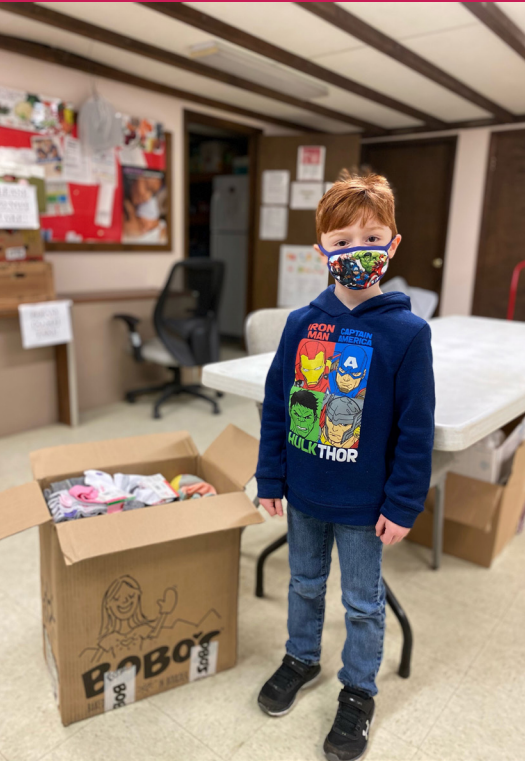




Joint Council for Economic Opportunity
of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from the CEO



When I first joined JCEO as Development Director in the summer of 2019, Bruce Garcia was planning his retirement, ready to hang his hat on more than two decades of service to JCEO. Bruce is not one to turn his back during a moment of crisis, though, and the rapid progression of the Covid pandemic in March of 2020 pumped the brakes on his plans.

Covid took many things from us, but it also gifted us with some opportunities. One of those opportunities was to have more time working alongside Bruce. This extra time not only allowed me to learn from him, but it gave me more time to fall even more in love with this agency, our mission and all that we do for our community. I didn't know when I first started here that a mere two and a half years later I would be where I am today, but I am thrilled with how things turned out and excited for our future. Most of all, I am grateful. Grateful to the staff at JCEO that work hard day in and day out to provide vital services to our community. Grateful that Bruce worked so hard to get the agency to where it is today, and shared with me everything he could before retiring (and that he continues to answer my calls and texts when I am trying to piece something together - thank you for not changing your number!) I am grateful to our dedicated Board of Directors who agreed to grant me this opportunity. Last but certainly not least, I am grateful for the supportive and generous community we have the privilege to serve.

Here is to 2022 being kinder to our friends and neighbors as we continue to navigate what our "new normal" looks like. Here is to all of the growth, challenges and learning experiences ahead. Most of all, happy retirement to Bruce, and thank you for 25 years of dedication and service to JCEO.

Nicole Laurin

Board of Directors

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James King – *Associate Treasurer*
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Karl Schenck – *Treasurer*
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Barbara Zelinski – *Secretary*
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Thomas Gosrich
Rich Holcomb
Mark Kaiser, CPA
Mark Lukens
Darlene Trombley
Erika Bezio

OUR MISSION

JCEO is dedicated to providing resources and services that enhance people's dignity and self-reliance.

OUR IMPACT

55 Years serving the community

3,840
Households served in 2021

10,890
Individuals served in 2021



3,537
Children 0-17



4,980
Adults 18-64



1,022
Seniors 65+

Unknown or not reported: 1,361

2021

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



1,147

Households received household goods, clothing, or furniture



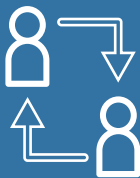
682,317

Pounds of food recovered from local grocery stores and Feed the Children



14,757

Rides to medical appointments (equal to 26,611 volunteer hours!)



2,288

Information and referrals to community resources



493

Backpacks of school supplies distributed



2,325

Families received Thanksgiving baskets



293

Children and their families received comprehensive early childhood education



105

Homes weatherized to ensure safety and reduce energy costs**



78

Daycare providers provided care to 880 children on a monthly basis

*Data calculated by the 2021 Community Services Block Grant program year (Oct. 1 2020 – Sept. 30 2021) unless otherwise noted.

**over a two year contract period

LET'S celebrate

Anniversaries

The following employees celebrated a milestone anniversary this year. Congratulations and thank you for your continued service to JCEO.

35 YEARS

Chris Danussi

30 YEARS

Belinda Soucia

20 YEARS

Robert Poirier
Danielle Lamica
Curt Smith

10 YEARS

Christopher Jones
Stacy Dailey
Julie Bouchard
Douglas Recore

5 YEARS

Raelyn Longtemps
Aimee Charland
Tara Hogan
Angela Williams-Minehan
Amber Bergeron
Tasha Larock

Recognition

The following employees have completed training or have been recognized by local organizations this year. Congratulations to you all!

