

together

TVCCA

working

2 0 0 9 a n n u a l r e p o r t



thames valley council for community action

working together

our mission

The mission of Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA) is to improve the overall well being of individuals and families in need within our service area by:

- fostering self-esteem, respect, independence, growth, self-sufficiency and confidence;
- promoting community awareness, input and ownership of societal problems; and,
- providing a broad spectrum of comprehensive, quality services.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
and THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Working together...During the past year, TVCCA has been faced with some extraordinary opportunities and some daunting challenges in our work of delivering services to those in need in our communities.

Spring 2008, saw gas and oil prices rising to levels never before experienced in our nation, and in New London County. Those rising costs - coupled with crises in the credit card, mortgage, banking and other industries - led to a serious slowdown in our economy; our country and communities began to see signs of a severe recession. Large layoffs and company down-sizings put many individuals and families in our communities in greater need of TVCCA than ever before.

The federal government, in response to rapidly rising fuel costs, allocated more dollars to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). For TVCCA and our service area, LIHEAP intake began in late August. We strategically partnered with municipalities and other private non profits to ensure that everyone in New London County who needed energy assistance was reached. Our service base grew from 7000 families in 2008 to over 9800 families in 2009 - a 40% increase. In order to accommodate this expansion, TVCCA dispersed more than \$6.45 million to local fuel vendors and municipal and private electric companies. TVCCA would not have been able to accomplish this without **working together** with our community partners.

Working together...The federal government recognized the serious economic downturn the country was in, and in February 2009, passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, ARRA, or stimulus bill. The ARRA affords





many opportunities for TVCCA to work with different partners in our area. TVCCA will use a large portion of its stimulus funds to assist smaller, local non profits who are also struggling in these challenging economic times. Working with these new partners, we will reach those individuals, youth, ex-offenders, immigrants, non-custodial fathers, and the uninsured in more and different ways than ever before.

Working together...TVCCA launched its first Capital Campaign in May 2009, in order to raise funds to complete renovations on our New London child development center. Both the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nations have each contributed \$25,000 to the campaign. Our lead banking partner, Dime Bank, has contributed \$30,000. Working with the Capital Campaign Committee, the Board of Trustees, local businesses and the community, we will strive to achieve our goal over the next year.

Working together...We know and recognize that only by **working together** with our communities, clients, partners and other stakeholders can we make a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Working together...with you ...this year and in the future...

Sincerely,
Deb Monahan
Executive Director

Aaron Daniels
Board Chairman

board of trustees

2008 – 2009 Officers

Chairman – Aaron Daniels
First Vice Chairman – Audrey Leone
Second Vice Chairman – Eleanor Phillips
Secretary – Douglas Monaghan
Treasurer – Anthony G. Madeira

Group I: Public Officials and Their Representatives

Olive J. Buddington – Norwich City Council
Joseph Jaskiewicz – Town of Montville
Gayle Jones – Town of Groton
Steven Kelley – Town of East Lyme
Kathleen McCarty – Town of Waterford
Eleanor Phillips – Town of Ledyard
Fay Sherman – Town of Colchester
Leanne Theodore – Town of Stonington

Group II: Representatives of the Groups to be Served

Vicki Anderson – Elderly Nutrition Program
Heidi Autio – Head Start
Karen Gattison – Thames River Family Program
Rose-Ann Girard – Senior Volunteer Advisory Council
Ellsworth Greenfield – Foster Grandparents
Douglas Monaghan – Adolescent Services
Sharon Stackpole – Head Start
Tammy Steendam – Head Start

Group III: Other Groups and Interests

Franco Cristofaro – Northeast Utilities
Aaron Daniels – NAACP Norwich
Debbie Kievits – United Community & Family Services
Audrey Leone – Doherty, Beals & Banks, PC
Anthony G. Madeira – Center for Financial Training
Stephanie Sobotka – Pfizer Inc
Eunice Waller – NAACP New London

Members Emeritus

Thurston Fields
Ronnie Krug
Thomas Manning



working together

For more than 44 years, TVCCA has been committed to making our communities better places in which to live, work, grow, and play. We could not have succeeded without the help of our many partners – who have in turn lent their commitment to us.

There has been much work to do over the years. Much work remains. Our partners are more valued by us than ever. In these trying times, many of us are more aware of the importance of – and sometimes the fragility of – securing and keeping gainful employment, feeding our families, paying our bills, and keeping a secure roof over our heads; of having a place to go when you need help where people treat you with dignity; a voice to speak for you when you have lost yours.

