a testament to the quality of services it provides and the relationships it has developed over the years.

It is my honor to join in commemorating ECICAA on its 50th Anniversary. On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable celebration, and for continued success.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rauner
Governor, State of Illinois
Dr. Angèle Thibodeaux Burns  
CEO  
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency  
56 N. Vermilion St.  
Danville, IL  61832

Dear Dr. Thibodeaux Burns and Members of the ECICAA Family:

Congratulations on the 50th anniversary of the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency. Your commitment to the citizens of Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion Counties is unparalleled.

Since the beginning in 1965 with a Summer Head Start Program which served 500 children, you have grown into an agency with a $10 million budget that now serves over 14,000 households annually. Your focus on the “Three E’s” – Quality Education, Equitable and Affordable Housing and Employment has engaged and empowered families and communities to become self-sufficient.

Services which include Early Childhood Education, TRIO Educational Talent Search, Housing and Energy Assistance, Community and Economic Development and Housing Development Initiatives have helped move families from poverty to independence.

Once again, I offer my congratulations and gratitude for all that you do to better the lives of those you serve. Best wishes for a wonderful gala and many more years of success.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senator
Dr. Angéle Thibodeaux Burns  
Chief Executive Officer  
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency  

Dr. Burns,

Education is a key that opens all doors. Education can overcome poverty. It can overcome intolerance. Prejudice. Indeed, education is the key to enlightenment and personal growth.

That is why I am so excited to extend my congratulations to the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency on its 50th Anniversary Corporate Gala. This year’s theme simply is wonderful: Celebrating 50 Years of Empowerment and Excellence Through Education.

Your “Three E’s” — Quality Education, Equitable and Affordable Housing, and Employment — represent the cornerstone that leads to dignity, respect and another E — Empowerment.

Each of us has a gift. What an individual chooses to do with that gift is a personal choice. That so many hard-working people have brought their gifts to the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency in an effort to help those who are less fortunate is an incredible testament to Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion counties.

Congratulations to you, your staff and the generous supporters of the Agency. And thank you for showing us, every day, that “Helping People, Changing Lives” are more than just words in East Central Illinois.

Sincerely,

Michael Frerichs
February 17, 2015

Dr. Angèle Thibodeaux-Burns
Chief Executive Officer
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 North Vermilion Street
Danville, Illinois 61832

Dear Ms. Thibodeaux-Burns

I would like to personally congratulate you and your agency for serving Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties for 50 years! The East Central Illinois Community Action Agency serves approximately 14,000 low income households each year by providing quality education, equitable and affordable housing, and employment. These services have helped hundreds of low income families take steps toward independence.

I am also privileged to have my Chief of Staff, Susan Wynn Bence serve on your board of directors. Susan’s commitment to your organization helps me to better understand your goals and objectives as you respond to the social and economic needs of families and individuals in my legislative district.

Again, congratulations and thank you for serving Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties for 50 years by working with community partners and providing information, training, education, and other services to the disadvantaged. Most of all, thank you for “Helping People, Changing Lives.”

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Bennett

Thomas M. Bennett – 106
1/15/16

Angèle Thibodeaux, Ph.D
Chief Executive Officer
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 N. Vermilion St.
Danville, IL 61832

Dear Dr. Thibodeaux:


The seeds of opportunity that ECICAA has planted over five decades have blossomed into success and dignity for countless individuals and families in Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion Counties.

The partnerships and collaborations with local businesses, corporations, faith-based organizations and local governments resulting in a pathway out of poverty for those in need are extraordinary.

50 years of providing education, training and other services, while consistently treating your customers and neighbors with compassion, inclusiveness and respect is a milestone that deserves recognition of the highest order and beckons a celebration!

Thank you to the staff, volunteers, and community partners who have given so much of their time, talent and treasure to make such a positive and meaningful difference.

Best wishes for another 50 years of success!

Sincerely,

Chad D. Hays
State Representative - 104th District
Assistant Minority Leader
Dear Dr. Angèle Thibodeaux Burns,

I was very pleased to hear the news that the East Central Illinois Agency was celebrating 50 years of service to our citizens throughout our local communities in Ford, Iroquois, and Vermillion counties.

Congratulations on 50 years of helping people and changing lives—your compassion, commitment and efforts on behalf of working families is extremely admirable.

East Central Illinois Agency, which serves more than 14,000 households annually, has truly blossomed from the launch of its first summer Head Start program in 1965, which served about 500 kids. The tremendous growth of the agency is a testament to your understanding and responsiveness to the needs of families and individuals who seek your assistance. Know that you are not only empowering and equipping families and individuals with the necessary resources to uplift them out of poverty, but also inspiring generations of better citizens.

I admire your years of advocacy and helping the voiceless in our communities.

Thank you for your many contributions and successes over the 50 years.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Senator Scott Bennett
Feb. 3, 2015

Dear Board Members and Supporters,

It is my distinct honor and privilege to write this letter of congratulations to the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency for 50 years of service to our community. Over the course of the last half century, the agency has done invaluable work to make our community better by holding out a helping hand, empowering people to rise above poverty. As residents of Vermilion County we appreciate this truly noble endeavor.

Through the programs and services offered by the agency from early childhood education, community and economic development, to housing and energy assistance, a great impact is being felt in the ongoing struggle to eliminate poverty. Vermilion County is grateful for the efforts of the last 50 years, and we look forward to many more great years of public service from the East Central Illinois Action Agency.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Marron
Chairman
Vermilion County Board
11 February 2015

Dr. Angèle Thibodeaux Burns
Chief Executive Officer
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 N. Vermillion Street
Danville, Illinois 61832

Dear Dr. Burns:

I wish to extend my congratulations and profound appreciation for the dedication and accomplishments East Central Illinois Community Action Agency has achieved over the last 50 years. I shudder to think where those most in need in Danville — as well as the remainder of Vermilion County, Ford and Iroquois Counties — would be without the high quality and meaningful services you so readily supply.

I believe it is important to recognize the over 50 years of experience ECICAA has in combating poverty to low-income individuals and those with disadvantaged backgrounds. ECICAA provides high quality and meaningful services that empower and encourage continued strides towards self-sufficiency and economic security for those you serve. The outreach your organization provides in education/employment readiness, early childhood education, energy/emergency assistance, property management, and homelessness — to name but a few of your focused efforts — certainly does not go unnoticed.

I applaud East Central Illinois Community Action Agency’s focus on the “Three E’s” — Quality Education, Equitable and Affordable Housing, and Employment; and certainly join you in celebrating 50 years of empowerment and excellence through education!

My sincere congratulations on your anniversary; and a heartfelt “THANK YOU” for everyone throughout the past 50 years who have worked so diligently to lift-up those in our community most in need.

Sincerest regards,

Scott Eisenhauer
Mayor
February 10, 2015

Dr. Angéle Thibodeaux Burns
Executive Director
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 N. Vermilion Street
Danville, IL 61832

Dear Dr. Burns,

CONGRATULATIONS on 50 years of providing services which impact our community.

East Central Illinois Community Action programs not only assist families in need, but give them guidance through education to make positive lifestyle changes.

Wishing you many, many more years of continued success!

Best regard,

Kay Sanders
Mayor
February 5, 15

Dr. Angèle Thibodeaux Burns
Chief Executive Officer
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 N Vermilion Street
Danville IL 61832

Dear Dr. Angèle Thibodeaux Burns:

The City of Gilman would like to congratulate the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency on 50 years of service. We are very fortunate to have a service such as yours to provide our residents with such high quality and meaningful services that empower and encourage continued strides towards self-sufficiency and economic security.

The City of Gilman would like to thank you and your staff members for their dedication to serving our citizens of Iroquois county. We look forward to working with your agency in the future.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Mayor Rick Theesfeld
City of Gilman
February 23, 2015

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 N Vermilion St
Danville, Illinois 61832

Dr. Angèle Thibodeaux Burns, Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Burns, The Board of Directors, and the staff of the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency.

It is my honor and pleasure to represent The City of Hoopeston and its residents as we congratulate the Agency on the completion of 50 years of service to the East Central Illinois counties of Vermilion, Ford, and Iroquois.

As you observe this milestone at your 50th Anniversary Corporate Gala, the theme for the event, Celebrating 50 Years of Empowerment and Excellence Through Education, Equitable and Affordable Housing, and Employment, the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency has improved the quality of life of countless residents of this area.

Once again, on behalf of the City of Hoopeston, I would offer our congratulations on the achievements of the past 50 years and anticipate what the future will bring for the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency.

Respectfully,

Bill Crusinberry, Mayor
City of Hoopeston
March 13, 2015

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 N. Vermilion Street
Danville, IL 61832

Dear Dr. Thibodeaux Burns:

Good evening! We wanted to add the congratulations of the national Community Action Partnership to your celebration this evening. Celebrating 50 Years of Empowerment and Excellence Through Education is a reason to pause and reflect on the wonderful work done at East Central Illinois Community Action Agency over the years and gives us a chance to recommit ourselves to the vital work ahead.

