

# ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015





# PERSERVERING THROUGH THE YEARS

## A Message from our Executive Director: Robert A. Raible

If I could choose just one word to describe the 2014-2015 Agency year, I believe that I would choose "consistent." One of the definitions taken from Webster's Dictionary reads:

*"showing steady conformity to character, profession, belief, or custom."*

This is a description which not only summarizes the 2014-2015 year, but one that I believe epitomizes the work of the Warren-Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council over the last 50 years.

The Agency has consistently provided quality services to area residents in its years of operation. Head Start, weatherization, energy assistance are only a few of the programs provided year after year to those in need. Yet, what makes the Agency unique is our commitment to our mission and our flexibility in attempting new ideas to accomplish our mission.

The last year is a great reflection of the Agency's consistency; character in the face of economic uncertainty; steadfastness in program delivery; and finally, exercising the belief that trying new ideas is never a bad idea.

Our Agency needs assessments over the years have consistently indicated three main areas of need within the community: employment, housing, and transportation. In the Spring of 2015, the Agency initiated a program designed to take aim at eliminating

one of these needs, transportation.

The newly launched Transportation Program is designed to assist individuals who are employed but lack reliable transportation to either retain their current position or to improve their employment situation. Improvement could be in the form of a new job in a different location or taking continuing education classes as examples. We plan on assisting six families to improve their unique economic situation by acquiring at least six vehicles, having them road ready and inspected, and providing budget counseling.

Hopefully you will agree that "consistent" can be considered the Agency's middle name. Consistent service delivery, consistent reliability, consistent staff, and finally consistent dedication to our mission.

It is with great satisfaction that we, the staff and Board of Directors, present the 2014-2015 Warren Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council Annual Report.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Raible, Executive Director



Never look down on  
someone unless you  
are lifting them up.

- Anonymous

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

A busy hub within the Warren-Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council (EOC), the Community Services Department implements multi-layered services that help alleviate poverty and hardship situations for the low-income residents of Warren, Forest, and nearby counties. Our services currently include training and education to help clients become self-sufficient, housing and homelessness prevention programs, employment training, utility assistance, mentoring, and referrals to link clients with other community resources.

The EOC focuses on addressing crisis situations and then works with clients to refer them to the programs and services they need to become stable and self-sufficient. Many families throughout the year are aided through homelessness prevention with stable housing becoming a long term goal for the client and a step closer to achieving self-sufficiency. Utility assistance programs have also benefited hundreds of families by helping to save on payments, prevent shut offs, and identify how the savings from utilities can best be used to afford household necessities. Employment Training and housing counseling helps the household determine a reasonable budget and identifies strategies for how to best manage household finances.

Referrals are strongly encouraged to best serve the unique set of challenges faced by each individual client. Not everyone has the same story!

# YEARLY HIGHLIGHTS

- 36 Families Avoided Eviction
- 5 Families Avoided Foreclosure
- 10 People Obtained & Kept Employment
- 25 People Improved Financial Management Skills
- 464 Families Assisted Paying Utilities or Avoided Shut Off

## 44 Homeless Veterans Receive Assistance

The Veteran's Homelessness Prevention Program is a partnership between Warren-Forest EOC of Pennsylvania and Chautauqua Opportunities of Dunkirk, New York. This unique collaboration between agencies working across state lines, a feat in itself, is a partnership between two states working toward a common goal of helping veterans avoid homelessness. Warren-Forest EOC has been implementing the program in McKean, Crawford, Warren, and Forest Counties with great success!



# VETERAN'S EXPO

## Representing the Warren-Forest EOC Program for Homeless Veterans in Erie

The Community Services Department of the EOC offers a Veteran's Homeless Assistance Program through a unique partnership with Chautauqua Opportunities in neighboring New York State. Together, using available funding, we work toward a common goal of helping our country's veterans currently facing homelessness.

In the spring we had an opportunity to participate in an expo held at Gannon University in Erie, PA. This one-of-a-kind event was free to veterans and their families. It brought together over 75 state, community, and federal organizations which offer services to our country's heroes. Services ranged from basic needs to employment and affordable, safe housing.

Our program is available to veterans and their families in Warren, Forest, Crawford, and McKean Counties. We provide case management services to address past due rent, security deposits, moving costs, utilities, and more to veterans and their families facing homelessness, homeless, or in a housing crisis.





## Generous Aid From A Neighbor in 2015

Northwest Savings Bank partnered with the EOC in our work with homeless individuals and families in our community through the Neighborhood Assistance Program. This project had two primary components. The first was to support the operation and continued rehabilitation of the only transitional emergency shelter in Warren County, the Faith Inn. The second part of the project was to expand our services and build a program that would be considered homeless prevention through HUD approved housing counseling and mortgage foreclosure mitigation.