Over the past three years, TVCCA has been immersed in a transformational leadership process. To be completed at the end of this year, this process shall culminate in the development of a new strategic plan that will transform the way we do things; it will act as a roadmap that will guide us and our partners as we seek ways to better serve our most vulnerable citizens – working together.

As we began this planning process, we asked ourselves: “What is our vision for the future? What do we want our communities to be like? What are we working toward?”.

We call our answers to these questions our **Preferred Future**.

our preferred future

People are thriving.
All people are valued, contributing, and empowered members of our society.

TVCCA is a respected, results-oriented, innovative, (national) leader for anti-poverty solutions and a catalyst for community change.

Communities and their leaders recognize the value of all people.

Communities are healthy, thriving, safe, affordable places for all people to live, work, grow, and play.

our strategies

We have identified five strategies that are intended to guide our actions so that we can make our vision of a **preferred future** a reality. Each of our programs has been aligned with at least one of these strategies, thereby making each program's purpose and direction clear in the larger scheme.

agency:

Become an innovative, respected and inspiring leader in building our community's capacity.

leadership:

Build a diverse group of leaders from within the community who are committed to ending poverty.

resources:

Build community capacity so all people have sufficient resources for a healthy, active life.

education:

Develop community and agency capacity to assure all people have the education and skills necessary to achieve future success.

relationships:

Build relationships across all sectors of the community to facilitate ending poverty.

We are currently in the process of developing activities, work plans and budgets for each of these strategies. Some of the strategies present new territory to us or are very challenging - or both. Others we have been slowly working on since the inception of our agency, but can now hone to a fine point.



How are we...

Even though we have not completed the implementation phase, the transformational process will help – and is already helping – our staff and Board staff to grow beyond its usual bounds; to leap into new, exciting areas and adopt new ways of doing things. We have already begun to implement aspects of the plan. Examples of our growth are:

to see how we are developing new partners and raising funds, see page 8

Our commitment to build our capacity to develop new partners and raise funds from within our local communities: TVCCA has historically viewed itself as an entity that mainly targeted traditional funding sources. These sources are foundations and State and Federal grantors who offer funding opportunities through a competitive grants process. Our focus has been on bringing funds into the community from outside the community. Our Board recognized that it should build a capacity to be directly involved in fundraising activities – a new area of involvement – which would generate part-

nerships and funds from within the community. Working together with local experts, our Board established a fundraising committee to begin this effort, which has resulted in our current engagement in a Capital Campaign. The Campaign was kicked off in May 2009 and has the goal of raising \$700,000 for the renovation of our Bayonet Street, New London Child Development Center. Working together with us in spite of the difficult economic times we all face, several major contributors (including Dime Bank, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, and the Mohegan Tribe) have generously demonstrated their support through major contributions to this cause.

Making the transition from grant-taker to grant-maker: We have a history of assisting many community organizations who shared our vision. For example, with the proceeds of the sale of a small piece of property, we established a scholarship fund for disadvantaged New London youth;



...implementing our plan to date?

we have provided management and development assistance to several community groups – both inside and outside our service area; we have been asked to take failing operations under our wing. TVCCA is currently pending receipt of an ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) award in the amount of \$805,000; rather than accepting this entire award for ourselves, we are advocating that approximately half be distributed to a variety of struggling, worthy community organizations; by working together and sharing resources, we will all be stronger and more capable of making our communities better.

Creating more effective programming that focuses on helping people succeed: Under the administration of the Eastern Workforce Investment Board, TVCCA is the operator of the CTWorks Center of Southeastern Connecticut. The Center provides

services to unemployed and underemployed individuals seeking jobs and job search assistance at no cost. Job seekers are afforded convenient access to the employment, education, training and information services they need at a single location. Last November, TVCCA was the recipient of 21st Century pilot funding for a proposal which would link people who were seeking employment with other, peripheral services which were instrumental if they were to complete a successful job search. These services – which collectively comprise our Human Services Infrastructure initiative - offer rent and mortgage payment, energy, food, and child care assistance. We will be fully evaluating this pilot in the near future, but the early indication is that it is a success and will be expanded.

By working together we can help people

working together

reaching out for tomorrow...

Capital Campaign Committee

Kathleen McCarty,
Chairperson

Angela Arnold
Olive Buddington
William Budds
Jeffrey Buebendorf
James Cronin
Anthony Madeira

Deborah Monahan,
Executive Director,
TVCCA

developing new partners and raising funds...

