

Tompkins Community Action

May 2022

News & Updates



Issue 13

May is Community Action Month!!!

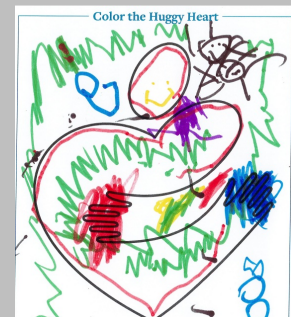
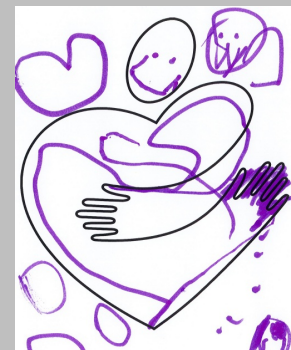
May is **Community Action Month!** We are celebrating the great work Community Action Agencies & State Associations are doing across the network all month long.

The *Community Action Program* was created by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act as a means to fight against poverty by helping the poor. Its mission is to help low-income families and individuals gain self-sufficiency and exit poverty.

TCACTION is one of over 1000 organizations promoting self sufficiency using Community Action Program concepts across the United States.

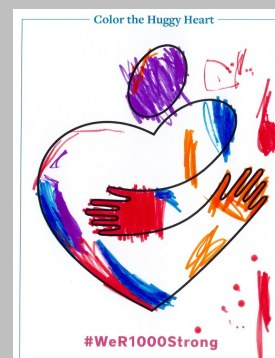
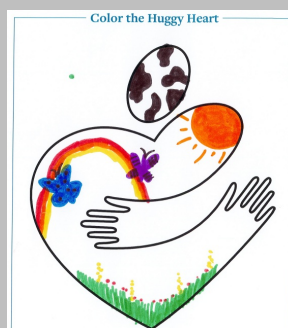
Community Action is about putting communities at the heart of local services to meet changing community needs.

Want to join our celebration? **Color a Huggy Heart** (pictured here) and post a picture of it to our socials or stop in and hang it in the lobby of our main office.



If you would like to participate stop in at our main office for a huggy heart coloring sheet or email info@tcaction.org to have one sent to you.

For more celebration ideas follow us on our socials!



Hiring Events



Southern Tier Regional Virtual Career Fair

From May 18 to May 19

Join us at the Department of Labor, Southern Tier Regional Virtual Job Fair on Thursday, May 19, 2022 from 11am to 2pm

[Click here to register!](#)



Join us at the Shops At Ithaca Mall on Wednesday, June 1 to see our available career opportunities and talk to staff who work for TCAction about their experiences.

Interested in learning more about our current opportunities?

[Click here](#)

2022 Joe Cassaniti Community Service Award

This award was established at TCAction in 1996 by Walter Gangl, an attorney, and former Ithaca resident, to honor the work of local businessman and community activist, *Joe Cassaniti*. Joe has been an ongoing influence in reshaping the West End business district, provided encouragement to dozens of young people in area schools, and inspired citizens all over Tompkins County to “get involved.”

In keeping with this attitude and vision for the future, the Joe Cassaniti Community Service Award is given annually to a high school senior in Tompkins County, who has demonstrated their commitment to the community through volunteerism.

**The 2022 Joe Cassaniti Community Service Award Winner is....
Ethan Musgrove-Robinson**



Ethan, a senior at Lehman Alternative Community School, was nominated by Jon Raimon. Ethan has made service an on-going part of his life. During his high school years he has been involved in several volunteer opportunities including building dividers for St. John's Community Services Emergency Shelter during COVID- 19, helping at nursing homes, assisting two

different community food pantries and reading books in Spanish to elementary school students. Ethan is always ready to jump into any service project that directly helps people.

Ethan is a community-oriented person and a very diligent student. He plans to attend college and pursue his love of hands-on trades, such as carpentry. Ethan is Community Action!!

Please join us in congratulating Ethan!

Community Services: We have diapers!



Do you need diapers? TCAction has diapers & pull ups available through our food pantry. All you have to do is fill out an agency intake form, let us know what size diapers you need and how many children are in diapers – it really is that simple.

You can request diapers on our website using the [Pantry Order Form](#) or by

Family Services: Early Head Start & Head Start

Now Enrolling!

Early Head Start
Infants, toddlers,
& expectant mothers

Head Start Preschool
Children ages 3-4 years old

*Serving families throughout Tompkins County.
Children with special needs are fully included in all
aspects of our Head Start Programs.*

 **Tompkins Community Action**
607-273-8816 www.tcaction.org



We are enrolling for the fall school year. We have program slots around Tompkins County available.

[Click here for more information](#)

Community Spotlight

**ARE YOU A
VICTIM OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
WHO IS PREGNANT OR HAS CHILDREN?**

Money is available for income-eligible survivors' short-term, emergency expenses like rent, utilities, and groceries.



**Visit actompkins.org/PEAF
for details & how to apply.**



The **Advocacy Center** is distributing \$187,000 from the Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund (PEAF) to eligible victims and survivors of domestic violence who

are pregnant or have children. These funds can be used for certain non-recurrent, short term expenses related to housing and essential needs, such as rent, utilities, food aid or other qualifying expenses. Funding is available for expenses occurring between March 1, 2022 and May 31, 2022.

To qualify for assistance through PEAFF applicants must meet ALL of the following qualifications:

- Be a survivor of Domestic Violence, and
- Be currently pregnant or have children, and
- Be a current resident of New York State, and
- Be a United States Citizen or have a United States Citizen living in the home (can be a child) and
- Be currently receiving TANF, SNAP, or Medicaid and have a household income under 200% of the Federal Poverty Rate

Examples of Emergency Assistance:

- Current or back rent. (4 months maximum)
- Current or back utilities. (4 months maximum)
- Security Deposit for safe housing
- Moving expenses for emergency relocation
- Groceries
- Basic furniture or housewares for emergency relocation
- Other qualifying expenses after discussing with an advocate

This program will require an application, documentation of expenses, and in some cases proof of income— An Advocate will help you through all of it!

For more information go to the Advocacy Center PEAFF website
www.actompkins.org/PEAFF

Important Dates

Special Dates

Victory Garden Plant Pick Up
Appointments are on Thursday May 19 & Friday, May 20. There will be lots of traffic in and out of our main office parking lot. Please use extra caution!

Our programs and offices will be closed on the following dates in observance of:

Memorial Day on Monday, May 30
Juneteenth on Monday, June 20

Community Events

Ithaca Festival

Parade: Thursday, June 2
Table Exhibit:
Friday, June 3 and Saturday, June 4

McLean Health & Wellness Fair

Table Exhibit:
Saturday, June 4

Dryden Dairy Days

Parade & Table Exhibit:
Saturday, June 11

***Tompkins Community Action collaborates
with individuals and organizations to
sustain and improve economic opportunity
and social justice for families and
individuals impacted directly or indirectly
by poverty.***



Tompkins Community Action, Inc.
www.tcaction.org