Your focus on Quality Education, Equitable and Affordable Housing, and Employment recognizes the strong foundation families need to in order to have the opportunity for economic security. It embodies your mission to bridge the gap between economic, cultural, or social dependency and self-sufficiency.

Your ongoing work truly reflects the Promise of Community Action, “Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies 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.” Thank you to the board, staff, volunteers, donors, and supporters of East Central Illinois Community Action. You make a real difference in the lives of your neighbors every day and we thank you for it.

We wish you a wonderful evening of reflection, commemoration and rededication to the work ahead.

We are with you in spirit tonight. Thank you for all you do every day, helping people and changing lives!

Sincerely,

Denise L. Harlow, CCAP
Chief Executive Officer.
Angèle Thibodeaux-Burns, PhD
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency
56 N. Vermilion
Danville, IL 61834

Dear Dr. Thibodeaux-Burns,

On behalf of the Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, I would like to congratulate East Central Illinois Community Action Agency on Celebrating 50 Year of Empowerment and Excellence Through Education.


Best wishes for many more years of success!

[Signature]

Dalliso S. Sulamoyo, PhD, CCAP
President/CEO
50TH ANNIVERSARY CORPORATE GALA

MENU

— Hors d’oeuvres —
Crab Stuffed Mushrooms
Mini Veggie Egg Rolls
Italian Beef Crescents
Assorted Petite Quiches

— Entree —
Beef Burgundy
Roasted Salmon with Smoky Applewood
Roasted & Herbed New Potatoes
Green Bean Almondine
Garden Salad ~ Ranch, French, and Italian
Rolls and Butter
Coffee, Tea, and Lemonade

— Desserts —
Assorted Bistro Pastries and Cheesecakes
Salutation
Doug Quick
Television Personality/Anchorman

Welcome Video
Angéle Thibodeaux Burns, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Introduction of Governing Board of Directors, Elected Officers and Membership
Doug Ahrens, Chairperson

Presentation of Annual Report

Testimonial Video Presentation

Presentation of Proclamation
Honorable Scott Eisenhauer
Mayor City of Danville

Greeting from Association President/Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Dalitso S. Sulamoyo
Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies

Blessing of the Dinner
Elder Tyson Parks, Board Member

Dinner
Music Provided by
Doc Ashton and The Root Canals

Community Service Awards
Laura T. Brooks, Associate Director of Finance

— PROGRAM continued on next page
ORDER OF PROGRAM – CONTINUED

Employee Service Awards
Paula Lahey
Associate Director of Administration

Honorees
Deborah Gouard – 25 Years of Dedicated Service
Brenda Butler – 35 Years of Dedicated Service

Introduction of Keynote Speaker
Odette Hyatt-Watson
Associate Director of Education Services

Keynote Presentation
Reginald Weaver, Past President – National Education Association
Acclaimed Educator and Danville Native

Community Action Movement Education Award

Pioneer
Dr. David L. Fields

Visionary
Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs

Legacy
Mr. Mark Denman

Special Acknowledgements
Angéle Thibodeaux Burns, Ph.D., CEO

Culmination Video

~ Celebration Immediately Following Program ~
Dr. Reginald (“Reg”) Lee Weaver currently serves as vice president of Education International (EI), a 401-member organization representing nearly 30 million teachers and education workers in 172 countries. He travels nationally and internationally, working tirelessly as an ambassador for public education and advocating for the basic right of every student to attend a great public school.

Reg Weaver recently completed two terms as president of the 3.2 million-member National Education Association (NEA)—the nation’s largest professional employee organization, and the world’s largest democratic, deliberative body.

As a middle school science teacher and 30-year classroom veteran, Weaver has been a lifelong advocate for quality public schools. He served as president of the NEA affiliate in Illinois—the Illinois Education Association—and president of his local in Harvey, Illinois—the Harvey Education Association.

In 2006, Weaver delivered a landmark speech while visiting the Lincoln Cathedral in England—home to a very rare copy of the Magna Carta—that was met with widespread acclaim. In recognition of his commitment to democracy and fundamental freedoms, the Cathedral unveiled a stone column in Weaver’s name.

He is the recipient of three honorary doctorates recognizing his “world-class leadership in the efforts to educate children,” the most recent from Lincoln University in the United Kingdom. North Carolina’s Shaw University awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Weaver in 2006. He was also conferred with an honorary Doctor of Public Service by South Carolina State University at its 2007 Spring Commencement.

Weaver is a recognized expert on public education issues, serves on numerous boards, has testified before Congress on federal education policy and frequently provides a critical voice on public education for national publications, including The New York Times, USA Today and The Washington Post, along with decision-maker publications, such as Congressional Quarterly, Education Week, and Education Daily. Weaver has regularly appeared on such news programs as CNN “Headline News,” C-Span’s “Washington Journal,” ABC “World News Tonight,” and the “Tavis Smiley Show.” He has been invited to discuss pressing education issues on National Public Radio’s “News & Notes with Ed Gordon,” CNN Radio Network, AP Radio Network, and on the radio programs of Michael Baisden, Steve Harvey, Joe Madison, and the Tom Joyner Morning Show, to name a few. He has been a contributor in numerous magazines and professional journals.

He has over several years been named one of Ebony magazine’s 100 Most Influential Black Americans for his national influence. Weaver’s recent honors include the 2007 MALDEF Excellence in Leadership Award; the 2006 Chairman’s Award for Educational Leadership presented by 100 Black Men of America Inc.; and the Congressional Black Caucus Education Braintrust’s 2006 Great Points of Light Award. He is the recipient of the 2005 Spirit of Liberty Award presented by People for the American Way as well as the U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute’s 2006 George Meany Latino Leadership Award. Weaver was interviewed by The History Makers in August 2007.

Weaver earned his B.A. degree in special education for the physically challenged from Illinois State University. He received his Master’s degree from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois.
Dr. David L. Fields

Dr. David L. Fields is a native of Danville, Illinois. He earned both Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Education from Eastern Illinois University, and earned a doctorate in Education Administration from the University of Illinois.

Dr. Fields began his teaching career with the Danville Public Schools in 1960. He has served as Dean of Students at Danville High School, Director of Title I (ESEA) Programs, and Principal of Northeast Elementary School and East Park Junior High School. He was named Assistant Superintendent of Schools in 1983 and appointed Superintendent in 1991. He retired July 1, 2001.

Dr. Fields’ accomplishments have not been restricted to the educational community. He has been very active in local and statewide organizations. He is Past President of the Noon Danville Rotary Club, served on the Board of Directors of Vermilion Advantage, Laura Lee Fellowship House, CRIS Senior Services, Provena United Samaritans Medical Center, Eastern Illinois University El Club, and the University of Illinois Education Alumni Association. He is Past President of the Larger Unit District Association and a former member of the Board of Directors of the Illinois Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Fields has received numerous awards and honors, including the following:

- **Distinguished Service Award** – Danville Jaycees
- **Citizen of the Year Award** – Prince Hall Grand Lodge
- **Educator of the Year** – People for Education Concerns
- **Those Who Excel Award of Merit** – Illinois State Board of Education
- **African-American Achiever Award** – NAACP
- **First Citizen Award** – American Business Club
- **Volunteer of the Year Award** – Vermilion County Volunteers Association
- **Administrator of the Year** – Illinois Association of Educational Office Professional
- **Outstanding Education Award** – Regional Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Fields is married to the former Marian Jean McDougal and has two children, Jeannette and John.
Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs has served as President of Danville Area Community College since September 1999. She is the second woman to hold the position in the College’s 65-year history. Before coming to Danville, Dr. Jacobs served as President of Kaskaskia College in Centralia, Illinois; Vice President of Instruction and Student Development at Cape Fear Community College, Wilmington, North Carolina; Dean of Instruction at Rochester Community College, Rochester, Minnesota; and Dean of Occupational Education and faculty member at Kellogg Community College, Battle Creek, Michigan. She began her career in education as Secretary to the President of Kellogg Community College.

Under her leadership, the number of people served by Danville Area Community College has increased 100%; completions of certificates and degrees have doubled; facilities have undergone major renovation and expansion; more than 30 new programs have been implemented; and due to active fund raising, the Foundation assets have doubled and support to the College has increased. In 2006, DACC received the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Central Region Equity Award. Since 2001, four faculty members have been honored with ACCT’s William H. Mearly Faculty of the Year Award. In 2013, DACC became an Achieving the Dream Leader College.

Dr. Jacobs is a past president of the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents. She has served on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). Other AACC service includes past member, co-chair, or chair of the Commission on Diversity, Inclusiveness, and Equity and member of the AACC Presidents Academy Executive Committee. She has served on the Illinois Community College System Foundation Board of Directors and is a peer reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. She is also past president of the North Central Council of Two-Year Colleges and was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor to the Illinois Area Career and Technical Education and Vocational Centers Task Force. She was named a co-chair of Governor Rauner’s Transition Policy Committee on Education.

