



Schenectady Community Action Program, Inc.  
913 Albany Street  
Schenectady, NY 12307

518-374-9181  
[www.scapny.org](http://www.scapny.org)



## Poverty Hurts... But You can Help!

### Where Are They Now?

Crystal Hodge embodies perseverance. Having experienced tremendous adversity and hardship in her life, Crystal demonstrated great courage and the resiliency necessary to put herself on a pathway for success. Experiencing a difficult situation of crisis involving domestic violence and homelessness, she sought out SCAP for assistance. SCAP provided her with transitional housing and job training to help her regain her footing and gain fresh perspective as she journeyed toward becoming self-reliant.

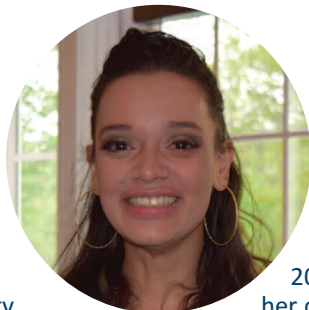
This was several years ago. Today, she is a hard-working mother who balances working full-time and raising her two children. Crystal has been employed at the Glendale Nursing Home for the past six years working mostly evening and overnight shifts, which has made spending time with her children a challenge. Recently, she was offered the day shift at work which means she will have a more appealing schedule; one that offers the continuity necessary to allow her to

spend evenings at home raising her kids and watching them grow.

This past May, Crystal was honored during SCAP's 50th anniversary Salute to Community Action event, where she was one of five individuals who received the first Father Michael J. Hogan Spirit of Community Action awards. This award is presented to those individuals who have overcome great obstacles in pursuit of their dreams and an opportunity for a better life.

This was a very important night for Crystal, not merely due to the fact she was honored with a special award, but also because it was during this event that she learned the exciting news that she would be receiving a new home from Habitat for Humanity; something she had been working toward for nearly a year.

Attending a groundbreaking ceremony for her new home this past June,



she described the feeling as a dream come true for her family. The construction of the house is expected to be completed in the summer of 2017, at which point Crystal and her children will have a place to call their own.

Even with things going well at home and work, Crystal is not one to adopt an attitude of complacency. She continues to seek out and pursue opportunities that will lead to self-improvement and a better life for her family. This mindset is perfectly illustrated by her desire to take the police officers exam in hopes of gaining admittance to the police academy and ultimately, becoming a police officer.

To learn more about the programs and services SCAP offers to help people experiencing crisis improve their lives, visit [www.scapny.org](http://www.scapny.org).

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# SCAP Today

Fall 2016



## The Power of Partnership: Community Crisis Network

Partnership plays a crucial role in SCAP's ability to help families and individuals experiencing poverty improve their lives. Finding opportunities to bring organizations together to work cooperatively in an effort to achieve common goals for the good of the community is vital to SCAP's mission. This perspective is well demonstrated by SCAP's tagline, which boasts, "Creating Opportunity in Partnership". However, this phrase represents much more than just a tagline for SCAP; rather, it fully exemplifies the agency's desire to prioritize the needs of the community by endorsing a collaborative and inclusive approach in seeking creative, sustainable solutions to assist people in crisis.

One of the most successful model partnerships in Schenectady is the Community Crisis Network (CCN). Recognizing that greater community engagement is an essential means to providing the most comprehensive help to customers, SCAP, Schenectady Inner City Ministry, Catholic Charities of Schenectady County, the Jewish community and area congregations established CCN in 1998. CCN has grown over the years and now also comprises City Mission of Schenectady, and the YWCA of NENY as active partners. Area congregations continue to play a crucial role in CCN by providing resources for an emergency fund that is used for direct assistance to people in need.

The CCN was formed for the purpose of providing direct crisis intervention services to people who are unable to meet their basic needs, with a focus on treating people with dignity, conducting a comprehensive assessment and reducing duplication of effort by

area congregations and agencies serving people in need. In addition to crisis intervention and counseling services, other CCN services include homeless prevention and eviction court advocacy; access to emergency housing, food, clothing, household furnishings and other resources, assistance with applications for food stamps, Medicaid, public assistance and heating assistance.

