

Annual Report 2011

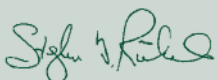
Message from Leadership

As ACAP continues its work to improve the lives of low-income individuals and families in Aroostook County, the agency faces an uphill battle of its own against federal and state budget cuts and increased competition for funding. At the national level the focus is shrinking the deficit and reducing spending. There is little agreement as to how to accomplish those goals which puts the agency in a state of uncertainty about how to plan for the future. However, as difficult as it may be, we recognize that there has never been a time when preparing for the future has been more critical. During the past several months, senior staff have been developing a strategic plan that continues our current work to the extent possible and, at the same time, positions the agency to respond to changes in our environment. Once approved by the ACAP Board of Directors, implementation will begin in early 2012.

During the past year, the agency has been increasingly asked to demonstrate the value of its services. The process of evaluating our performance and reporting outcomes and impact in a variety of scenarios has only strengthened our belief in the purpose of community action and ACAP's effectiveness. ACAP staff are dedicated to our work and every day see our successes in the lives of people. This belief and commitment keeps us focused on what is most important—our mission.

This report provides highlights of our activities in 2011. While it is just a snapshot, it will convey the essence of our work which is the result of a committed and dedicated staff, a volunteer governing board of directors who are generous with their time and knowledge, and a cooperative and caring community that serves as our partner. You will see that through our services, we make a significant investment in the community and help many people improve their ability to become self-sufficient.

We are most appreciative of those who join with us to "Make Life Better" in Aroostook County. Thank you.



Stephen Richard, Chair
ACAP Board of Directors



Connie Sandstrom, Executive Director

OUTCOMES

During the year, ACAP worked with Aroostook individuals and families, in many cases with partner organizations, to help them accomplish outcomes that *improved their ability to become self-sufficient*. Those outcomes include:

- 327 Unemployed people acquired a job and kept it for at least 90 days
- 222 People already employed obtained an increase in income and/or benefits
- 98 Low-income people demonstrated that they could develop and maintain a household budget for at least 90 days
- 430 Low-Income households were provided with repair or weatherization services to make their homes safe and more affordable
- 5,189 Hours of volunteer service were donated by low-income individuals
- 26 People purchased their own home with ACAP assistance
- 56 Households were provided emergency assistance to keep them from becoming homeless
- 4,855 Senior citizens received services and assistance that allowed them to be more safe and comfortable in their own homes
- 2,435 Infants and children obtained necessary immunizations, medical and dental care
- 609 Children were developmentally ready for kindergarten or first grade.



When people become more economically self-sufficient—

- They purchase more goods and services in their communities
- They pay income, sales and real estate taxes
- Their children are healthier, do better in school and in their relationships with peers
- They give back to their community by volunteering and supporting local organizations
- Seniors stay in their homes longer, maintaining their independence.

Governance

ACAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010-2011

The ACAP Board of Directors is tripartite with membership composed of equal numbers of public, private and low-income representatives, who determine policy, provide leadership to the staff, approve grant applications and plans, oversee expenditures, and evaluate programs.

Executive Committee

Stephen Richard, Presque Isle, Chairperson
Tracy McCrossin, Woodland, Vice-Chairperson
Trudy Gorneault, Presque Isle, Secretary
William Egeler, Presque Isle, Treasurer
Dan MacDonald, Caribou, Parliamentarian
Shirley Sjostedt, Stockholm, Member-at-Large

Members

Vinal Abbott, Sheridan*
Butch Asselin, Houlton
Wilfred Bell, Caribou
John Bannen, Fort Kent Mills
Elaine Boulier, Mars Hill
Amanda Cushman, Mars Hill**
Joshua Donahue, Houlton***
Nola Farley, Mapleton
Bonnie Foster, Houlton
Walter Fournier, Sinclair****
Carolyn Kimball, Presque Isle
Lynn Lombard, Caribou
Gilman Morin, Van Buren
Gary Sanfacon, Caribou
Otis Smith, Houlton
Miles Williams, Woodland

*Deceased February 2011

**Resigned August 2011

***Elected January 2011

****Deceased December 2010

AROOSTOOK COUNTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Organized in 1972, this council acts as spokespersons and advocates for low income groups in Aroostook County in matters relating to the alleviation of the conditions of poverty and elects the low-income sector representatives of the ACAP Board of Directors.

