

Celebrating



**Cortland County Community Action
Program, Inc.
(CAPCO)
*2024 Annual Report***

***Helping People, Changing Lives
Since 1974!***

2024: A Year of Pride & Celebration!

Greg Richards,
Executive Director

2024 was a year filled with pride as we celebrated CAPCO's 50th anniversary as Cortland County's Community Action Agency. Our Annual Report reflects high-quality programs and expanded services, marking 50 years of community impact. This year also commemorated the 60th anniversary of Community Action nationwide, with the signing of the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964.

CAPCO's recognition soared with special events and initiatives, educating the community on poverty challenges and realities. These efforts reinforced the importance of our mission, and the ongoing work needed to address the systemic causes & effects of poverty in our communities and beyond.

Looking ahead, we're proud members of the County's Housing & Homelessness Coalition, playing a key role in the establishment of a temporary day center while planning for a permanent solution for the growing unhoused population. CAPCO continues to settle into our recent expansion of WIC services in Chenango County while remaining the Weatherization Assistance provider for our neighboring Tompkins County. Our Early Childhood Development offerings have been restructured to meet childcare needs, expanding infant and toddler slots and offering standalone Universal Pre-K.

None of CAPCO's achievements would be possible without our dedicated staff, leadership team, Board of Directors, Head Start Policy Council, partners, and community stakeholders. This Annual Report is dedicated to you and the impact you make every day. We are CAPCO, Cortland's designated Community Action Agency with additional services in Chenango and Tompkins counties!

Greg Richards





CAPCO Mission

CAPCO is dedicated to providing and advocating for community-wide actions and programs that increase individuals' dignity and self-reliance and improve community conditions, engaging all sectors of the community in Cortland County's fight against poverty.



Community Action Promise

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.

CAPCO Leadership

Governing Board of Directors:

- 1/3 publicly elected officials/representatives
- 1/3 consumer-sector representatives
- 1/3 private sector

President: Shelley Warnow

Vice President: Bille MacNabb

Treasurer: Doug Bentley

Secretary: Lynne Sypher

Agency Directors:

- **Greg Richards**, Executive Director
- **Kirsten Parker**, Deputy Director
- **Brandy Strauf**, Family Development Director
- **Jennifer Geibel**, Early Childhood Dev. Director
- **Denise Peroulakis**, Buildings & Maintenance Director
- **Stacey Henry**, Energy Services Director
 - *Newly named Director in 2024!*
- **Loriann Spatola-Davis**, WIC Director
 - *Newly named Director in 2024!*

Head Start Policy Council: A group dedicated of Head Start and Early Head Start parents and community members who help lead and make decisions about their program as a sub-governing body of the CAPCO Board of Directors.



At a Glance

Annual Agency Budget: \$12,400,000+

295+ valued staff on payroll – 125 Agency, 170 CDS

Serving more than 5,200 individuals, 1,480+ families

Major Program Offerings:

- Consumer-Directed Services
- Energy Services
- Family Development
- Early Childhood Development
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)



**Cortland County's
Community Action Agency
...with additional services in Chenango &
Tompkins Counties!**





Energy Services

- **487 homes received weatherization services through our Energy Services programs:**
 - Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
 - Weatherization Readiness Funds (WRF)
 - Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
 - EmPowerNY NYSERDA Program
 - HEAP repairs through Cortland & Tompkins counties
 - Energy Savers fee-for-service