Continued rehabilitation and renovation efforts centered around continuing the replacement of old lathe/plaster walls and ceiling. In the housing units utilized by those in need of shelter, worn carpeting was removed and replaced with commercial vinyl tiles. This was carried out into common hallways used by tenants of the Faith Inn and rubber treads were installed on the stairs to make them safer. Improvement in EOC Community Service and Housing office space included the installation of insulated

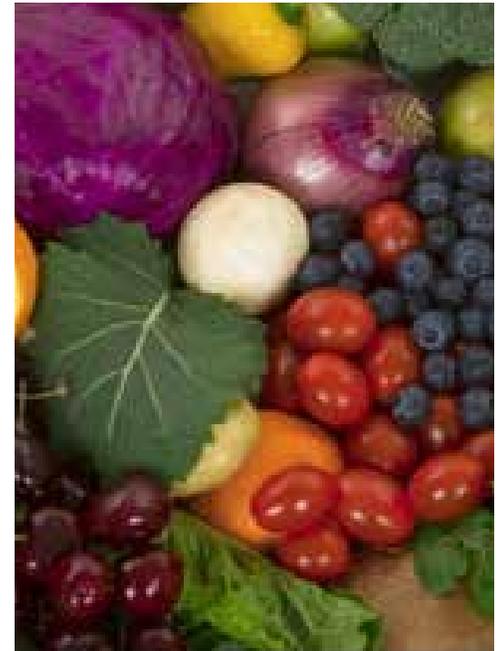
walls between individual offices affording better privacy when staff is meeting with clients. The electrical, sprinkler, and fire alarm systems were also upgraded.

The counseling aspect of the project allowed the EOC to expand services to meet an emerging need. The EOC Budget Counselor assists individuals at risk of losing their home and aids in the development of a personal budget. Specific mortgage foreclosure counseling to help prevent clients from becoming homeless through home loan default is also a service now provided by the EOC through this partnership with Northwest Savings Bank. Additionally, housing counseling can be provided to renters to help



## Operation Overcoat

Another program where our partnerships within the community are a large part of our success was the collection of gently used or new winter gear in both adult and children's sizes. In partnership with Northwest Savings Bank, all items were cleaned by Anderson Cleaners and brought to the Faith Inn for distribution. Last year's generous giving helped 344 individuals in 89 families stay warm all winter! 173 of those receiving winter gear were children in our community. A huge thank you to all of those who support this program each year!



## The Produce Express

The Produce Express is made possible by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Pennsylvania. Working in partnership with this group, the Warren-Forest EOC has helped facilitate sign-ups and the monthly distribution of a limited number of boxes packed primarily with fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables. In the last year we helped to get this program out to 352 families in Warren and Forest Counties. This is a total of 949 individuals including children, the disabled, and senior citizens!

# GAINING MOMENTUM COMMUNITY BUILDER PROGRAM

*"To facilitate and communicate a county-wide collaboration of private and public partnerships, addressing human needs through an efficient use of shared efforts and resources."*

- Alliance for a Better Community

In February 2015 the EOC hired an individual to head two initiatives. The first called for the re-invigoration of the Alliance for a Better Community.

The Alliance for a Better Community (ABC) was a dormant coalition of social service agencies and providers. Past member organizations were contacted and the first meeting was held in March.

An average of 15 senior staff representatives from member organizations have consistently attended monthly meetings. Topics of concern impacting our clients are discussed. By bringing together multiple agencies more information is being shared and potential solutions are brainstormed. In some cases this has resulted in real change. At the same time, agencies utilize the time to update on new programs, services, and initiatives or form new partnerships.

Efforts center on creating an atmosphere of collaboration. Our goal is bringing providers together and to become the catalyst for discussion and change in how social services are delivered to low-income and vulnerable populations. We believe in an atmosphere where sharing ideas, solving common issues, breaking down communication barriers, and learning



what each provider does, will ultimately allow everyone's resources to better serve, and serve more families.

Participating organizations include: Forest-Warren Department of Human Services, Beacon Light Behavioral Health, Deerfield Behavioral Health, Housing Authority of Warren County, Warren General Hospital, Adagio Health, Bollinger Enterprises, Warren-Forest Hi-Ed Council, Warren / Forest Area Agency on Aging, Warren Alliance Church, Warren Library Association, Department of Public Welfare, Warren County Chamber of Business and Industry, and Jefferson DeFrees Family Center.

## Tackling Employment & Self-Sufficiency with Transportation



A commonly encountered barrier to employment for low-income individuals and families in our community is access to safe, reliable transportation. Under the Community Builder program we sought to address this with

the development of an innovative, 12-month approach. The program involves the purchase of three used, vehicles in good working order. These vehicles are then provided to three eligible clients meeting specific criteria and need the car to maintain their current employment or secure a better employment opportunity.

