

# Tompkins Community Action

March 2023

News & Updates



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Issue 22

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## ANNOUNCING: The 2023 Joe Cassaniti Community Service Award

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This award was established in 1996 by Walter Gangl, 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 addition, Joe also spearheaded the fund development for the bleachers at the Cass Park Skating Rink, submitted a proposal to the City of Ithaca to bring the public library to the Commons, helped focus constructive attention on crime and drug problems in the downtown area, worked with the Ithaca High School PTA and its projects, and has participated in vital issues facing local business and government. Joe is never at a loss for innovative and creative solutions to community problems. One of his foremost reasons for staying involved is his deep commitment to the development of young people. As a former schoolteacher and the father of three, Joe has a wealth of experience in motivating and inspiring youth. Joe is willing to put his words into action and to demonstrate his concern for other’s welfare.

***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.***

**Eligibility:** Graduating high school senior in Tompkins County who has demonstrated their commitment to the community through volunteerism.

*\*Volunteer work in the community strengthens the application.*

**Award:** \$350 award to be used by the recipient to further personal, educational, or career goals.

**Process:** Nomination form must be submitted to Tompkins Community Action for each student nominated. (Students may self-nominate.) TCAction Board of Directors will choose a finalist.

[Click here](#) or email [info@tcaction.org](mailto:info@tcaction.org) to request a nomination form.

## TCAction Highlight: Harriet Giannelis Childcare Center

Head Start programs support children's growth from birth to age 5 through services that support early learning and development, health, and family well-being.

Head Start staff actively engage parents, recognizing family participation throughout the program as key to strong child outcomes.



Head Start services are available at no cost to children ages birth to 5 in eligible families. Early Head Start services work with families with children ages birth to 3, and many also serve expectant families. Head Start services work with families with children ages 3 to 5.

All Head Start programs continually work toward high-quality services in safe and healthy settings that prepare children for school and life.



Our Harriet Giannelis Childcare Center is named in honor of Harriet



Thank you to the dedicated TCAction Head Start staff who work every day to bring the joy of learning to the lives of the children and their families.

Giannelis. Harriet was a beloved Finance Director at TCAction from 1988 to 2013.

Harriet will always be remembered for her generous heart and smile that could light up a room.

Upon completion of the construction project in 2018, TCAction dedicated the building in Harriet's name.



## THANK YOU COMMUNITY BANK !!



Community Bank recently donated 116 lbs. of canned goods to our Food Pantry. This donation helped fill a gap at a critical time.

A huge *THANK YOU* to Jessica and her team for providing TCAction with this donation.

## Community Partner Spotlights

Thursday, April 13 will be the 3rd visit from the Family Health Network's Mobile Medical Unit. Check out their website:

<https://www.familyhealthnetwork.org>.





**FAMILY HEALTH NETWORK'S  
MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT IS HOSTING  
A HEALTH CARE & COVID-19  
VACCINE EVENT NEAR YOU!**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 2023**

**9:30 AM – 3:00 PM**

FHN's 40-foot, (2) exam room, Mobile Medical Unit will be coming to

**Tompkins Community Action**

**at 701 Spencer Rd, Ithaca, NY 14850**

to provide high quality, comprehensive health care services, including:

- COVID-19 vaccinations
- Routine check-ups and physicals
- Well child exams and sports physicals
- Blood work and immunizations
- Screenings, diagnosis, and treatment/management of pediatric and adult chronic diseases through various modes of testing
- Direct coordination of care and health education
- Insurance enrollment by referral

To schedule an appointment, please call 607-218-6704



**Part of Your Community. Part of Your Life.**

[www.FamilyHealthNetwork.org](http://www.FamilyHealthNetwork.org)

Here's what a recent visitor had to say:

***"Wow this is really nice and comfortable! I keep forgetting I'm in a van!!"***

This service is open to the entire community. Patients can be served using a sliding scale. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments can be scheduled.

**Call 607-218-6704 today!**

## **We Are Hiring!**

**Do you have employment goals that include wanting to help others and make a difference in the community? TCAction partners with people experiencing the impacts of poverty to improve access to services and opportunities.**

**TCAction pays a living wage & offers benefits that include paid time off, Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Flexible Spending Account (FSA),**

**Retirement 403(b), Life Insurance, and Health & Dental Insurance.**

**Interested in learning more about these positions?**

**[Click Here](#)**

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***Our Mission:***

***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.***

*Follow us on our socials!*



**Tompkins Community Action, Inc.**  
**[www.tcaction.org](http://www.tcaction.org)**