SCAP's commitment to innovation enhances the quality of programs and services offered, while enabling the CCN to remain a dynamic force for good that continues to expand its reach throughout Schenectady. Demonstrating strong proficiency in the area of navigation, SCAP's community resource navigators advocate for people experiencing crisis by assisting them to obtain the basic resources they desperately need. In addition to connecting people to community resources, navigators also provide case management to help further ameliorate crisis situations.

SCAP currently operates 5 CCN sites throughout Schenectady and is in the process of adding two additional sites. Having a sustained presence in the community is a major component of CCN's success as it allows people to receive services where they are.

During the 12-month period ending September 30, 2016, over



1,934 households were helped by CCN. Of these, 530 received assistance with utility bills and emergency fuel; 408 received transportation to work, medical appointments and other appointments; 417 received food stamps and food assistance; 705 households avoided eviction and homelessness.

The emergency fund is used when no other resource is available and helps with rental security deposits, emergency fuel, prescription co-payments, work clothing, and other essential needs.

As community resources shrink and traditional resources are reduced, CCN relies more on the emergency fund to prevent hunger, homelessness and other crises that affect people in poverty on a regular basis. Please consider a gift to CCN by designating your donation to the Emergency Fund. You can go to SCAP's website to donate (designate CCN), or send a check payable to Catholic Charities – CCN Emergency Fund, at 41 N. Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203.

If you or your organization would like a CCN presentation, please email [nwood@scapny.org](mailto:nwood@scapny.org). We look forward to working with you to spread the word about CCN, its partners and the good work being done collaboratively to serve people in need in our community.

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Schenectady Community Action Program

**SCAP is your neighborhood resource center**

- Employment Services**
- Community Resource Navigation**
- Housing Solutions**
- Early Learning Programs**

**SCAP**  
 913 Albany Street  
 Schenectady, NY 12307  
 Monday-Friday | 8:30 am-4:30 pm  
 Wednesday until 6:30 pm

**Ellis Health Center**  
 600 McClellan Street  
 Schenectady, NY 12304  
 Monday-Friday | 8:30 am-4:30 pm

**Hometown Health Centers**  
 1044 State Street  
 Schenectady, NY 12307  
 Thursday | 9:00 am-4:00 pm

**Schenectady County Public Library**  
 99 Clinton Avenue  
 Schenectady, NY 12305  
 Wednesday | 10:30 am-6:30 pm

**Schenectady County Community College**  
 78 Washington Avenue  
 Schenectady, NY 12305  
 Hours for students and faculty  
 Please call for availability



## Greetings from SCAP's Executive Director



Dear Friends,

What an exciting and memorable year it has been for SCAP! This past spring SCAP hosted its golden anniversary event to commemorate 50 years of committed service to the Schenectady community. Our Salute to Community Action event marked the culmination of a yearlong time of celebration and reflection. This time was filled with many wonderful experiences: learning more about the history surrounding the inception of Community Action; rediscovering our roots while reminiscing about the positive impact SCAP has had over the decades; and most importantly, re-connecting and engaging with the community we are honored to serve.

Feeling revitalized in our mission, we are carrying this momentum forward as we begin crafting the next chapter of our history in the fight against poverty. While recent reports published suggest that poverty is beginning to decline slightly across the country, we realize there is still a great deal of work to be done. The fact remains that poverty is an unfortunate and difficult reality for many of the most vulnerable people residing in our local community. And this is something we are determined to change.

As we work to build on our past accomplishments, SCAP continues to prioritize the core values of Community Action by offering opportunity and hope to those who require it most. Thanks to the sustained efforts of our dedicated staff and volunteers, SCAP makes a difference every day in the lives of families and individuals in need by pursuing creative solutions that are effective in resolving complex problems such as homelessness, food insecurity, eviction, lack of clothing, health care needs, and many others. SCAP's continuum of services helps people develop a firm foundation and empowers them as they work toward achieving self-reliance.

