

# Strength & Unity

## 2011 Annual Report

### Message from Executive Director

Dear Friends,

This year brutally revealed the reality of our challenging climate. The devastation left by May and August storms was staggering and will affect Vermont for years to come. Tropical Storm Irene impacted more than 1,300 homes, an estimated 40% were low income families, and countless local businesses. For those living on edge before, reserves are nonexistent, aid is not enough and rebuilding is overwhelming. After each flood, we responded swiftly with on-the-ground support, even as some of our own offices were damaged and staff families were personally affected. Many community members joined with us by donating or volunteering. **The collective response reminds me of how special Vermont is – a place where people reach out to help friends, neighbors and even strangers.**

We also live in a challenging economic climate. Almost four years since the start of the recession, Vermonters still can't find jobs and families still struggle to meet basic needs. Worse, poverty is on the increase. The US Census Bureau released new data this year. Record numbers of people are poor – one out of every eight Vermonters now lives in poverty. More than a third of Vermonters are low income or living below \$44,000 for a family of four. Median household income has dropped, and the number of Vermonters relying on food stamps has increased by 52% in just the last few years.

These statistics are a wake-up call to policymakers that we cannot have an economic recovery while leaving millions of our neighbors behind. But nationally, there continues to be demands for drastic cuts to Head Start and the Community Service Block Grant, the central source of funding for anti-poverty Community Action Agencies. These cuts would cripple poverty relief and community development work across the nation and right here in Vermont.

Be it response to natural disasters or economic challenges, it is clear that we are strongest when we stand together. Whether a local food drive, testimony at the State House, rebuilding a home or creating circles of support for young families, Community Action brings Vermonters together to connect and respond to challenges and lift one another up. We reached 9,373 households this year – helping 18,222 Vermonters build better lives for themselves, their families and our community.

**As Vermonters have come together to respond to Irene, we must respond together to lift families up from poverty – to provide a foothold on the ladder to economic security.** Thank you for the opportunity to work with you in this endeavor, and special thanks to our caring board and staff whose dedication and determination make a daily difference for Vermont children, families, individuals and seniors.

Warm Regards,



Central Vermont  
**Community  
Action**

Council



# Accomplishments

Since 1965, we've been creating economic opportunity for low income Vermonters in Lamoille, Orange, and Washington counties and nearby towns. This year **18,222 Vermonters in 9,373 households** were a part of **Central Vermont Community Action Council**. We reached an additional 2,827 Vermont families statewide through initiatives to help women entrepreneurs, provide energy retrofits on multi-unit housing, teach consumers how to save energy and strengthen family relationships.

## Stability and Hope

We helped thousands of our neighbors meet critical needs – **13,119 people in 5,822 households found emergency support** for food, fuel and utilities, housing and more, a 22% increase in the number of people served from the previous year.

We disbursed **\$1,159,839 for fuel and utilities to help 2,290 families keep warm**, and 61 homes had faulty heating systems repaired or replaced at no charge.

Our housing counselors helped **646 families to find and keep safe, secure homes** – including many homeless. We **arranged emergency housing or dental care to help 1,359 people** as the central Vermont door to state general assistance.

## Gaining Financial Ground

Our financial and credit initiatives **equipped more than 400 people with the know-how to seize control of their economic future**. People met with financial counselors or attended classes to learn about credit, insurance, retirement, banking and more.

Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program put more than **\$1.5 million in tax refunds into Vermont pockets to help 858 families** stretch paychecks, catch up or invest in their future. Our Low Income Taxpayer Clinic helped 29 households resolve IRS controversies.

Through Tangible Assets, our IDA matched savings initiative, 81 people accrued **\$98,200 in savings and match towards an asset that will provide long-term economic security**.

## Getting to Work

Our Vermont Car Coach **helped 248 people find and maintain reliable cars** so that they could get to work or school. Our auto experts provided advice and referrals, workshops on car ownership and safe driving, and down payment and loan guarantee assistance.

We provided coaching and **work experience to help 66 people** on public assistance get ready for employment.

We spearheaded Vermont Green, a statewide public-private partnership to support **green job training and career services for 1,417 Vermonters** – 184 central Vermonters (1,335 across Vermont) earned credentials to find and keep jobs in renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and more.

## Energy Savings

Our home weatherization crews completed **energy audits and retrofits on 358 low-income homes**. We led the Vermont Fuel Efficiency Partnership, which completed **deep energy retrofits for 55 multi-family buildings statewide** with 580 units and 1,008 residents.