Clients attend budget counseling sessions to determine that insurance, maintenance and operation, and a monthly program fee can be afforded by the household. Participants then attend a basic training before taking ownership of the vehicle. Every 90 days the participants meet with the Community Builder to re-assess budget and review employment goals.

This year, three vehicles were purchased and are now in use by the participants. All are families. In one instance, the participant will now be able to attend employment training in Erie, PA and be eligible for a promotion with her employer. As the sole earner for the family of 6, the transportation will make a positive impact. Another participant was able to get a job to provide a second income for the household. This participant will also be attending GED classes at Warren-Forest Higher Education Council.

In their own words on the journey to self-sufficiency:

*"Having a car was the one thing missing. Everything will be easier to make happen now."*



## Weatherization by the Numbers

### **Department of Energy Program**

served 8 households and 23 people

### **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Crisis**

served 58 households and 149 people

### **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Non-Crisis**

served 10 households and 23 people

### **National Fuel Gas Low Income Usage Reduction Program**

served 7 households and 24 people

### **National Fuel Gas ERR** served 5 households and 12 people

### **Penelec WARM** served 92 households and 302 people

### **UGI (Central Penn Gas)** served 1 household and 2 people

“Great job! Well done, very friendly and everyone was wonderful. God bless everyone. Thank you!”

“We are very satisfied with the boiler, the installers, and the auditor’s evaluation!”

The Warren-Forest Counties EOC Weatherization Programs are designed to assist elderly, disabled, and low-income homeowners and renters with weatherization assistance facilitating a reduction in utility bills and conserving energy. Weatherization measures may include blower guided air sealing, improved insulation, improved ventilation, health and safety measures, and in some cases, the replacement or repair of qualified appliances.

An energy audit by our auditors will determine what measures can be done to achieve the goal of lower utility bills and conserving energy. Every home is different and each situation is unique. What works for one client may not for another client!

# HOUSING IN REVIEW: A LOOK AT OUR PROGRAMS

Transitional | Permanent | Housing Assistance

Through our various program offerings, the EOC provides both facilities and services designed to meet the needs of homeless individuals and families. Programs are open to those facing homelessness and those who are already experiencing homelessness. On staff we have qualified, trained case managers able to work with clients one-on-one as well the ability to coordinate and partner with health and human service agencies within the community. All of our programs utilize community resources to ensure that essential services are secured and available to those in need while we work to assist individuals and families as they move from temporary housing to permanent housing and independent living.

Currently, the EOC oversees nine transitional housing properties including the Faith Inn apartments in downtown Warren , and nine permanent housing units for individuals in Warren and Forest Counties.



## Did you know?

At any given time the housing programs have the capacity to serve 51 households in 16 buildings throughout our community? With the completion of our latest projects in Fall 2015, our capacity will grow to 61 households in 18 buildings.



“There is nothing more important than a good, safe, and secure home.”

- Rosalynn Carter

The Transitional Housing Program offered by the EOC is for survivors of domestic violence. In the last year 15 households were given shelter. Working with housing services and a dedicated case manager, 5 individuals obtained employment and 9 households were able to move into permanent, safe housing.

One individual in our program fled a domestic violence situation with her child. When entering the program this individual had no income. Working with Stephanie Johnson, EOC Housing Specialist (pictured below) she successfully secured employment and moved into a stable and affordable home with her child.



**On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.**

# YEARLY HIGHLIGHTS

- 15** Domestic Violence Survivors safely housed in transitional housing
- 44** People were served by the PATHS program with 39 housed in the PATH Transitional Housing.
- 62** Homeless Persons Sheltered at the Faith Inn and received housing assistance
- 31** People successfully moved into our Permanent Supportive Housing
- 16** People Moved to Permanent Housing with the Rapid Re-Housing Program

The Faith Inn, located in downtown Warren, PA, is an emergency shelter consisting of 3 efficiency apartments, 4 one bedroom, and 2 two bedroom apartments available to homeless individuals and families. Through a competitive funding source, the EOC operates the shelter and provides temporary housing for up to 30 days and Rapid Re-Housing Assistance for those transitioning into permanent affordable housing.

One individual entered the Faith Inn Shelter after fleeing a bad situation. A single parent with two young children; she had no idea where to turn when the family became homeless. She had lost her full time job after a foot injury but had recently secured a part-time, third-shift position. But her family had nowhere to live.

Upon entering the Faith Inn, this individual wasn't sure how to improve their situation or where to start. Working with Maria Munksgard,

EOC Housing Specialist, she began with basic household skills such as a checking account and establishing a household budget. She then worked to secure Child Care Information Services funding to help offset child-care costs while working and looked for permanent housing options with Maria's assistance. She was soon able to move into an apartment using short term Rapid Re-Housing Assistance and each month the family situation improved! Recently, she has been in touch to say she is now employed full-time with benefits and things continue to look up.