Poverty is not simply an individual or family problem, but rather a serious difficulty with far-reaching consequences for the community as a whole. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the entire community, (individuals, businesses, community agencies), to work collectively to help alleviate the symptoms and eradicate the causes of poverty in Schenectady.

We all have a role to play in building a stronger, more cohesive community that inspires hope and opportunity, particularly for those struggling with poverty and crisis. It is my sincere hope that during this season of generosity and giving, you will consider partnering with SCAP to support our mission and our important work in the community. I encourage you to help make a difference in the way that is most meaningful to you: donating, volunteering your time, communicating about SCAP, and/or advocating for the low-income community. Together we can change lives for the better!

Deb Schimpf

**SCAP Board of Directors**

- |                 |                   |             |
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| Maxine Brisport | Margaret Holoday  | Dawn Oliver |
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| Beth Fucci      | Marlene Mauriello | Lisa Weber  |

## SCAP's Extended Year Program Fosters Growth in Early Learners

Early learning and Head Start programs provide quality early childhood education that help set children on a pathway for success in school and later on in life. As active learners experiencing rapid brain development, children are able to absorb and retain a great amount of information. Seeking to fully maximize children's capabilities during this critical stage of brain growth, SCAP's early learning program uses a research-based curriculum that focuses on several key areas of child development. It also incorporates a wide variety of learning activities geared toward broadening children's minds and experiences as they prepare to continue their educational journey in kindergarten.

However, one of the most significant obstacles facing young students is summer learning loss. With the academic year running from September to June, research confirms that students, and low-income students in particular, are extremely susceptible to learning loss during the summer months when not actively engaged in a comprehensive learning environment. Research shows that students are at risk of forgetting the information and skills they learned during the year, and also experience a regression in socialization skills.

In an effort to minimize the effects of summer learning loss, SCAP's early learning program created a summer program, which functioned as a natural extension of the school year. The benefits of this type of continuity are three-fold: it keeps the children's minds engaged in learning mode longer; allows them to further develop important social skills by interacting and playing with their peers in a safe environment; and helps maintain healthy eating habits through the serving of nutritious meals.

The 2016 extended year program operated for 6 weeks serving 92 children daily. This year the program served both three and four year olds, incorporating classroom-based instruction as well as enriching experiences outside the classroom. Some of the themes explored during the Extended Year included, Camping and Great Outdoors, Pedestrian Safety, Bike Safety, Ocean Life, Insects and Gardening.

Our outcomes confirm that SCAP's extended year program accelerates development and mitigates summer learning loss as participating children demonstrated continued growth. At the conclusion of the 2015-2016 extended year program, 93% of children met or exceeded widely held expectations in social emotional development, which amounted to a 15% increase from the spring checkpoint. In addition, 89% of children met or exceeded widely held expectations in cognitive development, which also marked a 15% increase from spring checkpoint. Ultimately, children who attended the program left better prepared for kindergarten or entering one of our four-year-old classrooms in September.

Early childhood education is vitally important, and even more so for children from impoverished environments, so please consider SCAP as your charity of choice. Together, we can change the life of a child.

For more information about SCAP's Early Learning Program, please contact Adelaide Haberbush at, [ahaberbush@scapny.org](mailto:ahaberbush@scapny.org).



Bringing about real change in our community starts with kind and generous giving. As a non-profit, we rely on charitable contributions to help support our programs and services. Now, more than ever, we are seeking your support for these valuable programs.

As we enter into the season of giving, please consider making a donation to SCAP. Your thoughtful contribution makes a significant impact in so many ways: It ensures that families and individuals experiencing a crisis of basic needs have access to food, shelter, and safety; it provides job training opportunities to help people establish self-reliance; and it supports the early education of children as they prepare for school. Nothing is more empowering than showing compassion for those in need.

To donate, please use the enclosed envelope or make a donation online using PayPal at [www.scapny.org](http://www.scapny.org)

*Because we are a non-profit, 501c3 tax-exempt organization, all contributions to SCAP are tax deductible as allowed by law.*