Locally, Alice Marie Jacobs serves on numerous boards as well as being a past president of the Danville Symphony Board; past chair of the Vermillion Advantage Board; and past chair of the United Way campaign. Community involvement also includes the Executive Club of Danville and the Danville Rotary Club (President-elect). She has received a number of honors and awards including Western Michigan University’s Alumni Wall of Distinction in 1987, the 9th annual Rotary Vocational Service Person of the Year Award from the Danville Noon Rotary Club in 2002, the Woman of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts Green Meadows Council in 2003, the Association of Community College Trustees Central Region (9-state area) Outstanding CEO award in 2007, the Woman of Achievement award from the Danville Chapter of the American Association of University Women in 2007, and the Golden Ruler award in 2010 from the Regional Superintendent for Education.

Dr. Jacobs received a Ph.D. from Michigan State University, an M.A. and B.S. from Western Michigan University, and an A.A. from Louisburg College, North Carolina.
Mark Denman, Superintendent of Schools of Danville Community Consolidated School District No. 118, will be retiring from the Danville Schools on June 30, 2015, after more than 40 years of service with the district. A 1971 graduate of Danville High School, he is the son of the late Wayne and Marjorie Denman, also both career educators with District No. 118. He earned his Bachelor’s degree from Illinois State University, his Master’s degree from the University of Illinois, and his specialist degree from Eastern Illinois University.

Employed as a seventh grade teacher at East Park Jr. High School in January, 1975, he taught there until 1983. As a teacher, he was involved in transforming the district’s junior high schools into middle schools. As a principal, he served at all levels of the school district—Daniel School (1983-1987), East Park School (1987-1994), North Ridge Middle School (1994-2001), and Danville High School (2001-2004). With his staff at East Park, he was instrumental in landing an Urban Education Grant for East Park in 1990, effectively pioneering one of the very first broad-based, after-school programs in the state. At Danville High School, the graduation and attendance rates showed strong improvement during his tenure. He is a follower of the axiom of first asking, “What is best for students?” He has successfully implemented dozens of initiatives over four decades to better serve the needs of students and to better support staff. In 2004, he was promoted to Associate Superintendent, to oversee instruction at all levels.

In 2009, he was appointed as Superintendent of Schools. During the last six years, the district has seen:

• $38 million of construction and improvements at South View Middle School, North Ridge Middle School, and East Park School
• Restructuring of academic programs, assessments, and delivery of instruction
• Awarding of the $6 million School Improvement Grant at DHS to raise student achievement, reduce drop-out rates, and strengthen instruction
• Instructional coaches at all levels
• Improved maintenance and updating of facilities
• Overhaul of district technology from the back end to the user
• Standardized technology in all classrooms
• Development of and accountability for the school district’s strategic plan
• Completion of the DHS athletic complex, Wayland-Young Field
• Beautifying and increasing the size of the DHS campus, including razing abandoned structures
• Preservation of District No. 118 history, including the authoring of the 150th anniversary school district history in 2012
• Purchase and updating of the former Holy Family School and the establishment of the Kenneth D. Bailey Academy for alternative education
• In tough financial times, successfully maintaining the District’s financial position

Mr. Denman feels that his greatest accomplishment is simply serving others and supporting them to succeed in meeting their goals. He is sincerely thankful for the opportunity to have been able to serve others in his work with the school district over the years. He plans to remain in Danville after his retirement.
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

MS. BAILEY Brenner
Manager of Young Athletes,
Special Olympics Illinois

The East Central Illinois Community Action Agency honors Ms. Bailey Brenner for her commitment to our Birth to Five Head Start Program for more than ten years. Bailey has been a dedicated and unwavering Community Action partner, providing our staff professional development focused on serving the needs of young children with special needs and their families, and enabling the agency to generate thousands of in-kind dollars to strengthen our Early Childhood Education services.

The Agency also truly values the exceptional Special Olympics services provided to our Head Start children and families. Bailey has worked for the Special Olympics Illinois as Manager of the Young Athletes Program to the central and southern region since March 2001. She graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a Bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology and Sports Studies, and received a Master’s in Sport Studies from Illinois State University.

GIBSON CITY MELVIN SIBLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The East Central Illinois Community Action Agency honors the administrators and staff at the Gibson City Melvin Sibley (GCMS) Elementary School for their esteemed collaboration between our Head Start program and the local school district. This partnership has been essential for the success of the children transitioning from Head Start to Kindergarten. Community Action has been fortunate to enjoy such a meaningful relationship with the Gibson City, Melvin Sibley School District. Under the auspices of Principal Justin Keen, the Gibson City Melvin Sibley school district team truly demonstrates that they are concerned with the overall well-being of all children.

MR. JIM RITENOUR
Owner, Edwards Communications

The East Central Illinois Community Action Agency honors Jim Ritenour for the countless hours of service he provides to ensure that we are able to communicate effectively with customers throughout our tri-county region. His level of service and volunteer hours are rare in the business world today.

Mr. Ritenour acquired Edwards Communication in 1999. His primary service area is Vermilion County and Fountain County (IN), but he has installed communication systems nationwide. He graduated with a Bachelor’s degree in Technology from Purdue University.

MRS. CARLA M. BOYD
Director of Career Services, Danville Area Community College

The East Central Illinois Community Action Agency honors Carla M. Boyd for her tireless effort and dedication in providing essential professional development and career readiness services to the participants of the 2014 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The workshops’ structure and interactive curriculum made each session a valuable experience for all SYEP participants. Also, Community Action’s access to exceptional meeting spaces and access to one of the college’s computer labs significantly enriched the quality of SYEP. In addition Ms. Boyd’s coordination of DACC department presentations (Financial Aid, TRIO, Registrar, Career Development, etc.) were helpful and informative to our SYEP participants.

Ms. Boyd has a broad spectrum of experience, including childcare, juvenile detention, alternative education, foster care, and higher education. She has a Bachelor’s degree from Edinboro University (Pennsylvania) and a Master’s in Education from Eastern Illinois University.
Ms. Deborah Gouard, fondly called “Dr. Debbie Doolittle” by her colleagues, is a 25 year Head Start and Early Head Start Teacher. She discovered her interest in Education during the mid-1980’s while volunteering as a Head Start Parent in her children’s classrooms at Lincoln School Head Start Center. After Ms. Debbie’s children transitioned into kindergarten, this Head Start Parent Volunteer decided to pursue her love for teaching in Head Start.

Ms. Deborah entered employment with East Central Illinois Community Action Agency on Monday, September 10, 1990. She began her teaching experience as a Head Start Teacher Aide at Lincoln School Head Start Center. After returning to school and completing her Associate’s degree in Early Childhood Education at Danville Area Community College. She was promoted to a Head Start Teaching position and has shared her love for teaching with infants, toddlers and young children since then.

Mrs. Brenda Butler began her quest with East Central Illinois Community Action Agency back in 1975 as a Head Start Parent Volunteer. For four years, Ms. Butler dedicated most of her days to her children by volunteering in their Head Start classrooms at the Carver Park Head Start Center with then teachers Ms. Sarah Billings and Ms. Phyllis Parker.

After her last child completed the Head Start program and transitioned to kindergarten, Ms. Butler decided to continue doing what she loved... “helping children to learn.” On Monday, October 15, 1979, Mrs. Butler began employment with Community Action’s Head Start Program and has thus far dedicated an additional 35 years to her personal quest of “helping children to learn.”
SILENT AUCTION DONORS*

Affordable Lawn Care – Ed Lahey
Audrey Randle
Angéle Thibodeaux Burns, Ph.D.
Anker Florist – Stephanie Sloan
Big R – Shari Mays
Blue Sky Vineyard – Courtney Brown
Buffalo Wild Wings – Kevin Freeland
Cahill’s Pancake House – Pat Cahill
Canine Design Dog Resort – Pat Harrington
Carmack Car Capitol – Gary Knight
Chantal Savage–Bryant
Cicely M. Dowell
Cindy Cloutier
City of Danville – Department of Public Works
Clark’s Garage – Jeff Jones
CosmoProf – Melissa Makowski
County Market Towne Centre – Harold Lipowsky
Courtesy Ford – J.R. Fregia
Culver’s – Jeff Eddy
Dana Howard
Danville Family YMCA – Michael T. Brown
Danville Gardens – Nathan and Lisa Campbell
Dee Ann Ryan
Designer Dog Salon – Courtney Bouse
Family Video – Ashley Stine
Garfield’s Restaurant and Pub – Jeffrey Brown
Hair Express – Cindy Nelson
Hank’s Transmission – Hank Judd
House of Bikes – Roger Gutteridge
Illini Skateland – Sharon McMahon
Jane Cooney, DDS
Jocko’s Pizza Inn – Bobbette Finch
La Potosina Restaurant – Jésus Gomez
LaVias M. Burns, M.D.
Lincoln Lanes Bowling Alley – Paul Woodworth
Memories by Design – Phil & Cindy Stumph & Sandy Bailey
Odette Hyatt–Watson
Paxton Community and Wellness Center – Tracy Mannard
Perfect Reflections – Cicely Dowell and Martha Rose
PinkBox Studios – Ebun Osaze
Randy Berger
Rawhide Meat Company – Denise Pickett
Red Lobster – Jennifer Tuttle
Robinson Chiropractic – Dr. Chris Robinson
Shareen Huber
Shields Automart – Pete Klein
Southgate Salon – Paula Bryant
South Paw Grooming – Michelle Hawkins
Sue Rieches
The Gathering Shop – Kim Gray, Cathy Perzee, and Lisa Graham
The Little Nugget – Todd Weidenburner
Tom Hightower’s Auto Detailing – Tom Hightower
Turk Furniture – Greg Wilson
Village Mall Cinema – Dale French
Watson General Tires – Tony Watson
World Class Clean and Detail – Gary Knight