*"The Faith Inn gave us a place to go and helped me feel like, for the first time in a long time, there was HOPE.*

*Things were going to get better and Maria was the best thing that could have happened to me at this time."*

PATH is a formula grant to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. There are nearly 600 local organizations that provide PATH services. The Homeless and Housing Resource Network (HHRN) assists SAMHSA in providing support to the states and local providers.

PATH provides services to individuals with serious mental illness, including those with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of becoming homeless.

The EOC's PATH Mental Health Housing specialist oversees 4 transitional houses located on the Warren State Hospital grounds. Referrals into the PATH program come from a wide variety of sources which include, but are not limited to, jails, walk-ins, family, psychiatric facilities, and hospitals. The Housing Specialist then works with a variety of local agencies and service providers to assist individuals as they transition into stable housing situations.

In 2014-2015, 44 individuals were served by the PATH program with 39 working toward a goal of permanent housing. We had 3 individuals who made the difficult journey from literal homelessness to stable housing. Many others were assisted on their way to self-sufficiency and continue to make positive steps towards stabilization.



One of our stand-out clients for this year was “couch surfing”, had no income, and hardly any possessions. This individual was plagued with multiple, severe mental health diagnoses with co-occurring drug and alcohol problems. Denied Social Security, there were few options until the EOC entered this client into the transitional housing program. Once in the program, the individual made connections with other agencies who provided additional case management and other needed services. Working together the EOC, Forest/Warren Health & Human Services, and Beacon Light secured a Social Security award for the client while helping this individual gain the skills necessary for successful, independent living. The Housing Authority reviewed and approved the client for an open apartment unit while the Social Security appeal was underway. Our client is healthy and successfully living independently in permanent, affordable, and safe housing.

# PERMANENT HOUSING

The Housing Services Department currently manages nine permanent housing units for those individuals with a diagnosed mental health condition in Warren and Forest Counties. The nine properties have a total of 19 affordable units in the area. Residents live independently, have income, and case management services in place. Over this past year, 31 individuals in 19 households have been able to call one of our units home.

At the same time, we have been working with County organizations to create additional units that would be safe, decent, affordable, and appropriate for our clients. In addition to those with a mental health diagnosis; permanent housing units managed by the EOC are also available to transitioning, aged-out youth and forensic mental health consumers. In 2013, two additional houses in the City of Warren were purchased and plans created for a complete rehabilitation. The first house was completed in the summer of 2015. This beautifully redone home has (3) one bedroom apartments and (1) two bedroom. Completed units were quickly rented and the new tenants have moved in. A waiting list is being maintained for the second house slated for completion in late Fall of 2015. Once finished, this historic home will contain (6) unique, one-bedroom apartment units.

The photos provided at right give an idea of where we began and today.



# HEAD START:

## OUR YEAR IN THE CLASSROOM



Head Start is a federally funded pre-school program for children ages 3 to 5. Through individual and group activities our qualified teachers, working closely with classroom aides, strive to not only prepare our community's young children for Kindergarten, but to address health, nutrition, social, and other needs for each child and family based on a family needs assessment. Teachers hold four year degrees in education and aides, at minimum, possess the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential. We have 12 classrooms meeting Tuesday through Friday for five hours per day at five centers located throughout Warren County. The school year for Head

Start offers 128 class days. Locations include classrooms at the McClintock Building, Seneca Building, Allegheny Valley Elementary School, Youngsville High School, and Lottsville's Freehold Township Building.

### Quick Facts & Figures

Funded Enrollment - 200  
Total Enrolled - 218  
Number of 4 year olds - 122  
Number of 3 year olds - 96  
Second Year Students - 83  
Average Attendance - 87%  
AND Monthly Enrollment -

# 100%

Of our total enrollment, 173 students were from income eligible households, 25 were from households earning between 101% to 130% of the federal poverty level (a household of 4 at 135% of poverty earns \$32,738/year), and 20 children were over-income. This means that of those served:

# 91%

were income eligible

A major component of our program is providing health services to all 218 of our students. 199 students were brought up-to-date on immunizations. Additional screenings identified 42

children with disabilities ranging from speech / language, developmental delays, autism, and other health impairments including ADHD, Oppositional Defiant, and anxiety. Only 20 children were identified as having a disability prior to enrollment. All 42 children had an Individual Education Plan (IEP) developed and received special education services. All 218 children participated in a mass screening for developmental, mental health, vision, hearing, physical, dental exam, height/weight, and articulation to establish baselines while identifying areas where children and families may need assistance in accessing available services.