Gilman Morin, Van Buren, Chairperson
Vinal Abbott, Sheridan*
George Deschaine, Grand Isle
Walter Fournier, Sinclair**
Trudy Gorneault, Presque Isle
Carolyn Kimball, Presque Isle
Shirley Sjostedt, Stockholm
Diane Thibeault, Madawaska
Theresa Violette, Madawaska

*Deceased February 2011

**Deceased December 2010

ACAP SENIOR STAFF

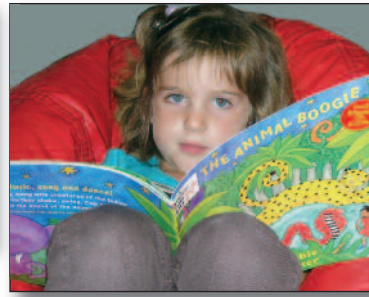
Connie Sandstrom
Executive Director
William Crandall
Assistant Director
Ellen Bemis
Director of Fiscal Services

Senior Managers

James Baillargeon
Susan Deschene
Torry Eaton
Donna Kenneson
Sue Powers
Susanne Sandusky
Manager of Special Projects
Kimberly Smith
Resource Developer
Janet Scott
Executive Secretary



Registered Dental Hygienist, Sue Sager applies sealants to Kara's teeth using the new dental equipment purchased with a grant from the Betterment Fund.



Homeless Services of Aroostook and ACAP partner to provide health services and education to residents of the Shelter.

SNAPSHOTS OF SELECTED PROGRAMS

During this year—

Early Childhood Education

- 190 children were provided Child Care, 332 children were enrolled in Head Start and 100 infants and toddlers were enrolled in Early Head Start at ACAP Child and Family Centers or in Home Based programs throughout Aroostook County.
- ACAP invested \$11,150 per child that results in reduced future high school dropout rates, special education services and crime and helps build a future work force.

Case Management

- ACAP Case Management provided support and assistance to connect 150 individuals and families with community resources that promote economic independence. An additional 1,000 individuals were provided with information, referrals, and advocacy.
- During this second year of a two-year American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-funded Homeless Prevention Grant, approximately 500 households were provided information, referrals and advocacy related to housing issues.

Workforce Development

- Nearly 250 dislocated workers who lost their jobs through no fault of their own were provided with workforce development services.
- 425 unemployed people were enrolled in training programs; 175 of those completed training and have entered the workforce, earning an average of \$11.95 per hour.

- Nearly 8,000 people seeking jobs were provided with workforce development services.

Health

- 781 pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, and their 2,235 infants and children under the age of five, were provided Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) services.
- 5,540 adults and children were provided oral health education information.
- 1,701 individuals were provided reproductive health services, and 157 eligible women were provided breast and cervical cancer screenings.
- 376 individuals were provided anonymous HIV testing and counseling.
- Healthy Aroostook, a Healthy Maine Partnership, helped shape the State Public Health plan and provided a variety of health related services and advocacy to youth and adults, and law enforcement, business, and education professionals.

Weatherization

- 610 homes were weatherized through ARRA, a performance based grant and regular Department of Energy funding.
- ACAP was awarded funding to install solar or on-demand hot water heaters, in-home energy monitors or energy efficient clothes washers or windows for approximately 100 qualified households.

Partnerships

- An agreement with the County of Aroostook for the Town of Sinclair pro-

vided project administration and technical assistance to 14 income-eligible owners to rehabilitate their homes.

- ACAP partnered with Homeless Services of Aroostook to provide case management and health services on a weekly basis to residents at the Sr. Mary O'Donnell Shelter in Presque Isle.
- A partnership with local farmers, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, ACAP Oral Health Education and Child and Family Services provided six Family Farm Festivals in Presque Isle.
- A partnership with Aroostook Council for Healthy Families delivered services to 42 pregnant women, infants and toddlers through Home Based Early Head Start.

