

***Stimulus Funding Leads to ACTION, INC. Offices in Rockport & Ipswich***

**Rockport & Ipswich, MA** – Action, Inc., the community action program headquartered in Gloucester, is proud to announce the opening of new satellite offices in Rockport and Ipswich, made possible with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Since 1965, the non-profit agency has been serving Cape Ann and beyond with social services and community programs such as home care for the elderly, assistance with fuel bills, employment and education programs, and more.

Action, Inc. Executive Director Tim Riley believes that the new offices will allow Rockport and Ipswich residents to more easily access the services they need to improve their lives.

“Although Action has served Ipswich and Rockport residents for more than 40 years,” said Riley, “these new satellite offices will make our services accessible to a greater number of people. We expect to deliver services to 30% more people in Ipswich and Rockport this year.”

The opening of these new offices couldn’t come at a better time, with more people needing and seeking out help due to increased unemployment rates, dwindling savings, and other effects of the current economic climate.

“Because of the state of the economy, our services are needed by more people now than ever before,” said Riley. “The ARRA funding has made it possible for Action to open these new offices, hire staff, and help more people.”

The Rockport office will be staffed by Laurene Wessel, a resident of the town who has worked with Action since 2008, initially as Job Developer for guests at the Action Shelter and more recently as a Social Service Advocate. She has also taught financial literacy courses to Action clients, drawing from her years in the banking industry.

Harmoni White, a Social Service Advocate at Action who previously worked with the Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, will be the contact at the Ipswich office.

**The Rockport office is located at 37D Whistlestop Mall, by the train station, and is open on Mondays from 12pm to 7pm and Thursdays from 9am to 4pm.**

**The Ipswich office is located at the Birth to Three Family Center at 15 Market Street, Suite 4. The office will be open Mondays from 10am to 5pm and Wednesdays from 12pm to 7pm.**

**Both offices welcome walk-ins. If you are unable to visit during office hours, please call to set up an appointment. Rockport office: Call Laurene Wessel at (978) 879-3487. Ipswich office: Call Harmoni White at (978) 879-3667.**

To reach a Spanish-speaking Advocate, call Harmoni White at 978-282-1007.

To reach a Portuguese-speaking Advocate, call Fatima Gomes at 978-282-1008.

In addition to Gloucester, Rockport, and Ipswich, Action also serves the towns of Essex, Hamilton, Wenham, and Manchester-by-the-Sea, offering energy saving services, housing assistance, the COMPASS Youth Program for teens, an emergency homeless shelter, job training, education, and other programs to income-eligible individuals and families.

Action, Inc.’s main office is located at 180 Main Street in Gloucester and can be reached by calling (978) 282-1000.