CORPORATE SPONSOR*

SILVER SPONSOR
Wright’s Heating and Air Service
— Award Sponsor —

TABLE SPONSORS*

Angéle Thibodeaux Burns, Ph.D. and
LaVias M. Burns, M.D.
Mr. Leonard S. and Chantal (Savage) Bryant II
Carle Hoopeston Regional Health Center
CRIS Healthy-Aging Center
Crose Insurance
Danville Area Community College
Danville District 118
Danville Education Association
Danville Family YMCA
Danville NECA – IBEW Electrical Apprenticeship Program
Faulstich Printing Company
Iroquois Federal Savings and Loan
New Union Baptist Church
Sublon Construction

*As of March 5, 2015
Our Master of Ceremonies

Doug Quick is ABC NewsChannel 15’s Chief Weather Anchor. His broadcasting career began in 1974 from his hometown of Taylorville on WTIM/WTIM-FM. While in school at Western Illinois University, he had the opportunity to co-anchor the local newscast on the WIU cablecast television station. He also worked at radio stations in Springfield and Decatur. In 1977 he ended up in Danville at WDAN/WMBJ. During his long tenure at WDAN/WDNS he was at times the morning announcer on both stations, was an account executive, Sales Manager and General Manager. He was also the first Station Manager of WWDZ(FM) in Danville, now WRHK(K-Rock). He finished his radio career as the midday announcer at D-102 in 2002 at the 25th anniversary of the station.

Earlier in 1994, Doug took on the position of Promotions Director at WICD-TV. In those early days he became a part time weekend weathercaster. In July of 1998 he left promotions entirely to become the morning weather anchor and co-anchor Sunrise Today. He also became the anchor of the midday news broadcast while continuing his radio career at the same time. He also serves as the stations Public Service Director, a position he has held since he began at WICD. In October of 2002 he became the Chief Weather Anchor, and moved to the evening broadcasts, where he continues today.

His outside activities include the Vermilion County Conservation District Foundation where he is a member of the Board of Directors. Doug has spoken before many civic groups, students at all grade levels who are considering broadcasting as a career, broadcast history, weather or the VCCDF.

Doug is a proud resident of Vermilion County and lives north of Danville, with his wife of 31 years, Melissa. They are also the parents of two adult daughters, Miranda and Mindi.

Special Thanks

Gala Planning Committee
Chantal Savage-Bryant, Chairperson
Lisa Adams
Laura T. Brooks
Leonard S. Bryant, II
Dr. Angéle Thibodeaux Burns
Cindy Cloutier
Lolita Collier
Cicely M. Dowell
Betty A. Holmes
Shareen Huber
Odette Hyatt-Watson
Paula Lahey
Audrey Randle
Sue Rieches
Michel Rivers
Frederick Whitman

Decoration Committee
Odette Hyatt-Watson
Betty A. Holmes  •  Kea Cunningham

Photography and Videography
Andrew Dudich, Owner/Operator
Wardencliff Media
Lisa Johnson, Assistant
Jeff Simpson, Owner/Operator
D and J Entertainment

Musical Entertainment
Doc Ashton and The Root Canals
Erik Felix, DJ
Nast-E Entertainment

Danville High School Orchestra:
Ms. Andre Tarquini, Conductor

Marisa Barleson  •  Katie Brown
Sydney Smith  •  Rachelle Tiu

Graphic Design
Jeff Summers, Graphic Designer
Media One Visual Arts
Polly Danforth, Graphic Designer
Morning Star Design

Printer
Faulstich Printing, Danville

Venue
Turtle Run Golf & Banquet Center
Maggie Smith
Dedicated & Talented Staff
2014-2015 ANNUAL REPORT

EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY
Serving Families in Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties in Illinois

PRESENTED BY
Doug Ahrens — Chairperson
Angéle Thibodeaux Burns, Ph.D. — CEO

56 North Vermilion Street  |  Danville, IL 61832
Phone (217) 443-2705  |  Fax (217) 431-0725

www.comaction.org

CONTENTS

Community Services Block Grant ............... 28
Educational Talent Service .................... 30
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV) ............ 32
Head Start Birth to Five ....................... 37
Human Resources................................. 45
Energy Assistance............................... 46
Weatherization................................. 48
Community Services Block Grant

A comprehensive investment that is exclusively focused on reducing the causes and effects of poverty is what uniquely distinguishes the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) from other federal programs. While other federal programs address specific challenges or factors involved in poverty, they take a piecemeal approach. In contrast, CSBG effectively uses a powerful mix of federal, state, and local resources to address the problems that lead to systemic poverty. Community Actions, through CSBG funds, are allowed to strategically target the root causes of poverty at the local level with innovative initiatives that are pertinent to the community they serve.

Access to affordable housing, employment readiness, and quality education are the cornerstones to self-sufficiency and economic security for the individuals and families we serve. The Agency has and will continue to leverage CSBG dollars, in conjunction with new funding streams and essential collaborations with community partners, to ensure that East Central Illinois Community Action Agency is the barrier removing conduit for customers achieving their goals.

In 2014, through our services and advocacy, East Central Illinois Community Action Agency has been instrumental in providing families with economic opportunities; rather through employment, education, crisis prevention, or nutritional interventions.

CSBG is a Federal investment and national commitment to reduce poverty in our local communities. These funds have led to a local delivery infrastructure able to respond by developing anti-poverty initiatives tailored to the specific needs of residents. CSBG’s evidence-based, result-driven approach allows Community Action to aid in building thriving economies in our tri-county services area.
41 Individuals received an earned income, work readiness, and professional development training.

5 College students received an earned income during the summer months and holiday breaks, comprehensive knowledge and work experience with all Agency service components, and an academic scholarship to help defray their educational expenses.

18 Eligible High School seniors and adult learners were able to proactively pursue post-secondary education or vocational certifications. The funding removed financial barriers such as tuition, fees, childcare, transportation and other related expenses.

832 Individuals and families were stabilized as they dealt with a short-term crisis; assistance was provided in the areas of housing, essential utilities, transportation, work-related issues, and prescription drugs.

143 Senior Citizens were provided with nutritious meals in a congregate setting which presented positive socialization opportunities with their peers and to supplement their limited incomes, others were provided with food vouchers from local grocery stores.

Over 200 Youth were encouraged to continue the learning process over the summer months; they were provided with academic and tutoring services from duly qualified teaching staff in the areas of reading, math, science and computer literacy. Each day they participated in structured recreational activities to promote health and wellness. They participated in a week long leadership basketball camp that promoted academic excellence, community and civic pride, health and wellness, and personal growth and character building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Direct Dollars Spent</th>
<th>Results-Based Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>$ 194,759</td>
<td>41 Individuals received an earned income, work readiness, and professional development training.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See How Community Action Works!!</td>
<td>$ 44,181</td>
<td>5 College students received an earned income during the summer months and holiday breaks, comprehensive knowledge and work experience with all Agency service components, and an academic scholarship to help defray their educational expenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$ 11,250</td>
<td>18 Eligible High School seniors and adult learners were able to proactively pursue post-secondary education or vocational certifications. The funding removed financial barriers such as tuition, fees, childcare, transportation and other related expenses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Management</td>
<td>$ 49,565</td>
<td>832 Individuals and families were stabilized as they dealt with a short-term crisis; assistance was provided in the areas of housing, essential utilities, transportation, work-related issues, and prescription drugs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Nutrition</td>
<td>$ 9,238</td>
<td>143 Senior Citizens were provided with nutritious meals in a congregate setting which presented positive socialization opportunities with their peers and to supplement their limited incomes, others were provided with food vouchers from local grocery stores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Youth Activities</td>
<td>$ 58,594</td>
<td>Over 200 Youth were encouraged to continue the learning process over the summer months; they were provided with academic and tutoring services from duly qualified teaching staff in the areas of reading, math, science and computer literacy. Each day they participated in structured recreational activities to promote health and wellness. They participated in a week long leadership basketball camp that promoted academic excellence, community and civic pride, health and wellness, and personal growth and character building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 367,587.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Educational Talent Search

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency (ECICAA) is dedicated to serving youth and young adults in attaining success through education and empowerment services. One such service is the TRIO Educational Talent Search Program (ETS). ETS is a federally funded college opportunity program that encourages and inspires students from “disadvantaged” backgrounds to attend and remain in college after graduating from high school.

Each year, the ETS team teach and/or provide Study and Test Preparation Skills, Goal Setting, Academic Monitoring, Career Exploration, ACT Test Preparation, College Admission Assistance, and Financial Aid Application Completion Assistance. The program provides an educational assessment on each student that is enrolled in the program. The educational assessment is used to identify what services would prepare each student for college entrance and persistence. Throughout the year, the ETS team will meet with enrolled students in their schools to provide on-site group workshops and one-on-one academic mentoring sessions. The program provides after school services, parent meetings, college-tours and cultural field trips as a means of keeping enrolled students and parents actively engaged in planning their future academic experiences and careers.