- ACAP partnered with Community Voices to serve as grantee for a \$328,288 National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration demonstration project to address teen drinking and driving issues in Aroostook County.
- ACAP serves as fiscal sponsor for St. Apollonia Dental Clinic that will establish a dental home for Aroostook County children ages 0-20 who do not presently have one.
- ACAP partnered with Helping Hands and United Way of Aroostook to enroll about 1,500 clients for 100 gallons of fuel oil with Citizens Energy Fuel Assistance Program.



INVESTMENTS IN AROOSTOOK ECONOMY

ACAP, partnering with government, business, organizations and private funders, creates economic opportunity for Aroostook County and economic security for Aroostook people.

These are some of the investments brought to Aroostook County through ACAP efforts during the year:

- \$5,590,000—Heating assistance for low-income households
- \$4,520,406—Total ACAP payroll for the year
- \$2,854,057—Purchase and installation of weatherization and home repair materials
- \$1,661,876—Cost-effective energy conservation materials installed in the homes of low income owners
- \$1,613,300—Supplemental food for low income women, their infants and young children
- \$1,426,381—Rental assistance to prevent homelessness for income-eligible families, in areas not served by a local housing authority
- \$400,000—Rent and lease payments for ACAP facilities and equipment

- \$350,000—Awarded for handicap accessibility and other renovations to Child and Family Center in Presque Isle (former Gouldville School)
- \$303,590—Training and education costs for unemployed Aroostook citizens
- \$293,464—Health exams and family planning services for eligible customers
- \$256,000—Boiler and roof replacements and other renovations to Child and Family Center in Presque Isle
- \$215,000—Central heating repair and replacements for income-eligible households
- \$182,383—Emergency energy assistance for households
- \$64,488—Lead abatement in apartment buildings built prior to 1978 with income-eligible renters, making them

Financial Summary

FOR AROOSTOOK COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.
For the year ending September 30, 2011

Support and Revenue	
Government grants and contracts	\$ 13,867,933
Program fees	686,170
Contributions	96,286
In-kind contribution	606,147
Other revenues	193,373
	<u>\$ 15,449,909</u>
Expenses	
Employment and Training	\$ 989,443
Energy and Housing	5,233,435
Community Services	1,312,015
Health Services	2,064,660
Child and Family	5,789,180
	<u>\$ 15,388,733</u>

DIRECT CLIENT ASSISTANCE

- Energy & Housing
- Employment & Training
- Child & Family
- Health Services
- Community Services

Direct Client Assistance	
Energy and Housing	\$ 3,862,641
Employment and Training	270,392
Child and Family	666,970
Health Services	997,740
Community Services	210,829
	<u>\$ 6,008,572</u>

- safe for current and future residents.
- \$43,122—Security deposits, rent, utility payments, and moving costs to prevent households from becoming homeless
- \$21,392—Preventive dental services and sealants for Aroostook 2nd and 3rd graders
- \$10,333—Gas cards, hygiene bags and other emergency needs for customers in crisis
- \$8,000—Playground upgrades at Child and Family Centers in Presque Isle and Houlton
- \$3,000—In \$50 vouchers for new back-to-school clothes for eligible children



Aroostook County Action Program, Inc.

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OFFICES

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88 Fox Street
Madawaska, Maine 04756
207-728-6345

91 Military Street
Houlton, Maine 04730
207-532-5311



MISSION

Aroostook County Action Program, Inc. provides services and resources that help individuals and families achieve greater economic independence. As a leader, or in partnership with others, ACAP provides guidance to the community in responding to emerging human needs.

VISION

We Make Life Better!

ACAP provides equal opportunity in employment and services

*ACAP is a member of Maine Community Action
Helping People, Changing Lives*



A United Way Agency



Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

Maine DHHS administers federal CSBG and other funds that provide partial support for several programs.

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