

2008 Program Impact

Since 1965, CVCAC has served low-income residents of Lamoille, Orange, and Washington counties and nine communities in Windsor, Addison, and Rutland Counties. Several agency programs provide assistance beyond our service area including: the Vermont Women's Business Center, Community Capital of Vermont, Vermont Family Matters, the Child Care Food Program, and the Vermont Car Coach project (formerly Community Action Motors).

In 2008, CVCAC served **14,923** individuals in **7,801** central Vermont households through our comprehensive programs and services. These numbers reflect a **46% increase** in individuals and a **58% increase** in families served when compared to 2007 data. Below are some of our program outcomes for the past year:

Family & Community Support Services

- **4,419** households with **8,481** individuals were provided with emergency services, including food from our food shelves, as well as referrals to other community resources to address critical needs.
- **53** families with **135** individuals avoided homelessness through our Family Housing Partnership program.
- **991** households with **2,429** family members used our Crisis Fuel program and were able to continue heating their homes.
- **725** households received free assistance with completing and filing taxes with the IRS receiving the full benefit of refunds, credits and rebates which were due. **549** households received **\$1,045,450** in refunds, credits and rebates.
- **29** households used our Low Income Taxpayer Clinic for help with IRS controversies and educational resources regarding their rights and responsibilities as taxpayers.
- **25** families used our Children's Hour supervised visitation and exchange services to allow noncustodial parents opportunities to visit with their children.

Head Start & Early Head Start

- **502** children participated in Head Start & Early Head Start programs that benefitted **601** additional family members.
- **25** Head Start parents participated in Vermont Family Matters to strengthen family relationships.
- **25** parents participated in our Family Literacy programs.

Community Capital of Vermont

- **26** loans, a combined total of **\$409,606**, and technical assistance was provided to local business owners through Community Capital of Vermont.

Community Economic Development

- **308** entrepreneurs received counseling and technical assistance on starting or expanding a business.
- **114** women received training, counseling and technical assistance from the Vermont Women's Business Center to pursue dreams of business ownership.
- **200** child care providers received nutrition education and were reimbursed for the cost of serving nutritious meals and snacks to the **1,957** children in their care.
- **104** individuals learned financial literacy and began accruing assets toward a home purchase, education, or business.

Weatherization/EnergySmart

- **263** housing units were weatherized benefitting **721** individuals. **48** households had faulty heating systems repaired and **51** households had systems replaced.

Transportation

- **8** individuals were issued cars through Community Action Motors prior to the program's closure and **5** individuals obtained loans and quality cars through the **Vermont Car Coach Program**, a new statewide partnership with the Vermont Department for Children and Families.

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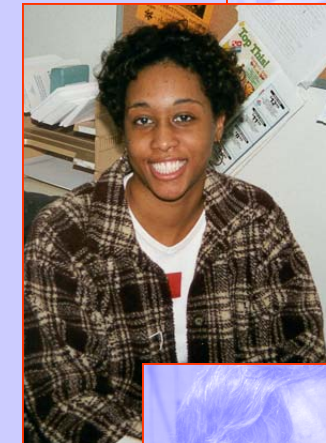
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2008 Annual Report

(October 1, 2007—September 30, 2008)



195 US Route 302—Berlin
Barre, VT 05641
(802)479-1053
www.cvcac.org

October 2008

A Time of Great Change

Dear Friends of Community Action:

Within a few weeks, our nation will elect the 44th president of the United States in a race with historic implications. Both political parties are running on platforms promising “change.” What that change will be, how it will be achieved, and who will benefit the most, will redefine our nation’s character in the eyes of the world for decades to come.

A lot has changed this year with tremendous consequences for the health and well being of our families, friends and communities. The American dream of homeownership has faded rapidly with rising rates of foreclosures and homelessness.

- The Vermont home foreclosure rate is up 41%.
- The number of homeless families has increased by 40%.

Hard work is no longer enough for families to succeed and prosper as employment opportunities with livable wages remain elusive.

- A two-income household both earning the new Vermont minimum wage of \$8.06/hour can expect to gross \$33,259—only 55% of the state’s median household income.
- The unemployment rate is up a full percentage point from this time last year.

Inflated costs of home heating fuels have many Vermonters uncertain of how they will stay safe and warm during the winter months ahead.

- Between 9/2007 and 9/2008, fuel oil is up 61%, kerosene is up 59%, and propane is up 39%.

And savings and investments rising and falling with the stock market roller coaster, coupled with rising health care costs, leave many retirees unsure of their future financial security.

For well over a year now, CVCAC staff has reported an increasing number of families and individuals seeking help. Many of the new faces that are coming through our doors represent folks who typically are not income eligible for public assistance programs—working, but no longer earning enough to get by. In just one year, the number of individuals served has grown by 46% and the number of households served by 58%. Other trends reported by CVCAC outreach specialists include:

- A 62% increase in the number of families seeking outreach and referral assistance.
- A 28% increase in families seeking heating fuel assistance.
- A 93% increase in the number of families seeking emergency food.
- A 39% increase in the number of families at risk for homelessness due to unpaid mortgages and rents.

This November we will cast our votes for the next president of our country, the person in whom we will entrust not only our future, but the future of many generations to come both here at home and abroad. The debates will be over, the campaign rallies silenced, and the political ads retired to the chronicles of American history. Only then will the course of real change begin and together we will create opportunities for communities to come together to ensure a socially and economically just future.

One thing is for certain: I know that whatever the future holds for our nation and our state, the outstanding staff of the Central Vermont Community Action Council will continue its dedicated service to alleviating the suffering caused by poverty, to working with families to secure opportunities to move beyond poverty, and to advocating for economic justice for all people. I am so proud to be a part of this exceptional team in this time of great change.

Warmest regards,




Hal Cohen, Executive Director

Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc.

Comparative Financial Statements - Preliminary and Unaudited

Fiscal Years Ending September 30, 2008 and 2007
Balance Sheet

	2008 *	2007
Assets		
Cash	\$1,474,000	\$1,054,771
Receivables	1,312,000	1,056,382
Prepaid Expenses	135,000	99,657
Inventory	53,000	51,760
Property, Plant & Equipment	1,327,000	1,451,220
Restricted Cash	788,000	826,140
Other Assets	24,000	33,519
Total Assets	\$5,113,000	\$4,573,449
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$1,129,000	\$974,560
Tangible Assets Deferred Revenue	719,000	786,725
Deferred Revenue	847,000	441,202
Notes Payable	693,000	718,823
Total Liabilities	3,388,000	2,921,310
Net Assets	1,725,000	1,652,139
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$5,113,000	\$4,573,449

Statement of Activities

	2008 *	2007
Revenue		
Grants and Contracts	\$11,267,000	\$9,613,868
Rents and Fees	962,000	1,105,445
Other Income	150,000	272,157
Total Revenue	12,379,000	10,991,470
Expenditures		
Housing	170,000	101,850
Head Start and Related	4,243,000	3,748,336
Family Community Support Services	1,870,000	1,410,736
Community Economic Development	2,427,000	2,309,307
Weatherization	2,195,000	1,854,658
Workforce Development/Community Action		
Motors/Vermont Car Coach	190,000	326,049
Administrative/Community Services	1,211,000	1,093,932
Total Expenditures	12,306,000	10,844,868
Change in Net Assets	\$73,000	\$146,602

Note: Amounts for the year ending September 30, 2008 are estimates made prior to the year end and prior to the annual audit. Final audited financial statements will be available at CVCAC's main office at 195 US Route 302-Berlin, Barre, VT 05641; (802) 479-1053. Amounts for the year ending September 2007 are based on audited financial statements.