***Serving Cortland
& Tompkins
Counties!***



Family Development

129 students enrolled in the Adult Education Program

14 Adult Education students received their High School Diploma

135 children were fed on the weekends in the Snackpack Program

120 community members applied for SNAP benefits

1,326 community members used the Family Essentials Program

87 people received services in rural areas of the county

55 people with a housing insecurity received a CAPCO Cares Bag

141 people with food insecurity received emergency food

47 community members received emergency utility assistance

14 people received emergency transportation assistance

6 community members received emergency work support

3 community Members received emergency medical assistance

134 children received diapers in our Diaper Distribution Program

58 new parents enrolled in the Healthy Families Program

570 individuals attended a Community Action Angels event

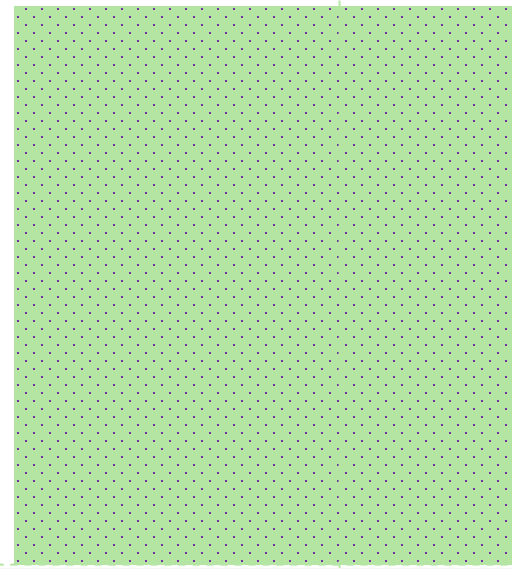
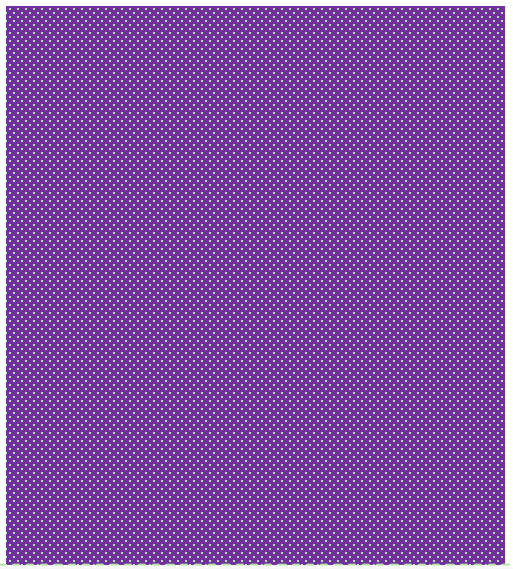
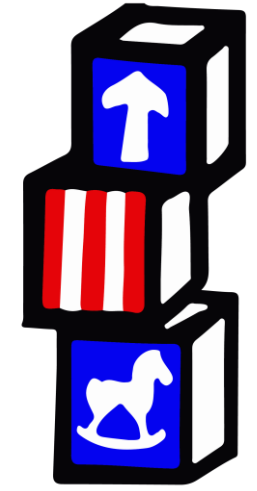
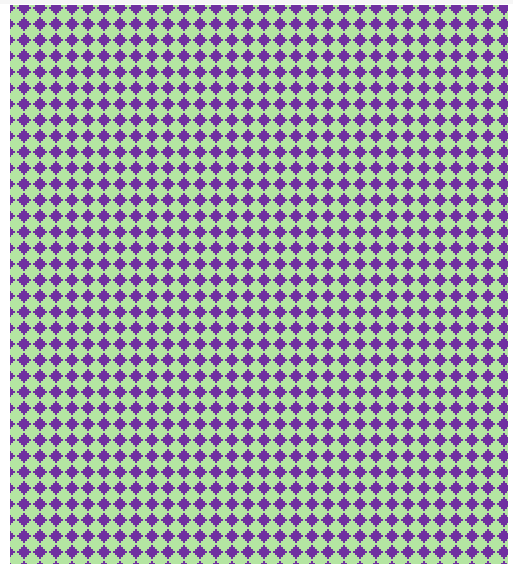
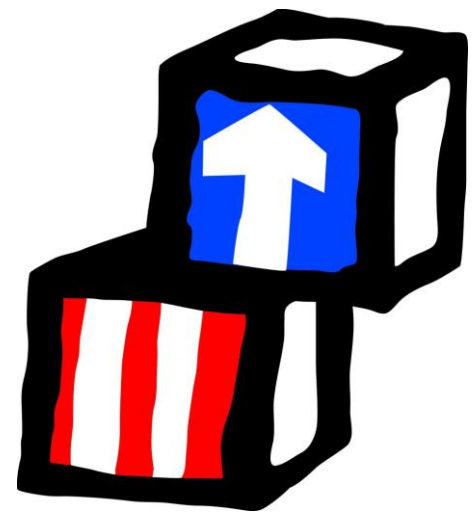