# 94%

had a medical exam

# 93%

had a dental exam





Breakfast, lunch, and a snack are part of a regular day at Head Start and are provided to all students.

# 42,266

total meals were served.

## FOCUSED ON FAMILY

Ensuring that the 208 families we served are able to access additional programs and services needed to create positive, healthy homes is central to the success of our students.



In the 2014 to 2015 school year our qualified staff worked with families to receive a multitude of services based on the individual needs of each family. Services included WIC, crisis intervention, transportation, housing assistance, mental health, domestic violence, health and parenting education, and substance abuse prevention among others. All 208 families participated in the health and parenting education. We also assisted 50% of our families with emergency / crisis intervention for various situations.

Head Start emphasizes the role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher. We work throughout the school year with our families to support well-being and positive interactions, engagement in transitions, connections to the community, and help parents become lifelong educators, learners, advocates, and leaders.



Each program year we plan multiple activities to give families an opportunity to actively participate with their child in Head Start. This past year, the list of activities included mass screening day, open house, end of unit celebrations, special class activity days, parent center committee meetings, parent-child activities, parent trainings supporting interests, visits by classroom teachers and Family Resource Assistants, volunteering, fatherhood activities, program family event days, and family goal setting.

Some of our successes for the year included the following:

97% of parents felt that they have made positive changes due to being in Head Start

87% of parents have a better understanding of how important it is to stay involved

100% participated in home visits with Family Resource Assistants used to establish relationships to identify interests, strengths, needs, and accomplish goals.

91% of parents/guardians participated in Family Engagement Program Activities.

97% of parents set a goal to know how their child is performing in class and 100% achieved this.

5 children from 3 homeless families obtained safe, affordable housing.

15 families moved from substandard living to healthy, safe homes.

99% of parents felt that their child was socially prepared for school having attended Head Start

This is a small glimpse at some of the achievements our families made this year. Head Start teachers, coordinators, and staff helped guide parents / guardians making positive changes that will help their child succeed.

# THANK YOU, PARENTS!

## 440

Classroom Volunteers

## 329

Current or Former Parents

## 5,521

Total Volunteer Hours

## 3,778

Volunteer Hours by Parents

# PREPPING STUDENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN

The *Creative Curriculum* is a research based curriculum followed program wide. Students work through six, six-week long units which each end with a unity celebration that parents are invited to attend. **PATHS (Promoting Alternative THinking Strategies)** is used in all of our classrooms to enhance areas of social-emotional development which include self-control, self-esteem, friendships, and interpersonal problem-solving while working to reduce aggression and other behavioral problems. Our goal is for all of our students to have a smooth transition from Head Start to Kindergarten. We work with families to make strong connections that will help make this goal a reality.

Activities which help in fostering the needed connections to make this possible include collaborating with parents, staff, principals, and Kindergarten teachers, providing opportunities to visit Kindergarten classrooms, meeting with MAWA (Mutually Agreed UPON written Agreement) agencies and principals to ensure that there will not be breaks in services for children with disabilities, empowering parents to advocate for their children, and ending the year with a packet filled with activities for parents and children to work on over summer break.



In Warren County the Warren-Forest Counties EOC is the lead agency for the state funded pre-school program, PreK Counts. This program is available to 3 and 4 year olds living in households with a family income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level. In the last program year there were 26 funded slots. The EOC partners with the Head Start program to serve 20 children while Jefferson DeFrees Family Center serves the remaining 6. Children participate in 180 days of classroom instruction, meeting for 6 total hours each day allowing for 5 hours of class plus meals, five days per week.

## Quick Facts & Figures

Funded Enrollment: 20

Withdrawals: 0

Average Yearly Attendance: 93%

Number of four year olds: 9

Number of three year olds: 11

Children with a Disability: 4

Children with an IEP: 4

Eligibility:

At or below 300%: 10

At or below 200%: 8

At or below 130%: 2

Meals Served: 6,039

Breakfasts: 2,967

Lunches: 3,072

# YEARLY ASSESSMENT

Each year we assess our students three times (fall, winter, and spring) to evaluate their progress in key areas of development using the Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment System. The results after each assessment are aggregated and analyzed at the program and center levels to show the percentages of Head Start children meeting or exceeding expectation. The chart shown at right is a summary showing where we started and ended the year. Assessment is a continuous cycle of observing, collecting facts, evaluating, summarizing, and planning. The results for 2014-2015 are shown below:

Fine Motor Skills: 86% to 98%

Literacy: 64% to 95%

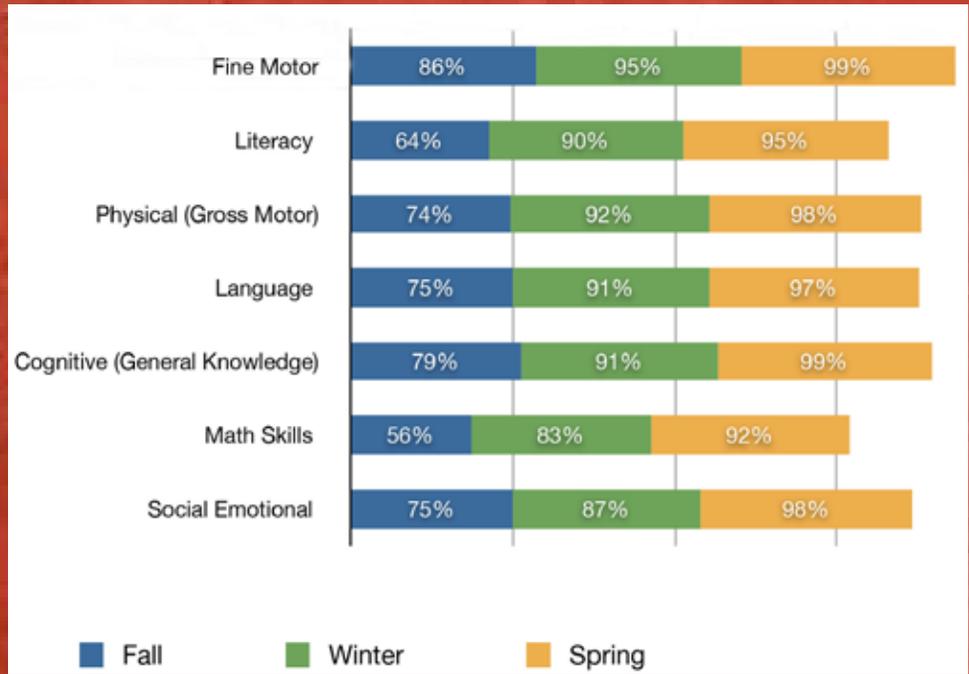
Gross Motor: 74% to 98%

Language: 75% to 97%

Cognitive: 79% to 99%

Math Skills: 44% to 92%

Social-Emotional: 75% to 98%



## A Smart Addition

In the 2014-2015 program year, Head Start classrooms obtained three additional Smart Boards from Hatch Early Learning for use in the classrooms. *TeachSmart* by Hatch is an interactive-whiteboard, hands-on technology tool that supports early education with playful and purposeful activities tied into The Head Start Child Development and Early Learning Framework, the CLASS Observation Scale, and the NAEYC Accreditation Standards. Activities, such as the rhythm band shown at left, are designed to strengthen key skills in math, phonological awareness, alphabet knowledge, writing, and language development.

EVERY  
CHILD IS A  
different KIND OF flower,  
AND ALL TOGETHER,  
MAKE THIS WORLD  
A Beautiful  
GARDEN.



Did you know that the Head Start program celebrated a major milestone this program year? Head Start began in August 1965 and this summer celebrated 50 years of creating opportunities for children all across the country. In Warren and Forest Counties, the EOC has proudly provided the Head Start program to the children of our community with great success. Some of our past graduates have gone on to pursue professional degrees and now work as lawyers and doctors. Other former students have returned to the classroom as teachers and bring to their students the love of learning they first gained in our classrooms.



# HEAD START DOLLARS & CENTS

The most recent on-site monitoring review conducted by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) was conducted during the week of October 21, 2012. The program was found to be in compliance with applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

The 2013-2014 annual audit, conducted by the firm of Mauthe, Yutzey, and Gabler, showed no material findings and/or deficiencies.

A detailed account of all revenue and expenses has been provided in the chart shown below.

## Head Start Revenues

Federal	\$1,496,422.00
Donations	\$1,545.86
Interest Earned	-
Non-Federal Contributions	\$289,615.70
USDA Reimbursement	\$100,239.19
Intermediate Unit - Match	\$43,870.00
CSBG Support to Programs	\$54,729.21

### TOTAL

**\$1,986,421.96**

## Head Start Expenses

Salaries	\$736,931.74
Fringe Benefits	\$333,977.92
Indirect	\$198,752.75
Supplies	\$98,377.41
Child/Adult Food	\$122,696.90
Transportation	\$38,162.35
Training	\$31,487.39
Insurance	\$17,274.70
Space/Lease/Utilities	\$82,299.19
Match (In-Kind)	\$289,615.70
Communication (Telephone / Postage)	\$12,077.65
Vehicle Purchase	-
Computers & Software	\$9,785.65
Other	\$14,982.61

### TOTAL

**\$1,986,421.96**



## PRE-K SCHOLARSHIP

The Warren-Forest EOC is an approved pre-kindergarten scholarship organization. Our contributors in the last program year included Northwest Savings Bank, First Niagara, Philadelphia Insurance Company, UPMC, Whirley Industries, Inc., PNC, and Ellwood Investment Corp. (pictured above). All donated funds are used to assist families with Pre-K costs.