Top: Jim Cronin, Dime Bank President, presents a check to TVCCA's Deb Monahan, Executive Director and Kathleen McCarty, Capital Campaign Chair

Middle: Bill Satti, Director of Public Affairs, presents a check on behalf of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation

Bottom: TVCCA Board Members and Staff receive a check from The Mohegan Tribe



In order to promote centers of excellence – centers capable of fostering our children's capacity to appropriately develop and to successfully transition to the next stage of their development – coordination between the preschool, home, and kindergarten environments is an all-important factor. Positive, consistent on-going learning experiences in the home that complement those in the preschool environment must be supported and encouraged, and the gap between the pre- and elementary environments - particularly as they apply to curricula - must be narrowed.

A Message from the Capital Campaign Chairperson

Dear Community Supporters:

The lack of options for affordable, quality child care and pre-school education in our region presents a significant barrier for working families who are seeking to improve their lives and the lives and education of their children.

In response to these needs, and with broad-based community support and encouragement, TVCCA is launching its first capital campaign for the purpose of expanding and renovating its aging Child Development Center on Bayonet Street in New London. With the help of 2.3 million dollars provided by the Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority for a new addition, a balance of 700,000 dollars will be sought from our supporters to complete the renovation of the remainder of the building.

While there are many worthwhile charities and competing campaigns to consider in these difficult economic times, TVCCA firmly believes that providing early care and education in a suitable environment will ultimately improve the education and economic stability of our region.

Because you understand the long-term societal value of these services, you are being asked to help reach out for a brighter tomorrow for our children by making an investment in TVCCA's vision for a showcase Child Development Center. Together we can and will communicate a message of caring to our community, especially to working-poor families. Your gift will keep on reaching out to our children, and to their children, for many generations to come.

Kathleen McCarty
Capital Campaign Chairperson

If you would like to contribute towards improving the lives of children in our communities, please visit us at www.tvcca.org/campaign.

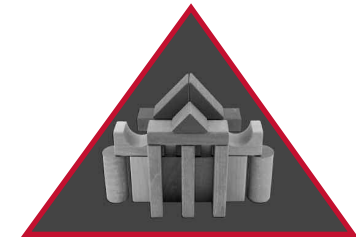
CHEFA Funds



Community Funds



Total Value



\$2.3 million in funding has been provided by CHEFA (Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority) for expansion.

\$700,000 will be sought from the community to completely renovate the building facade and classrooms.

Through the generosity of those that understand the value of early childhood education, we will fulfill the \$3 million in funding needed to complete our vision for a showcase Child Development Center.

We have helped young minds grow for years. Now it is time to help our building grow.

What will be funded by CHEFA?

(Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority)

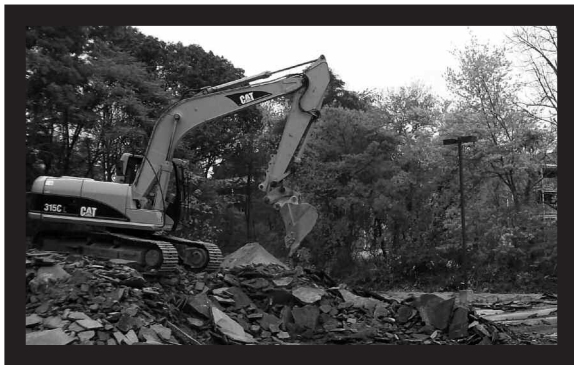
- Four classrooms, a 6,348 sq. ft. expansion
- An on-site health office
- Development of two playground areas – one (9,000 sq. ft.) for pre-schoolers and one (2,000 sq. ft.) for infants/toddlers
- Additional meeting space for staff and parents

What will be funded by the community and other sources?

- Renovation of the existing 8,000 sq. ft. Center, including lighting, flooring, windows and painting
- Complete replacement of the entire building facade
- New and improved equipment for playgrounds and classrooms
- Installation of safety fencing

What will be the total value?

- Accessible, local care for children six weeks to five years of age
- Quality, dedicated, education staff
- Affordable, sliding fee scale ranging from \$8 to \$150 per week depending on income and the number of children at the Center
- Convenient hours, including early morning drop-off
- Accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children



These efforts will increase the Child Development Center to a total capacity of 176 students. Bayonet Street is conveniently located near a number of affordable housing options and is only moments away from Interstate 95. This location readily meets the needs of working, moderate-to-low income families in the Greater New London area. Convenient access paired with our income-based fee structure make us an attractive choice to families looking for quality, full-day child care.