Early Childhood Development

Head Start, Early Head Start & Universal Pre-K

- **188** children enrolled in Head Start (ages 3-4) or Early Head Start (birth to age 2)

- **140** children HS/EHS children demonstrated Kindergarten school readiness



Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

*Now serving both Cortland AND Chenango
Counties!*

- **1,998** WIC participants served!
 - Cortland County: **1,141**
 - Chenango County: **857**
- Farmer's Market checks issued: **1,200**
- *Highest* participation rate in *entire* region at **94.22%**!



Consumer-Directed Services

- **174** community members received home health aide services in the Consumer-Directed Care Program(s)
- **225** Home Health Aides maintained employment with Consumers
- **149** Rides were provided in our Volunteer Transportation Program
- **102** Individuals received rides in our Volunteer Transportation Program



More Stats to Know!

Over 10,000 volunteer hours donated to the agency

Nearly \$500,000 in donated items

5,022 referrals were made for other needed services

5 Child Development Associate (CDA) Instructors on staff

7 Early Childhood Development staff received CDA certifications

2 Family Development Credential (FDC) Instructors and 9 advisors on staff

8 FDC students graduated with certification

2 Energy Services professionals received Building Performance Institute (BPI) certifications

1 WIC Nutritionist became a certified International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)

1 graduate from the New York State Community Action Association's Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI)

1 Director sat for and received the Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) certification, Community Action's highest designation!



The graphic features a large, stylized number '50' in a light purple color on the left side. On the right side, there is a circular logo with a green and white design. The logo contains the text 'HELPING PEOPLE • CHANGING LIVES' at the top and 'SINCE 1974' at the bottom. The word 'CARGO' is faintly visible in the center of the logo. The main text is centered over the '50' and the logo.

50th Anniversary
Programs & Initiatives

Chamber Business Afterhours

April 17, 2024

- 100 business professionals and community members!
- Catered by Los Lagos and McGraw Box Brewing.
- Building Tours & Program Displays!
- The *buzz* of the town!





4th Annual Golf Tournament

May 18, 2024



- **Walden Oaks Country Club**
- **20 teams!**
- **5 Title Sponsors!**
 - **21 Hole Sponsors**
 - **18 Associate Sponsors**