We replaced old appliances in 62 low-income homes with energy efficient ones at no charge and launched the statewide Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers initiative which **installed solar technologies and taught energy saving practices to 682 low income families**.

At do-it-yourself Weatherization Skillshops held statewide, **95 people gained hands-on training and building science knowledge** to make energy-saving home improvements.



# Building a Better Future

# Together



# Lifting Each Other Up

## Healthy Communities

We helped **210 home child care providers serve nutritious meals and snacks** by enrolling them in the federal Child Care Food Program. Financial reimbursements supported affordable care for working families and healthy eating for young children.

When budget pressures increase, families buy less or lower quality food to make ends meet. Last year, 9,256 boxes of food from **our food shelves made all the difference for 6,242 children and adults**. We hosted cooking classes where 520 people learned new ways to stretch dollars and put healthy meals on the table.

## Growing Local Businesses

Our business development work helped Vermonters move out of poverty and off public assistance. The Vermont Women's Business Center provided business training, networking, counseling and resources to 254 women statewide, and our Micro Business Development Program worked with 354 local entrepreneurs. We helped central Vermonters **create 30 full-time equivalent jobs for themselves and others by starting and growing 45 businesses**.

## Strengthening Families with Children

Head Start and Early Head Start centers, home visitors, partnering classrooms and child care providers **prepared 533 children birth to age five for success in school and life**. We helped 454 families connect with comprehensive resources to achieve family goals.

Vermont Family Matters gave **175 parents resources and tools to strengthen family relationships** and communication. Our Family Literacy Center helped 21 teen parents gain job and life skills and create literacy rich homes for their children.

Children's Hour, our supervised visitation and exchange services, gave noncustodial parents in 32 families a safe and comfortable place to visit with or transfer their children.



*“Right after the flood,  
we were not sure how  
we would recover, but  
your help provided us  
with the answer.”*

*- Business Owner*

## Flood Relief & Recovery

Tropical Storm Irene and earlier May flooding pushed many struggling low income Vermonters closer to the edge. The numbers are daunting – Irene displaced more than 400 people and destroyed more than 100 homes across our multi-county service area.

In the immediate aftermath, we ran on-the-ground assessments including a census in affected towns and local presentations. We provided phones, gift cards for personal items and emergency food. We moved people out of their car and flood-drenched homes into emergency shelter. We continue to help families find transitional and permanent housing. We made referrals to resources and partners including FEMA, United Way and others. In Barre, we staffed a downtown flood center from June through August, and a full-time staff person is onsite at the Waterbury Disaster Center.

We are working hand-in-hand with local and regional recovery efforts, participating in and arranging disaster case management discussions and training. We're honored to act as fiscal agent for various local relief funds, and as fund administrator for the Vermont Irene Flood Relief Fund for small businesses, which has raised and distributed more than **\$332,000** to more than **184** businesses to date. Our weatherization team is providing advice and support on rebuilding, moisture testing and heating system purchases including home visits. In partnership with Efficiency Vermont, we're presenting *Button Up After the Flood* workshops to help people in flood-affected communities make their homes more energy efficient as they rebuild.

The road to recovery is long, and Community Action will be there for each step as families and businesses regain their footing and we rebuild our communities together.

# Financial Statements

Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2011\*

## Statement of Activities

### Statement of Financial Position

	2011*	2010
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$ 621,684	\$ 981,959
Receivables	2,152,740	1,607,808
Capital Campaign Grants and Pledges Receivable	1,139,637	-
Prepaid Expenses	142,809	77,699
Inventory	220,057	193,584
Property, Plant, & Equipment	2,651,467	1,538,169
Restricted Cash	668,678	950,827
Other Assets	51,815	42,092
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 7,648,887</b>	<b>\$ 5,392,138</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$ 1,867,776	\$ 1,506,303
Refundable Advances	1,135,155	975,604
Notes Payable	1,323,447	643,997
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,326,378</b>	<b>3,125,904</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,322,510</b>	<b>2,266,234</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 7,648,887</b>	<b>\$ 5,392,138</b>