Families who may apply, are those not eligible for Head Start or the Department of Health and Human Services. These families work yet, continue to struggle financially with the added cost of sending a child to a local pre-k program. In 2014-2015, we awarded scholarships to 102 students attending 13 area facilities and totaling:

**\$187,664.80**

## REVENUE

Federal Revenue	\$2,762,487.78
State Revenue	\$2,352,626.43
Local Revenue	\$219,892.93
Interest/Dividend Earned	\$53,526.55
In-Kind Contributions	\$379,092.69
USDA Reimbursement	\$108,505.56
Intermediate Unit	\$43,870.00
Donations (Cash & Items)	\$503,497.32
Rent & Security Deposits	\$126,223.92
Other Income	\$2,629.00

**TOTAL REVENUE** **\$6,552,352.18**

## EXPENDITURES

Personnel	\$2,096,634.49
Consultants	\$70,025.20
Audit	\$40,214.94
Travel	\$23,609.27
Supplies	\$310,618.38
Training	\$53,050.09
Insurance	\$40,390.38
Advertising/Printing	\$13,203.76
Equipment/Vehicle	\$100,405.68
Playground	\$1,470.86
Household Furnishings	\$13,790.11
Fleet of Vehicles	\$46,573.44
Materials - Labor - Rehab	\$909,229.78
Space Costs	\$237,001.92
In-Kind / Match (Donated Items)	\$373,283.70
Direct Aide to Families	\$225,370.12
Telephone / Postage / Cable	\$31,570.43
Acquisition Costs / Taxes	\$29,757.76
Gain on Investment	(\$73,195.43)
Depreciation	\$126,121.78
Maintenance & Repair	\$123,141.47
Other Costs	\$15,102.07

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES** **\$4,807,370.20**

## OBLIGATED FUNDS

Deferred Revenue	\$1,634,830.01
Due to Grantor (Includes Interest)	\$0.00
Closed to Fund Balances	\$110,151.97

## EXPENDITURES BY PROGRAM

CSBG	\$353,934.29
CSBG Discretionary	\$21,922.87
Pre-K Counts	\$212,626.37
Head Start	\$1,931,692.75
Weatherization	\$489,834.31
New Communities Program	\$1,161.93
Regional Main Street - Local Match	\$48,476.23
Emergency Shelter Grant	\$60,294.26
Emergency Shelter Grant Match	\$38,978.48
Northwest Savings Bank - NAP Grant	\$11,655.59
Homeless Assistance Program	\$24,965.18
HUD Counseling - PHFA	\$29,631.20
Work Ready Program - DPW/BETP	\$61,348.48
Residential Housing Support	\$70,080.00
Master Leasing	\$15,939.57
Supportive Housing	\$46,421.00
Veteran Homelessness Prevention	\$98,785.62
Warren Transitional Housing - HUD	\$28,912.00
Warren Transitional Housing - Match	\$22,164.03
Youngsville Transitional Housing - HUD	\$46,551.48
Youngsville Transitional Housing - Match	\$10,409.78
PHFA NFMC	
First Energy - WARM Program	\$52,591.42
National Fuel - LIURP	\$41,301.16
UGI Central Penn Gas - WARM	\$3,979.04
Pre-K Scholarship Program	\$187,879.89
FEMA	\$1,535.03
HEMAP	(0.35)
Warren Anthems / Presidential Place	\$4,337.02
Mental Health Residence	\$86,222.00
FAIRWEATHER LODGE	\$567,972.03
<i>LAUREL STREET - Fairweather Lodge</i>	\$42,062.45
<i>Work Detail - Training</i>	\$9,646.22
<i>4-6 Cottage Place</i>	\$357,090.79
<i>2 Cottage Place</i>	\$159,172.57
Permanent Supportive Housing	\$304.75
PHARE	\$87,576.91
Northwest Lead Consortium	(\$79.48)
Community Fund	\$3,248.25
Agency Activities	(\$37,521.46)
West Main Street Youngsville	\$7,094.28
Chronic Mental Health Housing	\$49,022.51
<i>Fourth Avenue</i>	\$7,502.38
<i>Schantz Street</i>	\$9,489.16
<i>Elm Street</i>	\$9,096.50
<i>Lexington</i>	\$4,912.51
<i>1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, West</i>	\$8,978.99
<i>Seneca Duplex</i>	\$9,042.97
Depreciation	\$126,121.78