...by working together

Working together, we were able to help people accomplish the following:

what we did last year to help people become more self-sufficient

- 196** obtained adequate, safe, affordable, unsubsidized, permanent housing.
- 3359** eliminated or reduced barriers to employment and self-sufficiency.
- 692** obtained full-time employment.
- 641** maintained employment for at least 90 days.
- 959** increased their ability to manage income through participation in financial literacy training.
- 761** obtained care for child or other dependents, in order to acquire/maintain employment.

what we did last year to help low-income, vulnerable populations achieve their potential

- 286** received emergency/supplemental food from food pantry.
- 596** children received immunizations and medical care.
- 464** children received dental care.
- 4295** seniors received meals in senior centers or delivered to their homes.
- 603** children participated in pre-school activities that developed school readiness skills.
- 240** pregnant women achieved appropriate weight gain.
- 7942** households avoided utility termination or fuel crisis through energy assistance payments.
- 192** adults obtained or improved job skills.
- 261** households/individuals decreased energy usage due to weatherization services.
- 604** demonstrated increased knowledge of energy conservation
- 248** households/individuals in temporary or transitional housing arrangements obtained safe, stable housing.
- 898** households had home safety hazards ameliorated.

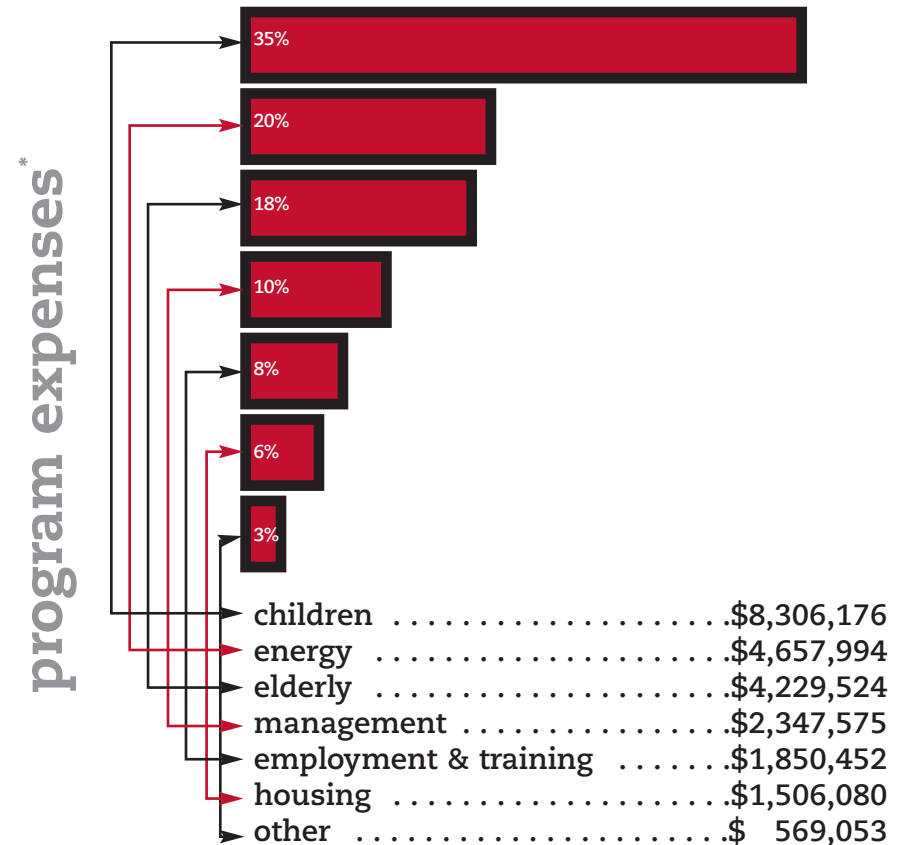


financials

Our funding is primarily provided through seven Federal and six State sources; the towns and cities in our service area; local foundations; fees for service; and individual and business donations. Grants range in amounts from hundreds to millions of dollars. We furnish information and reports to all entities from which we receive funds. TVCCA is subject to an annual audit, which is available for public review upon request. We encourage you to make inquiries in the community regarding our integrity and our capacity to provide services. Figures below are based on 2008 audit information.

support and revenues

grants/revenues	
federal	\$14,942,276
state	\$4,704,942
local and other	\$247,204
total	\$19,894,422
contributions	
cash and non-cash	\$332,191
program/other income ..	\$2,991,547
debt service paid on behalf of TVCCA by the state of CT	\$149,169
total	\$3,472,907
grand total	\$23,367,329



*total program expenses by function for the year ending March 31, 2008

Your gift can make a big difference. We thank all of you who have shown your support by making contributions to help us help others to help themselves to succeed.



If you would like to lend your support by making a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website at www.tvcca.org.



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