FDC Certification

The following employees received their FDC certifications: Vanessa Desrocher, Marky Desrocher, Courtney LaDuke, Kaleigh DeCarr, Toni Andrews, Tasha LaRock, Virginia Powers, Lisa Goodrow, Tara Hogan, April Wright, Karissa Matott, and Amanda Buck

Case Management Certificate

SOP's Lisa Defayette received her Case Management Certificate from NYSOFA, Association of Aging and the Center for Aging and Disability Education and Research through Boston University

Paul Harris Award

Nicole Laurin received the highest Rotarian recognition, the Paul Harris Award, which is given to Rotarians who have made an outstanding contribution to the community.

Head Start and Early Head Start

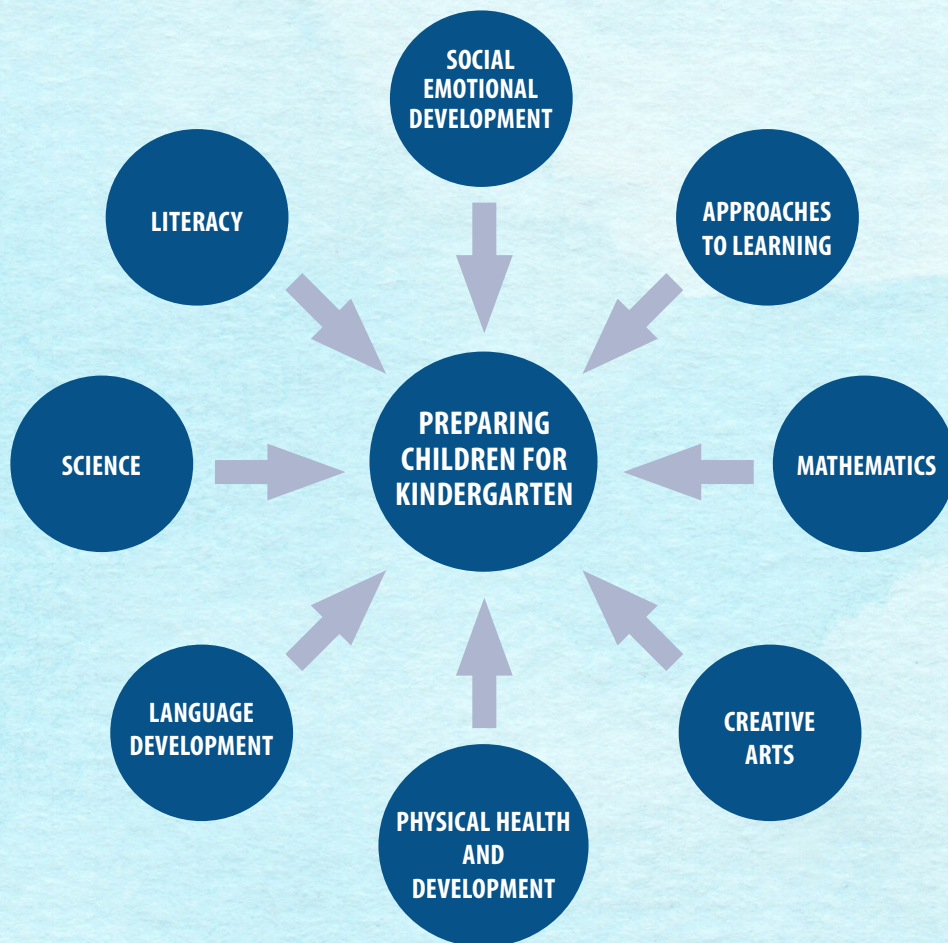
JCEO's Head Start program uses Creative Curriculum, a research-based curriculum that promotes hands-on exploration and discovery as a way of learning. TSGold observation assessments are used to measure the progress of all children in eight domains: approaches to learning, mathematics, creative arts, physical health and development, language development, science, literacy, and social emotional development. Portfolios maintained on each child include examples of their work, notes about their development, and indicators or progress toward the completion of individual objectives.

Head Start recognizes that parents are their child's first teacher. Therefore, there are many activities arranged throughout the year to emphasize the importance of the family being involved in their children's education. All parents are encouraged to participate in Policy

Council and committees, parent trainings and workshops, parent curriculum activities, parent/teacher conferences, MICE/Male Involvement, and Individualizing Education Plans.

Head Start/Early Head Start had an OHS Monitoring Review, October 19, 2020 – October 26, 2020, with the 2021 Review being postponed to fall of 2022 due to COVID. It was found that the program meets requirements of all applicable Head Start Program Performance Standards, laws, regulations and policy requirements. All systems are in place as per Program Performance Standards.