## TOTAL EXPENDITURES

**\$4,807,370.20**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Officers of the Board

**President** | Karen Davis

**Vice President** | Barbara Beach

**Treasurer** | Stephanie Freitag

**Secretary** | Teresa Wolfgang



## Public Officials

John Bortz  
*Warren County Commissioner*

Barbara Beach  
*County of Forest Representative*

Karen Davis  
*City of Warren Representative*

Norman Wimer  
*Forest County Commissioner*

Teresa Wolfgang  
*Retired*

## Private Sector

Alice Fadale  
*Early Childhood Specialist*

Stephanie Freitag  
*Northwest Savings Bank*

Barb Litten  
*Barbara C. Litten, Esq.*

Father Matthew Scott  
*Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church*

Judy Silves  
*Warren County Assistance Office*

Honorable Maureen Skerda  
*Warren Co. Courthouse*

## Target Area Representatives

Erica Kridler  
Patricia Lewis  
D'Anna Merritt

## Executive Committee

Karen Davis, Chairperson  
Barbara Beach  
Stephanie Freitag  
Teresa Wolfgang

## Personnel Committee

Barbara Beach, Chairperson  
Maureen Skerda  
Alice Fadale  
Erica Kridler  
Barb Litten

## Program Compliance & Evaluation

Teresa Wolfgang, Chairperson  
John Bortz  
Patricia Lewis  
Father Matthew Scott

## Program Development & Finance

Stephanie Freitag, Chairperson  
Judy Silves  
Karen Davis  
Norman Wimer  
D'Anna Merritt



# 2014 - 2015 AGENCY STAFF LISTING

## EOC Administrative Staff

Robert A. Raible | Executive Director  
Brandy Ambrose | Housing Director  
Roxanne Carifo | Head Start Director  
Lyn Pryor | Community Development  
Julia Grant | Community Services  
Dawn Turner | Fiscal Operations  
Jeanne Fralick | Grants Administrator



## EOC STAFF (Alphabetically)

Melissa Baker  
Frederick Barney  
Dawn Bines  
Nancy Birt  
Julie Blum  
Carilee Branstrom  
Sheredith Briggs  
Shelly Brown  
Sherry Brzezinski  
Dorothy Butcher  
Sherri Carr  
Jane Chapman  
Jeannie Christman-Farren

Patrick Conklin  
Wayne Curry  
Daniel Dart  
Melissa Davis  
Debra Dunn  
Pamela Durnell  
Jeremy Earnhardt  
Jonilyn Eck  
Dirk Finley  
Cory Gano  
Laurel Gardner  
Roger Genberg  
Diane Graham  
Cynthia Gray  
Caitlin Hammersley  
Brittany Henry  
Melissa Jacobson  
Amanda Jespersen  
Mara Johnson  
Stephanie Johnson  
Jennifer Keyes  
Nicole Long  
Jill Lyon  
Laurie Maletto  
Laura May  
Barry McElroy  
Karissa McKown  
Bridget McPhillips  
Sheri Miller  
Annabel Moats  
Maria Munksgard  
Laura Myers  
Justin Ortega  
Suzanne Painter  
Heather Passmore  
Nicole Phillips  
Chad Ressler  
Shelly Ristau

Michael Rutenber  
Diane Sivak  
Kerwin Smith  
Loraine Smith  
Wendy Smith  
Tami Sorensen  
Jerome Stiner  
Paul Streich  
Shelly Teska  
Lauren Timco  
Amy Tipton  
Shelle Tubbs  
Penny Vermilya  
Jason Walters  
Nancy Walters  
Emma West  
Donna Wilcox  
Janene Zaffino



The Warren-Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. (EOC) is a Community Action Agency sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The EOC is supported by the Warren County and Forest County Commissioners as well as municipalities, agencies, and organizations in Northwestern Pennsylvania. This project was financed by a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

Warren-Forest Counties EOC is a private, 501(c)3 non-profit organization established in 1965. As such, donations to the Agency are tax-deductible. We appreciate the community's generosity in helping us fulfill our mission. The agency utilizes available funds to operate programs designed to reduce poverty in Warren and Forest Counties through various programs offered to low-income families and individuals. Since its inception, the agency has ventured to move individuals to a higher economic position through services provided and by instilling a self-reliant and self-sufficient attitude in each client. This is and will continue to be the agency's highest priority.

If you are interested in donating, please make checks or money orders payable to WFCEOC, 1209 Pennsylvania Avenue, West, PO Box 547, Warren, PA 16365. Donations of gently used clothes and housewares such as furniture, dishes, etc. are always greatly appreciated.

Please contact us at (814) 726-2400 for more information about our various programs and services.

*The Warren-Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. is registered as a Charitable Organization with the Department of State, Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations under The Solicitation of Funds for Charitable Purposes Act, 10 P. S. § 162.1 et seq., and is authorized to solicit charitable contributions under the conditions and limitations set forth under the Act.*