In 2014, the ETS program served a total of 624 students. Of those served, 549 students were low-income and first-generation college potentials; 26 students were low income only, 38 students were first-generation college potentials only and 11 students were in the “other needs” category.

ETS served students from diverse backgrounds: 42 Hispanic/Latino; 1 Native American; 3 Asian; 399 African American; 133 White and 46 Bi-Racial. The program served youth in Vermilion County schools: 226 Middle School students, 382 High School students and 16 students re-entry into college.

The U. S. Department of Education, Office of Post-Secondary Education, Federal TRIO Programs rates each Educational Talent Search Program’s Annual Performance Report. In 2014, the ETS Program exceeded all assigned U.S. Department of Education Program Objectives and received the highest possible points. Refer to the chart on the following page:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department of Education Program Objectives</th>
<th>Dept. of Ed.’s Approved Rate</th>
<th>ETS Attainment Rate</th>
<th>Maximum Points ETS Programs can earn</th>
<th>Points ECICAA’s ETS Program Earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School Persistence</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School Graduation with a Regular Diploma in standard number of years</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School Graduation in standard number of years and completed rigorous program</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postsecondary Education Enrollment</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded Enrollment</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>624 (100%)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.5</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.5</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The program provides after school services, parent meetings, college-tours and cultural field trips as a means of keeping enrolled students and parents actively engaged in planning their future academic experiences and careers.

In 2014, ETS celebrated 547 non-senior promotions to the next grade; 60 high school seniors graduated from “Rigorous Program” studies and 17 high school seniors graduated with a regular diploma. 100% of ETS high school seniors applied for financial aid; 50 seniors entered public two-year colleges, 21 seniors entered public four-year universities, and one senior entered a private-four year university.
Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

East Central Illinois Community Action Agency’s “Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program” (MIECHV) provides home visiting and educational services to families, pregnant moms and children, aged birth to three, in Vermilion County. The home visiting program follows the Early Head Start model where it provides 90 minute weekly home visits to 20 enrolled families.

The EHS Home Based Model is an evidence-based design that endeavors to: strengthen and improve school readiness skills, provide health based screenings, improve parent and child bonding, and identify and provide comprehensive services to improve outcomes for families who are at-risk. In 2014, the program served 27 families comprised of 36 children and seven pregnant mothers. In 2014, the program welcomed five healthy births into Vermilion County.

MIECHV provides services to families of various backgrounds. Of those served, three families were of Hispanic origin, ten families were African American and 14 families were White. Families from various communities in Vermilion County welcomed home-visits: 19 families in the City of Danville, four families in the City of Hoopeston, one family in the Village of Rossville. Additionally, there was one family in Rankin, one family in Westville and one family in Sidell. A total of 416 home visits were conducted in the year 2014.

At the age of 30 months, children begin a transition process that lasts 6 months. Once a child in the MIECHV program turns 36 months, they are transitioned into the Head Start Center-Based program. In 2014, four children were transitioned from the MIECHV program into the Head Start Centers as a continuation of their school readiness preparation.

MIECHV serves children with all abilities. In 2014, the program served five children with Special Needs. Five Individual Family Service Plans (IFSP) were developed and served in collaboration with Easter Seal’s Child and Family Connections, MIECHV parents, Community Action Staff and other community support systems.

MIECHV Home Visitors work individually with each family to set goals. In 2014, there were 77 new goals set by families. Goal categories and number of goals set in each include: Basic Essentials – 12%; Child Development – 13%; Domestic Violence Safety Plan – 4%; Education – 19%; Employment – 10%; Health and Medical Care – 9%; Mental Health and Substance Abuse – 1%; Parenting Behavior and Relationships...
MIECHV PROGRAM – continued

with Children – 5%; Relationships with service providers – 10%. At the end of 2014, 34 goals (44.2%) had been reached by the families and additional goals were identified as still in the process of progressing.

MIECHV Home Visitors also provide families with needed resource referrals. In 2014, a total of 128 referrals were made for MIECHV families in the following areas: Adult Education, Job Training, College – 6; Community/Group Participation – 1; Dental Services – 5; Domestic Violence Services – 3; Early Childhood Intervention – 1; Emergency Crisis Intervention Services – 16; Employment Services – 1; Faith Community – 3; Family Planning – 1; Financial Resources – 2; Food Resources (WIC, Food Pantry) – 3; Housing Resources/Utilities – 7; Medical Services – 1; Other – 8; Recreation/Enrichment Activities – 3; Transportation, License Attainment and Insurance – 1; and Utility Assistance (LIHEAP) – 64.

Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation (MIHOPE) Research

Along with other home visiting service providers in Vermilion County, our MIECHV and Early Head Start programs are participating in a national research project called MIHOPE. The purpose of the MIHOPE research project is to evaluate the effectiveness of home visiting services. The project began in March of 2013 and has continued through 2014. Its projected end date is June of 2016. Community Action personnel were trained on the operations of the MIHOPE project such as how to enter participants into the study and how to input the required informational logs for the MIHOPE study.

Coordinating the MIHOPE randomization with the EHS Enrollment Priority Selection System has been challenging. The Agency must follow the Head Start priority selection process when selecting children for an EHS home-base slot. This has always resulted in serving children with the greatest need; however, unfortunately, some of these children have been randomized out of receiving home visiting services by the MIHOPE randomization process and placed into the control group for the study. We are still working to enroll children/families into the MIHOPE study. As of December 2014, we had acquired 22 of our allotted 60 MIHOPE clients.

Central Intake

The MIECHV program recruitment and referral must be conducted through a Coordinated Intake (CI) process. This service is provided by Aunt Martha’s Clinic in Danville, Illinois. Any customer who is interested in MIECHV services must first complete and initial intake application with the Coordinated Intake provider who then refers that family to the appropriate MIECHV provider that was identified for the family. This Coordinated Intake process differs significantly from the Early Head Start recruitment and enrollment process. There lies the significant difference between the two Birth to Three home visiting services provided by Community Action.

—continued on next page
MIECHV PROGRAM – CONTINUED

Community Systems Development (CSD)

In August of 2014, Community Action assumed the Community Systems Development component of MIECHV. The CSD component of MIECHV is responsible for the marketing and community awareness of home visiting programs. MIECHV CSD staff plan and conduct community awareness activities, establish and maintain contact with community partners, and organize community groups and partnerships.

MIECHV Quality Assurance Review

The MIECHV Program Quality Assurance Review was conducted by the Illinois Department of Community Health and Prevention’s Consultant. One finding was issued to the Agency regarding the usage of HIPAA-Acknowledgement of Notice of Privacy Practices forms. This finding was corrected immediately, and the Agency implemented the distributing, explaining, obtaining of participants’ signatures on the mandated HIPPA forms. This practice of compliance continues.

MIECHV Children’s School Readiness Progress

MIECHV provides on-going assessment of infants, toddlers four times per program year. MIECHV uses the Teaching Strategies Gold On-Going Assessment Tool to evaluate the attainment rate of each infant’s/toddler’s school readiness skills.

MIECHV outcomes for the program year 2014 are listed in the following chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: Social Emotional: MIECHV children shall attempt to use the restroom independently with increased success; regulate own emotions and behaviors; indicate needs and wants; seeks to do things for themselves.</td>
<td>Birth to 1 year: indicate needs and wants</td>
<td>80% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>50% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 to 2 years: regulate own emotions and behaviors</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
<td>80% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25% Exceed</td>
<td>8% Exceed</td>
<td>20% Exceed</td>
<td>75% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 to 3 years: attempt to use the restroom independently with increased success</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2: Social Emotional: MIECHV children shall establish and sustain positive relationships.</td>
<td>Birth to 1 year: demonstrate secure attachment to one or more adults</td>
<td>80% Met</td>
<td>86% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20% Exceed</td>
<td>14% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>50% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 to 2 years: use trusted adults as a secure base from which to explore the world</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>40% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% Exceed</td>
<td>17% Exceed</td>
<td>60% Exceed</td>
<td>75% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 to 3 years: manage separation without distress and engage with trusted adults</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>88% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>33% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—continued on next page
**Goal 3: Physical Development / Social-Emotional:** MIECHV children shall demonstrate traveling skills.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 3: Physical Development / Social-Emotional:</th>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall move to</td>
<td></td>
<td>0% Met</td>
<td>37% Met</td>
<td>25% Met</td>
<td>25% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>explore immediate environment</td>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>63% Exceed</td>
<td>25% Exceed</td>
<td>50% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall experiment</td>
<td></td>
<td>0% Met</td>
<td>42% Met</td>
<td>40% Met</td>
<td>0% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with different ways of moving</td>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>50% Exceed</td>
<td>60% Exceed</td>
<td>100% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall experiment</td>
<td></td>
<td>0% Met</td>
<td>56% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with different ways of moving</td>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>44% Exceed</td>
<td>33% Exceed</td>
<td>33% Exceed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 4: Physical Development:** MIECHV children shall demonstrate fine-motor strength and coordination using fingers and hands.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 4: Physical Development:</th>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall reach for, touch, hold objects purposefully</td>
<td></td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>87% Met</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall use fingers and whole-arm movements to manipulate and explore objects</td>
<td></td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>25% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall refined wrist and finger movements</td>
<td></td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>81% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 5: Language:** MIECHV children shall listen and understand increasing complex language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 5: Language:</th>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall show an interest in the speech of others</td>
<td></td>
<td>60% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall identify familiar people, animals, and objects when prompted</td>
<td></td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>92% Met</td>
<td>60% Met</td>
<td>25% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall identify familiar people, animals, and objects when prompted</td>
<td></td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>81% Met</td>
<td>40% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 6: Cognitive Development:** MIECHV children shall demonstrate positive approaches to learning in *Attending and Engaging*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 6: Cognitive Development:</th>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall pay attention to sights and sounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>80% Met</td>
<td>88% Met</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall pay attention to sights and sounds</td>
<td></td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>40% Met</td>
<td>25% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall sustain interest in working on a task, especially when adults offer suggestions, questions and comments</td>
<td></td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>69% Met</td>
<td>66% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—continued on next page
MIECHV children showed an on-going progress where they either met or exceed most school readiness goals. The school readiness goals are reviewed with individual families and in-home lesson plans are developed to enhance the attainment rate of each goal. The lack of school readiness attainment is also reviewed to evaluate the types of professional development home visitors may require in order to prepare their parents to engage skillfully with their infants and toddlers. 100% of MIECHV age eligible children are transitioned into the Head Start centers with an upper hand in school readiness.