### REVENUE

	2011*	2010
Grants and Contracts	\$ 16,447,074	\$ 14,512,244
Fees, rents and other	1,322,354	1,010,697
Capital Campaign Grants & Contributions	1,234,043	-
Donations	532,759	228,785
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>19,536,229</b>	<b>15,751,726</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Housing	87,497	103,789
Head Start and Related	4,298,607	4,621,005
Family and Community Support Services	2,735,460	2,103,346
Community Economic Development	1,942,775	2,089,615
Weatherization	4,641,902	3,451,034
Workforce Development	2,604,851	615,038
Transportation Initiative	175,035	84,994
Community Services/Plant Fund	389,741	757,387
Fundraising	52,845	-
General/Administrative	1,551,241	1,816,577
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>18,479,954</b>	<b>15,642,784</b>

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PRIOR TO EXTRAORDINARY REVENUE/(EXPENSE)

	1,056,275	108,942
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	-	(27,804)
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,056,276</b>	<b>\$ 81,138</b>

\*Note: Amounts for the year ending September 30, 2011 are estimates made prior to the annual audit. Final audited financial statements will be available at our main office, 195 US Route 302 – Berlin, Barre, Vermont 05641, (802) 479-1053. September 2010 figures are based on audited financial statements.



## Leadership

### 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Sherman, *President*  
 Lori Belding, *Vice President*  
 Floyd Nease, *Treasurer*  
 Rubin Bennett, *Secretary*  
 Sandra Lovejoy  
 Shirley Mason  
 Robert Nutting  
 Connie Button  
 David Raymond  
 Donny Osman  
 Barbara Vacarr  
 Eleanor Ott  
 Cindy Senning  
 Carol O'Neill  
 Deb Markowitz  
 Mary Hooper  
 Anita Chadderton

### ALTERNATES

Jae Santa Anna  
 Connie DeCoste  
 John Paterson

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hal Cohen

*Community Action is uniquely governed by a tripartite board of directors representing the low income community, the private sector and public officials.*

## Main Offices

### WASHINGTON COUNTY (HEADQUARTERS) & BARRE AREA FOOD SHELF

195 US RT 302 – Berlin  
 Barre, VT 05641  
 1-800-639-1053 or (802) 479-1053

### LAMOILLE COUNTY & BRADLEY FOOD SHELF

197 Harrel Street  
 Morrisville, VT 05661  
 1-800-639-8710 or (802) 888-7993

### ORANGE COUNTY EAST & BRADFORD AREA FOOD SHELF

22 Whistle Stop Way  
 Bradford, VT 05033  
 (802) 222-5419

### ORANGE COUNTY WEST – RANDOLPH

35 Ayers Brook Road  
 Randolph, VT 05060  
 1-800-846-9506 or (802) 728-9506

**www.cvcac.org**  
**(802) 479-1053**  
**1-800-639-1053**



# 2011 Community Action Impact

358 homes in central Vermont made warmer and more energy efficient for 691 people.

\$934,958 to child care providers for meals serving 1,470 kids.

6,292 people received 9,256 boxes of food, each enough to feed their family three days.

\$98,200 saved by 81 people, 34 people invested in their home, business or education.

113 cars purchased and 38 repaired.

646 families got help to find and keep safe, secure housing.

\$1,159,839 helped 2,290 families keep the heat on in their homes.

95 people learned how to make energy-saving home improvements on their own.

45 local businesses started or expanded, creating 30 jobs.

533 young children prepared for success in school and life.

169 solar hot air heaters installed and 682 Vermont families learned new ways to save energy.

\$1,514,710 in tax refunds received by 858 low income households.

184 central Vermonters - 1,335 across Vermont - trained and earned industry credentials to find or keep green jobs.



*“When people think I could never do that, that’s where Community Action comes in with Yes, you can and we’re going to help.”*

-Community Member

**Photos L to R, Top to Bottom**

Toddler paints on an Early Head Start home visit.

Micro Business client Sylvia Yowe at work in her massage therapy space.

Food Shelf manager Jen Evans helps a volunteer unload donations.

Vermont Green trainees attend the advanced photovoltaic training at SolarFest.

Mom and daughter work together at a Head Start family outing.

Car Coach Eileen Nooney teaches young drivers vehicle maintenance.

Vermont Green trainee Devon Dougall at work as a weatherization apprenticeship with grant partner Vermont Works for Women.

Smiling kids from Lamoille HomeStart, a Head Start family child care partnership.

Teen parents from the Family Literacy Center unveil Planting Seeds of Change Murals in Barre with Mayor Thom Lauzon, youth artists, staff and community members.

Seamstress Sarah Green at market, showcasing the design business she grew with her matched savings.

Central Vermont  
**Community Action**  
Council

(802) 479-1053 • 1-800-639-1053 • [www.cvcac.org](http://www.cvcac.org)