The most recent external audit was conducted by EFPR Group, Certified Public Accountants and the program was in compliance. The audit is available upon request. CLASS scores were within the mean in all areas. The report is available upon request.





Funded Enrollment

Head Start	205
Early Head Start.....	88
TOTAL NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVED:.....	313
Number of Applications Completed	124
Number of Initial Home Visits Completed.....	146

Family Outcomes

Family Well-being:.....	54
Positive Parent-child Relationships:.....	39
Families as Lifelong Educators:.....	64
Families as Learners:.....	20
Family Engagement in Transitions:.....	73
Family Connections to Peers and Community:	28
Families as Advocates and Leaders:.....	38

In 2021, Head Start and Early Head Start held more than 1,200 virtual meetings and field trips, with guest speakers including ADK Yoga, Point Au Roche guide, the Plattsburgh librarian, and Meagan Morrow from Eat Well Play Hard. Virtual field trips included “visits” to aquariums, sugar houses, planetariums, and a farm!

Remote meals sent: 1404
 [Head Start: 1003, Early Head Start: 401]

Learning packets delivered:..... 2,300

Center based meals served:..... 3,139

Backpack meals delivered:..... 1020

Remote meetings:..... 1200

Families participating in Eat Well, Play Hard Partnership with the Health Department: 29

COVID test drops:4 per family

CPSE and Early Intervention referrals:..... 30



Hellos and Goodbyes, Looking Back On 2021

The past year has seen many changes in the world of JCEO, from the retirements of beloved and long-term directors to the relocation of our weatherization team into a new building.

After 25 years with JCEO and 13 as CEO/Executive Director, Bruce Garcia retired in October of 2021. Bruce has been and continues to be an exceptionally valued asset to the community, and we are grateful for his time spent with JCEO.



Bruce Garcia Retirement Breakfast



Bruce Garcia with NYS Assemblyman Billy Jones, who presented him with a NYS Assembly citation for 40+ years in Community Action.

Although Bruce left behind big shoes to fill, Nicole Laurin, previously JCEO's Development Director, stepped up to the task and was promoted to CEO in October of 2021. Nicole is the President of the Plattsburgh Rotary Club, serves on the Girl Scouts Women of Distinction and Boy Scouts Good Scout Award Committees, and is a member of the Chazy PTO and New York State Community Action Association's Membership Committee.



Sally Soucia and Jackie Skiff Retirement Party



Sally Soucia at Retirement Party

When Community Outreach Program Director Sally Soucia retired, after 30+ years at JCEO, Lisa Goodrow was promoted to the position. Lisa has been with JCEO since October of 2011, and as program director is

responsible for the Community Outreach Program and Medical Transportation Program in Clinton and Franklin Counties. She also oversees the Food and Nutrition and HEAP programs in Clinton County.

Congratulations Lisa!



Lisa Goodrow,
Community Outreach Program Director



Jackie Skiff at Retirement Party

After Head Start/Early Head Start Director and Jackie Skiff retired (after 31 dedicated years to JCEO!) Angela Williams-Minehan was promoted to the position. Angie has more than 20 years working in child care and has been with JCEO since 2016.

Congratulations Angie!



Angela Williams-Minehan,
CAO and Head Start/
Early Head Start Director

DID YOU KNOW?

Head Start/Early Head Start completed 1,800 resource door drops, with items like diapers, wipes, formula, laundry detergent, personal hygiene supplies, cold medicine, safety items (baby gates, knob covers, window and door alarms, and cabinet locks.



Weatherization moved into their new building in March of 2021, and removed a big tree from the yard in December of 2021.



Take a peek inside one of the Senior Holiday Baskets distributed by our Senior Outreach Program this December, made possible by the Christmas Bureau and United Way.

Financial Report 2021

The following illustrates the sources of JCEO revenue and expenditures through January 31, 2021.

FEDERAL AWARDS 2020-2021

Head Start/Early Head Start	\$3,252,631
Child Care & Development (CCR&R).....	\$68,008
Community Services Block Grant	\$485,183
LIHEAP Weatherization Assistance.....	\$231,673
Child and Adult Food Care Program	\$334,237
Weatherization Assistance Program	\$280,501
Emergency Food & Shelter Program.....	\$14,398
Total Federal Awards	
(direct and passed-through NYS)	\$4,666,631
Total State and Local Funding	\$1,459,790
Total Contributions	\$224,736
Other Income	\$358,156
In-Kind	\$971,335
Total Revenues	\$7,680,648
Total Expenditures	\$8,309,873
Increase in Net Assets	(\$629,225)

Management & General Expenses was \$1,222,250, representing 14.7% of total expenses. This means that more than 85 cents of each dollar received goes to program costs, directly providing services to our consumers.



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