**Goal 7: Cognitive Development:** MIECHV children shall demonstrate positive approaches to learning in *Showing Curiosity*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 7: Cognitive Development</th>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall use senses to explore the immediate environment</td>
<td>80% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>25% Met</td>
<td>25% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>25% Exceed</td>
<td>50% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall use senses to explore the immediate environment</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
<td>40% Met</td>
<td>25% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50% Exceed</td>
<td>33% Exceed</td>
<td>60% Exceed</td>
<td>75% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall explore and investigates ways to make something happen</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>81% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>19% Exceed</td>
<td>33% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 8: Literacy Skills:** MIECHV children shall demonstrate knowledge of print and its uses; uses and appreciates books.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 8: Literacy Skills</th>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall show interest in books</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall show interest in books</td>
<td>80% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>50% Exceed</td>
<td>25% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall orient book correctly; turn pages from front of the book to the back; recognizes familiar books by their covers</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>94% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 9: Literacy Skills:** MIECHV children shall demonstrate emergent writing skills by scribbling-writing name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 9: Literacy Skills</th>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 11 months: <em>Not Measurable</em></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall scribble or make marks</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>33% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>25% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall control linear scribbles</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>22% Met</td>
<td>70% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>67% Exceed</td>
<td>30% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Goal 10: Mathematics Knowledge:** MIECHV children shall explore and describe spatial relationships and shapes; directional words: up, down, over, under, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 10: Mathematics Knowledge</th>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 11 months: <em>Not Measurable</em></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall use senses to explore the immediate environment</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>58% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25% Exceed</td>
<td>17% Exceed</td>
<td>33% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall explore and investigates ways to make something happen</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>94% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td>0% Exceed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HEAD START BIRTH TO FIVE

At Community Action, our Head Start Birth to Five services promote school readiness in young children. Head Start provides a comprehensive educational service that focuses on “whole-child” development from the prenatal stages to the age of 5 years. Through Head Start, children receive a variety of learning experiences that foster intellectual, social, and emotional skills. Pregnant mothers, infants, toddlers and young children ages 3 to 5 years gain access to health care services. Parents are engaged and mentored to promote healthy, lifelong learning and well-being lifestyles. Families receive support services that help create safe and supportive environments for children.

Our Head Start Birth to Five Program served 535 children and their families: (3) pregnant mothers, (70) birth to 36 months and (463) ages 3 to 5 years. Children came from diverse backgrounds: Hispanic/Latino ethnicities – 9%; White – 49%; African American – 43%; Bi-racial – 7%; Pacific Islander – .1%; and Asian – .1%. Among those served 95% were children whose families had incomes below 100% of the federal poverty line; 17% were children whose families were recipients of public assistance such as TANF and SSI; 2% were children in foster care; 2% were children whose families were homeless; 9% were children whose families’ incomes were between 100% and 130% of the federal poverty line; and 5% were children whose families were classified as “over-income.”

Head Start serves children of all abilities. By the end of 2014 program year, 11.4% of children ages zero to three and 12.8% of children ages 3 to 5 years were identified as having a disability. Through collaborations with the local school district, Easter Seals, parents, and other community support systems, (8) IFSP’s (Individual Family Service Plan) were developed and (53) IEP’s (Individual Education Plans) were developed. The IEP and IFSP plans create opportunities for parents, teachers, local school administrators, and related services personnel to work together to improve educational and developmental outcomes for children with disabilities.

Head Start maintained 100% enrollment of 414 Head Start children and 70 Early Head Start infant and toddlers each month during the 2014 program year. The program sets a monthly attendance rate of 85%. In 2014, the average-combined monthly attendance rate was 83.53%. Inclement weather and challenging road conditions during the month of January 2014 and family summer vacations in July 2014 lowered the program’s attendance rate by 1.5 percent.

—continued on next page
**Head Start Children’s Growth in Academic Skills**

All children come to Head Start with a great range of potential in knowledge and skills. The program has established Early Head Start and Head Start school readiness goals for each child to attain before entering kindergarten. Every three months, an assessment on how each child is progressing in attaining these goals is studied. The program uses an on-going assessment tool called “Work Sampling System.” The Head Start Teaching Team, parents and program administrators look at each Head Start child’s and classroom’s progress in 26 areas of school readiness. Each child’s score is collected, evaluated and aggregated with purposes of enhancing each child’s and classroom’s ability to increase their school readiness skills. Below is a list of some of the 2013/2014 fall and spring outcomes for children ages three and four years old.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What percentage of Head Start 3-yr-olds can or are in the process of attaining:</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
<th>Spring 2013</th>
<th>Growth Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name basic shapes?</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Count to 10 or higher?</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use crayons and pencils correctly and has control to make basic shapes, such as circle, cross, and straight line?</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shows beginning phonological awareness?</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform the social skills of taking turns, talking to others within a group, sharing, participating in new activities, following rules and directions?</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knows some words for where things are: ie – first, last, top, bottom, beside, inside, outside?</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print first name correctly, using capital and small letters correctly?</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sit and listen to a story?</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recognizes 10 letters of the alphabet and numbers 1 to 10?</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What percentage of Head Start 4-yr-olds can or are in the process of attaining:</th>
<th>Fall 2012</th>
<th>Spring 2013</th>
<th>Growth Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name basic shapes?</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>99%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Count to 10 or higher?</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>99.12%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use crayons and pencils correctly and has control to make basic shapes, such as circle, cross, and straight line?</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>99.13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shows beginning phonological awareness?</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—continued on next page
The Head Start Birth to Three option also called "Early Head Start" provides on-going assessment of infants, toddlers, and children close to the age of three over a four-quarter timeframe. Birth to Three uses the Teaching Strategies Gold On-Going Assessment Tool to evaluate the attainment of each infant’s/toddler’s Early Head Start school readiness skills. Early Head Start outcomes for the program year 2014 are displayed on the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1: Social Emotional: EHS children shall attempt to use the restroom independently with increased success; regulate own emotions and behaviors; indicate needs and wants; seeks to do things for themselves.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: indicate needs and wants</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>89% Met</td>
<td>71% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: regulate own emotions and behaviors</td>
<td>91% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
<td>46% Met</td>
<td>88% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: attempt to use the restroom independently with increased success</td>
<td>83% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>85% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2: Social Emotional: EHS children shall establish and sustain positive relationships.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: demonstrate secure attachment to one or more adults</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>86% Met</td>
<td>89% Met</td>
<td>71% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: use trusted adults as a secure base from which to explore the world</td>
<td>91% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>70% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: manage separation without distress and engage with trusted adults</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>88% Met</td>
<td>94% Met</td>
<td>85% Met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Head Start Program – continued

#### Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 3: Physical Development / Social-Emotional</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall move to explore immediate environment</td>
<td>71% Met 29% Exceed</td>
<td>38% Met 62% Exceed</td>
<td>33% Met 67% Exceed</td>
<td>57% Met 43% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall experiment with different ways of moving</td>
<td>63% Met 28% Exceed</td>
<td>42% Met 50% Exceed</td>
<td>31% Met 62% Exceed</td>
<td>50% Met 50% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall experiment with different ways of moving</td>
<td>50% Met 50% Exceed</td>
<td>24% Met 44% Exceed</td>
<td>24% Met 70% Exceed</td>
<td>23% Met 77% Exceed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Goal 4: Physical Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 4: Physical Development</th>
<th>Birth to 1 year</th>
<th>1 to 2 years</th>
<th>2 to 3 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall reach for, touch, hold objects purposefully</td>
<td>89% Met 11% Exceed</td>
<td>87% Met 13% Exceed</td>
<td>78% Met 22% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall use fingers and whole-arm movements to manipulate and explore objects</td>
<td>91% Met 9% Exceed</td>
<td>75% Met 17% Exceed</td>
<td>85% Met 7% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall refined wrist and finger movements</td>
<td>75% Met 17% Exceed</td>
<td>81% Met 13% Exceed</td>
<td>88% Met 6% Exceed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Goal 5: Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 5: Language</th>
<th>Birth to 1 year</th>
<th>1 to 2 years</th>
<th>2 to 3 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall show an interest in the speech of others</td>
<td>100% Met 0% Exceed</td>
<td>100% Met 0% Exceed</td>
<td>89% Met 11% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall identify familiar people, animals, and objects when prompted</td>
<td>100% Met 0% Exceed</td>
<td>92% Met 8% Exceed</td>
<td>85% Met 7% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall identify familiar people, animals, and objects when prompted</td>
<td>67% Met 25% Exceed</td>
<td>81% Met 19% Exceed</td>
<td>71% Met 18% Exceed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Goal 6: Cognitive Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 6: Cognitive Development</th>
<th>Birth to 1 year</th>
<th>1 to 2 years</th>
<th>2 to 3 years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall pay attention to sights and sounds</td>
<td>100% Met 0% Exceed</td>
<td>88% Met 12% Exceed</td>
<td>89% Met 11% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall pay attention to sights and sounds</td>
<td>100% Met 0% Exceed</td>
<td>75% Met 25% Exceed</td>
<td>79% Met 21% Exceed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall sustain interest in working on a task, especially when adults offer suggestions, questions and comments</td>
<td>82% Met 9% Exceed</td>
<td>69% Met 19% Exceed</td>
<td>65% Met 24% Exceed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—continued on next page
**Head Start Program – continued**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infant and Toddler School Readiness Goals</th>
<th>Fall Qtr. 1</th>
<th>Winter Qtr. 2</th>
<th>Spring Qtr. 3</th>
<th>Summer Qtr. 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 7: Cognitive Development:</strong> EHS children shall demonstrate positive approaches to learning in <em>Showing Curiosity</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall use senses to explore the immediate environment</td>
<td>78% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>64% Met</td>
<td>43% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall use senses to explore the immediate environment</td>
<td>91% Met</td>
<td>76% Met</td>
<td>69% Met</td>
<td>44% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall explore and investigates ways to make something happen</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
<td>88% Met</td>
<td>94% Met</td>
<td>85% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 8: Literacy Skills:</strong> EHS children shall demonstrate knowledge of print and its uses; uses and appreciates books.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 1 year: children shall show interest in books</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
<td>83% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall show interest in books</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
<td>82% Met</td>
<td>69% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall orient book correctly; turn pages from front of the book to the back; recognizes familiar books by their covers</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
<td>50% Met</td>
<td>64% Met</td>
<td>100% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 9: Literacy Skills:</strong> EHS children shall demonstrate emergent writing skills by scribbling-writing name.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 11 months: <em>Not Measurable</em></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall scribble or make marks</td>
<td>90% Met</td>
<td>83% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
<td>64% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall control linear scribbles</td>
<td>83% Met</td>
<td>56% Met</td>
<td>83% Met</td>
<td>64% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goal 10: Mathematics Knowledge:</strong> EHS children shall explore and describe spatial relationships and shapes; directional words: up, down, over, under, etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth to 11 months: <em>Not Measurable</em></td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 years: children shall use senses to explore the immediate environment</td>
<td>86% Met</td>
<td>58% Met</td>
<td>82% Met</td>
<td>67% Met</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 to 3 years: children shall explore and investigates ways to make something happen</td>
<td>80% Met</td>
<td>94% Met</td>
<td>93% Met</td>
<td>75% Met</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

—continued on next page
The Early Head Start outcomes show the growth scores between the 4 quarters. Growth is measured by groups of children or individual children in order to determine ways to increase school readiness in infants and toddlers.

Spanish speaking children’s growth in early reading, comprehension of the English language showed some progress. We remain committed to continue to create more growth in the use of vocabulary and uses of the English language.

Head Start promotes healthy habits so that we can see healthy growth in children. We promote physical active games and play activities; serve fresh fruit and low-fat milk, and serve child size portions to address the growing trend of childhood obesity. Partnering with local health providers to ensure that medical and dental health services are available to Head Start enrolled children is a must. Of the children enrolled in the Head Start Three to Five service, 100% received medical exams and 100% received dental exams. Of the children enrolled in the Early Head Start service, 100% received well-baby exams and 100% received dental mouth sweeps.

Parents are great leaders in the Head Start Program. Many parents are volunteers in the classrooms/socialization sessions, attend parent teacher conferences, attend parent education trainings, participate in the Policy Council (a voluntary governing group in Head Start), and are observers and assessors in the Head Start Program’s Self-Assessment process. In 2014, over 95% of the parents attended parent-teacher conferences and 99% participated in home visits. At the end of the program year, our program earned a total of 488 Former and Present Head Start Parents voluntary services resulting in a total of 18,359.18 voluntary hours.

Ten percent of Head Start families were selected to evaluate their attainment of goals during the program year of 2013-2014. This evaluation purposes to report on the Family Wellbeing attainment and/or gains while in the Head Start Birth to Five Program. Four categories were selected for evaluation: (1) Education Attainment, (2) Employment Attainment, (3) Housing Attainment and (4) Financial Growth. The 2014 outcomes of family goal are as follows:

- **Education**: 55% of HS parents were progressing in the attainment of their educational goals. This evaluation was conducted over a nine-month time span. Additional time may be required for a true display of this goal outcome. 22% of HS parents met their goals; 22% of HS educational goals were unmet or showed no progress in education attainment.

- **Employment**: 68% of HS parents entered employment. 11% of HS parents were progressing in attaining employment. 21% of HS parents employment goals were unmet or showed no progress in employment attainment. By far, with quality and safe childcare and educational services, HS parents were able to attain employment. This may be the beginning evidence of how HS programs positively affect the communities’ economy.
Head Start Program – continued

- **Housing:** 60% of HS parents were progressing in meeting their housing goals. 30% of HS parents met their housing goals. 10% of HS parents did not meet their housing goals.
- **Financial:** 100% attainment rate. All financial goals set by parents were met. This attainment rate coincided with parents who were able to attain employment. This may be the beginning evidence HS positively affects the economy within the Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion Counties.

In 2014, parents reported high levels of satisfaction with Head Start and Community Action services. According to our 2014 Community Assessment Codicil, 91.6% of parents reported that they were very satisfied with the services offered at East Central Illinois Community Action Agency!

The average Head Start teacher has been in the classroom for 16 years. 100% of the Head Start Three to Five Center teachers, and 75% of the Birth to Three Center Teachers have at least an Associate’s degree. 50% have least a Bachelor’s degree.

**Recent Results of Most Recent Tri-Annual Review**

Every three years, the Office of Head Start conducts a comprehensive assessment of all Head Start services. In 2012, in addition to the comprehensive assessment, Head Start “classroom quality” was assessed and issued scores. “Classroom quality” refers to the quality of teacher-child interaction observed. This process of assessment is implemented by a tool called “Classroom Assessment Scoring System” or CLASS. The CLASS tool is used to measure three (3) types of classroom quality: (1) Emotional Support; (2) Classroom Organization, and (3) Instructional Support. In 2012, as a part of the Tri-Annual Review, the Office of Head Start sent team of Educational Specialist. These individuals observed, evaluated, and scored 90% of the Head Start classrooms. Classroom teams were issued “classroom quality” ratings from 1 (Low Quality) to 7 (High Quality) on each type of classroom quality.

In 2012, the Head Start Program earned the following “CLASS” quality-rating scores: **5.9659 in Emotional Support; 5.4394 in Classroom Organization; and 3.0833 in Instructional Support.**

The Office of Head Start issued one program finding citing the program’s administrative process of documenting new hires. Hires are to occur after Federal and State criminal record clearances are attained. Immediate procedures were implemented to correct the documentation of new hires.

During the Agency’s most recent financial audit, two findings were issued: (1) internal control over the general ledger recording and preparation of financial statements and (2) access rights in the accounting software. Immediate procedures were implemented to provide internal control over the general ledger recording and preparation of GAAP basis financial statement; and monitoring procedures were implemented to promote controls over access rights in the general ledger software system.