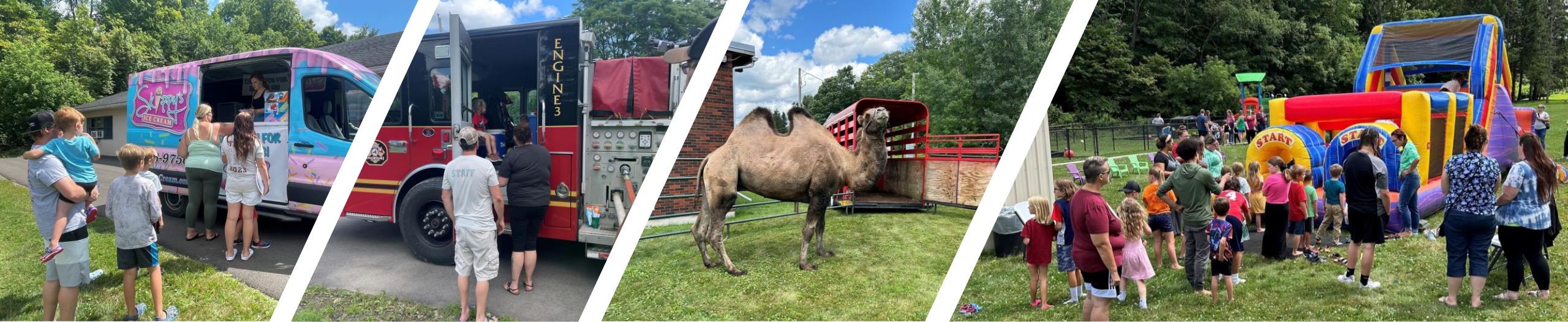


Legislative Day & Open House

June 12, 2024

- **NYS Commissioner of Health**
 - Dr. James V. McDonald
 - Hosted a regional healthcare roundtable
- **NYS Senator Lea Webb**
 - NYS Senate Proclamation
- **NYS Assemblymember Anna Kelles**
 - NYS Assembly Proclamation
- **County Legislator and CAPCO Board Member, Doug Bentley**
 - Cortland County Legislative Proclamation
- **Main Office now the Lindy Glennon Center for Community Action!**





CAPCO Field Day

July 25, 2024

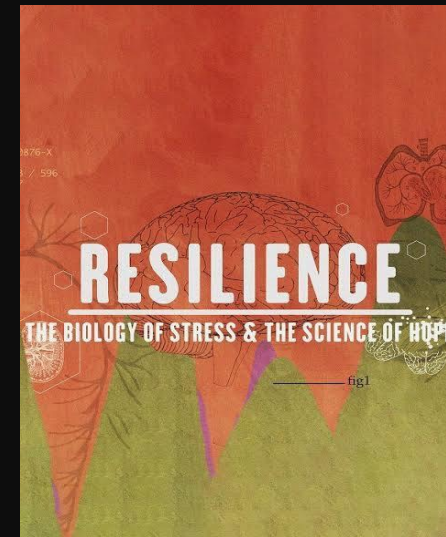
- 400+ community members!
- Resource Fair
- Family Carnival:
 - Achoo the Camel
 - Face Painting
 - Bounce House
 - Lawn Games
 - Music
 - Snacks
 - Ice Cream Truck



ACE/N.E.A.R Science Training

September 25, 2024

- Screening of the limited release film *Resilience: The Biology of Stress & The Science of Hope*
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)/N.E.A.R Science Training
 - *Neurobiology, Epigenetics, ACEs, Resilience*
- Trained **25** community members & Agency partners
- Cortland's Living History Center



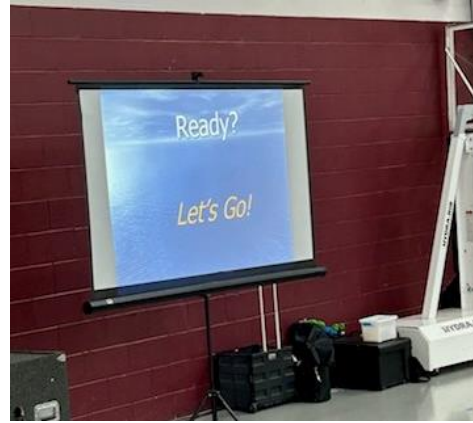
Bradwell, Jen. *Resilience: The Biology of Stress and The Science of Hope*. KPJR Films, 2016, <https://kplrfilms.co/resilience/>. Accessed 5 Nov. 2024



Community Poverty Simulation

October 16, 2024

- 40+ community members in attendance
- Hosted at Grace Christian Fellowship Church
- A “month” in poverty through 4 simulated 15-minute weeks
- Insightful discussion & reflection followed





Community Action Turns 60!

- Pres. Lyndon B. Johnson signed the **Economic Opportunity Act** on **August 20, 1964**, paving the way for Community Action Agencies across the country!
- CAPCO was first formed with Head Start in 1973 and formally incorporated as Cortland's Community Action Agency on **March 1, 1974!**





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