—continued on next page
In 2014, Head Start and Early Head Start services were supported through public funds in the total amount of $3,795,045.42: ($3,573,158.24 Head Start/Early Head Start Federal Funding, $218,239.60 USDA Funding, $388.00 Program Income and $3,260.58 in Child Care Before and After School Funding.) East Central’s Head Start and Early Head Start services have made significant investments to support children’s learning and development. We have established school readiness goals, assessed children’s and parents’ progress towards meeting the goals. We have implemented key strategies for achieving these goals and engaged parents and the community to support their children’s growth.
Human Resources

Our quest for “Excellence through Education” is facilitated by a dynamic team of 107 Community Action professionals whose average years of service is 11.6 years. Community Action employees mirror the customers’ cultures; therefore, the Agency is able to create a common-ground environment that identifies the unmet needs and open dialogue about new opportunities within the communities. The Agency’s personnel demographics provide evidence of this ability. As it pertains to gender, the Agency employs a female population of 91% and a male population of 9%. As it pertains to race and ethnicities, the Agency’s workforce percentages are White 49%, Black/African American 42%, Asian 1%, Hispanic/Latino 6% and Multi-Races 2%. Among the Agency’s personnel, 9% possesses the ability to communicate in 2 or more languages.

The Agency’s ability to guide families and communities into “Excellence through Education” begins with the hiring of prepared and qualified professionals. Community Action employs a workforce with the following degree and certification attainment rates: Doctorate – 1; Masters – 8; Bachelors – 43; Associates – 27; Family and Community Development Certification – 38; Child Development Certification – 8; and Home Ownership Counselor Certification – 2.

Professional development is the strategy the Agency uses to ensure that Community Action employees continue to strengthen their practice throughout their career. The Agency provides an effective professional development plan that engages employees to focus on the needs of their customers. Community Action personnel learn and problem solve together in order to ensure all customers achieve success. Weekly, monthly and annual training schedules and coaching assignments are developed to intentionally set aside time for professional learning experiences. Community Action personnel attend workshops, webinars and training conference that are conducted by: WIPFLI’s CPA’s and Consultants, Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, Dr. Tess Bennett Early Childhood Consulting Services, Illinois Head Start Association and the State of Illinois Office of Energy Assistance.

The evidence of the Agency’s effective professional development plan is connected to the Agency’s customer service ratings within the counties. Customer satisfaction surveys that were conducted in Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion Counties yielded the following Customer Satisfaction outcomes: In 2014, the Agency attained a Customer Service Satisfaction Rate of 91.6%; Customer Telephone Satisfaction Rate of 80.4%; Customer’s Caring and Shown Compassion Rate of 93.75%; and an Employee Responsiveness to Customers’ Need Rate of 99%.

Community Action personnel exist to reduce poverty by providing hope—inspiring help and educational opportunities that leads to self-sufficiency. We consider ourselves to be an Agency whose staff aspires to incorporate this mission in the daily operation of services.
Energy Assistance

East Central Illinois Community Action began taking applications for the Energy Assistance program 34 years ago in 1980. This past year, because of the extremely high propane prices, the energy assistance program was given increased funding for propane allowing us to provide additional assistance to propane customers in Ford, Iroquois and Vermilion Counties. In 2014 Community Action served over 8900 households and by providing over $5,311,209 in energy assistance to families in Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties.

Traditional Energy Assistance (DVP)
The traditional energy assistance heating program operates from September 1 – May 31. Seniors and people with disabilities are given priority during the month of September. In October, families with children under the age of six also receive priority. Beginning in November, all income eligible households are able to apply. When approved, the household receives a one-time credit to their gas and electric supplier; a Direct Vendor Payment (DVP). The amount of the payment is based upon the number of people in the household, 30 day gross income, what type of heating fuel they use and geographic region.

Reconnection Assistance (RA)
The DVP program also contains a component that allows a household facing disconnection to apply for an amount over their DVP. This amount is based on what the utility company requires to reconnect the household’s service. The household may be eligible to come in one time during the year for each utility for a maximum combined total of $1000.

Cooling
During the summer, if the State determines there is a need, a Cooling Program is announced. This program is much more restrictive in the guidelines and typically is offered to seniors, people with disabilities, households with children under the age of six, and persons with a medical condition that requires that they have air conditioning. A one-time, pre-determined amount is sent to the electric company for those households that are approved. Funding for the Cooling program is very limited and customers who are on the PIPP program are not eligible for the Cooling program.

Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)
The fourth year of the PIPP program has seen an increase of customers requesting the program. Because funding for the PIPP program is very limited, we are unable to provide the service to all who request
Energy Assistance Program – continued

it. By enrolling in PIPP, the family makes a 12-month commitment to pay a minimum of 6% of their income toward their Budget Bill amount. PIPP then covers up to $150 of the remaining amount each month. Anything over that amount is the responsibility of the family. PIPP also includes a component which assists the customer in paying an arrearage amount. Households must have service through one of four companies: Ameren, NICOR, ComEd or People’s Northshore Gas. PIPP has the same eligibility requirements as the traditional DVP program.

Outreach

The Energy Assistance staff makes an effort to assure that all customers who wish to apply for the program are able to do so. Besides hosting several Power Blitz each year, staff also provides outreach at Georgetown, Hoopeston, Deer Creek, Emmanuel, through a mini Power Blitz and in Watseka and Gibson City once a week.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Direct Dollars Spent</th>
<th>Results-Based Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Vendor Payment (DVP) and Reconnection Assistance (RA): Services designed to provide direct payments to a customer’s energy provider during the winter months.</td>
<td>DVP: $3,169,419</td>
<td>6,943 Eligible Senior Citizens, individuals with disabilities and families with low incomes were able to remain warm this past winter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RA: $1,048,982</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling: Services designed to provide assistance with electric bills during the summer.</td>
<td>$145,050</td>
<td>993 Eligible Senior Citizens, individuals with disabilities, families with children under six and families with a medical condition that requires air conditioning were able to keep cool this past summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP): A new approach to energy assistance that allows qualified households to pay a minimum of 6% of their monthly income towards their budgeted energy amount.</td>
<td>$947,758</td>
<td>980 Eligible families were provided with a monthly payment plan for their household which continues for a year. This service eliminates the element of surprise from unexpected high energy bills and reduces arrearages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>$5,311,209*</td>
<td>*This figure reflects direct funding to the customers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Weatherization

The Illinois Home Weatherization Assistance Program (IHWAP) provides energy conservation measures to reduce the utility bills of residents. The IWAP program offers customers a permanent solution to reducing their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. Upon qualification and based upon a home energy audit, the program can provide energy saving services such as attic insulation, heating system repairs, new energy star qualified refrigerators, air sealing, fluorescent light bulbs, and more to ensure optimal efficiency.

The weatherization program uses an advanced energy audit computer program that identify the cost-effective energy efficiency retrofit measures for a home after taking into account retrofit measures and specific construction details of the home. Community Action ensures that home energy audits are conducted by State certified specialists with the diagnostic tools to properly evaluate homes for heat loss and weatherization needs. Community Action utilizes local contractors to perform work on approved homes, which reduces local unemployment and increases savings on energy bills for home owners.

In short, the Weatherization Assistance Program reduces energy costs and makes homes warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and safe year round. By making the home more energy efficient, weatherization reduces energy costs. In fact, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, households receiving weatherization can save more than $400 annually on their fuel costs.

Demographics of Customers Served through Weatherization Assistance

- **27** Elderly Households
- **19** Households with Children Under 6
- **25** Households with Disabled Members
- **20** Disabled Head of Households
- **85** Homeowners
- **5** Renters

Community Action has weatherized over 1,600 homes during the years 2004 to 2014; 185 in Ford County, 345 in Iroquois County, and 1,166 in Vermilion County. The 2014 weatherization program budget for weatherizing homes was $814,525. There were a total of 90 homes weatherized in the tri-county area: 10 in Ford, 18 in Iroquois, and 62 in Vermilion County.

The Community Action Weatherization program serves our customers by providing information on how to lower costs, creating safer living conditions, and educating families which will create a stronger community.
Founders
Rev. Herschel Hughes and Dr. W.G.D. Henderson

Charter Board Members
Dr. W.G.D. Henderson — Chairperson
  Uta Lee — Secretary
  Bertha Williams
  Dr. David Radcliff
  Dr. Fred Crockett
  Ola Mae Ford
  Mary Ann Diller
  Mrs. John Morton-James
  Frank McGough
  Mrs. Herbert Harper
  Ernest Dill
  Bertella McDougal
  Ann Stifler
  Clara Herring
  R.F. Fitzgerald
  Major Ellis Bruns
  Rev. Otis Wheeler
  Dr. W. Robert Elghammer
  Mr. Albert “Pete” Derrickson
  Louis Lowenstein
  Virginia Merriweather
  Nate Render
  Mrs. Paul Donaldson
  Jacqueline Miller
  Joseph Payne

Executive Directors
Rev. Herschel Hughes — 1966 - 1968
  Lewis Morris — 1968
  Jerry Robinson — 1968 -1971
  John Russian — 1971 - 1972
  Leslie Lucas — 1972
  Mark Reynolds — 1972 - 1977
  Shirley Findley (Interim Director) — 1977
  Rev. Harold Wilkes — 1977
  Otis E. Wilson — 1977 - 1986
  Dwight A. Lucas (CEO) — 1986 - 2013
  Laura T. Brooks (Interim CEO) — 2013 - 2014
  Dr. Angèle Thibodeaux Burns (CEO) — 2014 to Present
East Central Illinois Community Action Agency is a private 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Charitable contributions in support of our mission are always welcomed and may be tax-deductible. If you would like to contribute to our ministry, please let us know.