



Greater Cape Ann's Community Action Agency Since 1965

ACTION INC. is a non-profit organization and a member of the Community Action Partnership, a nationwide network of agencies dedicated to finding real solutions to local needs. Since 1965, we have been working with the Cape Ann community and our partners at the local, state, and national levels to create programs designed to improve people's lives.





Our Mission.

To improve the lives of economically disadvantaged individuals and families on Cape Ann and beyond by minimizing the effects of poverty, promoting economic security, and advocating for social change.

The Fromise of Community Hetion

At **ACTION**, we believe in **The Promise of Community Action**: that it changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Dear Friends,

For nearly 50 years now, ACTION INC. and Community Action Agencies across the country have been dedicated to limiting the effects of poverty, creating opportunities, and helping people to help themselves and each other. In 2012 more than 7,000 people across Cape Ann and neighboring communities received help through ACTION's many programs and services.

So much of what we do is directly connected with the home and family. Every person needs and deserves a place they can truly call home; a place where they feel safe and secure and have a sense of belonging. Cape Ann is a wonderful place to live, yet for many, the struggle to make ends meet or the difficulty of finding a good job or an affordable home can make life tough.

As you will see in the pages that follow, ACTION INC.'s programs bring stability to people's lives. In 2012, our HomeCare division kept hundreds of elders and disabled adults independent and safe in their own homes. Our large-scale Energy Services programs made more than 11,000 homes across a wide service area more energy efficient and reduced the burden of high winter energy bills by an average of 30% for all the thousands of tenants of those homes.

We continued to see many families at risk of losing their housing and many more that have already lost their homes. Our Client and Housing Services division prevents evictions and provides income stabilization services as well as counseling and direct housing support through housing subsidies and an emergency homeless shelter. In 2012, we also developed brand new affordable housing for

families. Our Job Training and Education programs help people gain the skills they need to move on to better jobs, and our successful COMPASS Youth Program helps struggling high school students to keep going until they have achieved a diploma or GED.

The Board of ACTION INC., the staff and I want to thank all of our community partners, funders, and generous donors for the help and support that allowed us to achieve so much. There is more to be done, but by continuing to work together, we can meet the challenges ahead, strengthen our community, and help our neighbors to improve the quality of their lives.



Tim Riley



7,007 Reople Served in 2012

Our Programs:

Client and Housing Services • COMPASS Youth Program
Energy Services • HomeCare • Job Training and Education
Project Uplift Holiday Drive • Learn more at actioninc.org

2012 Financial Report

Total Revenue: \$35,031,101

Sources of Funding:

Utility Companies* 76.5%

Federal Grants 13.7%

State Grants 7%

Private Grants and Donations 2.8%

* Funding for statewide energy conservation programs overseen by ACTION INC.'s Energy Services division

Total Expenses: \$34,381,879

Expenses by Program:

Client Services: 0.6% • COMPASS Youth Program: 0.6%

Energy Services: 85.7% • HomeCare: 5.8%

Housing Services: 3.4% • Job Training and Education: 0.8%

Just 3% of ACTION INC.'s budget goes toward administrative costs.

2012 Snapshot:

7,007 individuals served • 2,238 received help heating their homes
307 gained skills to become more employable • 51 obtained housing
91 received food assistance • 43 obtained health insurance • 51 got jobs
129 received help with their taxes • 544 seniors received care services

Leading the State in Action

"It was clear that both the Board and staff of ACTION INC. care about the quality of agency service and administration and are prepared to take the actions necessary to move from good to great."

~ NIQCA Executive Director William A. Hunter

During 2012 ACTION underwent a comprehensive review process by the Northeast Institute for Quality Community Action, assessing the effectiveness of the organization's operations and services. After months of scrutiny, NIQCA gave ACTION one of the highest scores in the Institute's eight-year history.

ACTION exceeded best practice standards in five of six content areas that were assessed and met best practice standards in the sixth. The six areas assessed included strategic planning and community collaboration, operational management, governance, information technology, human resources, and financial management. These findings were the result of a 12-step, five-month self-and peer assessment process using NIQCA's Quality Community Action System.

"Our goal is to serve the communities of Gloucester and Cape Ann with the most accessible and professional programs, services, and staff possible. I know our staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers are passionate about helping people in need and take great pride in the work they do." ~ ACTION Executive Director Tim Riley



NORTHEAST INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY COMMUNITY ACTION

Coming Home

Lack of affordable housing is a major issue for many people across the country, including many living in the Cape Ann area. In recent years, more families have been displaced from their homes after parents lose their jobs, experience foreclosure, or face other financial and personal crises.

Through the Home Together initiative, **ACTION INC.** is working to provide high-quality affordable, permanent housing to families who are trying to get by on extremely limited incomes.





The Project

During 2011 and 2012 **ACTION** developed four brand new affordable rental units in Gloucester. These two-bedroom townhouses are specifically designed to meet the needs of families. The support for Home Together from both public and private funding sources, as well as from the community, has been impressive. The units were designed by Gloucester architect Robert Mitnik and take advantage of green building technology. The Home Together project also includes scattered-site vouchers, allowing us to connect an additional five families with affordable housing placements throughout Gloucester.

The Services

Home Together residents have access to a wide range of support services provided through **ACTION** and our partners, taking a holistic and collaborative approach to addressing each family's unique needs. Services are offered through our Client and Housing Services, Job Training and Education, and COMPASS Youth Programs.

Channyn's Story

"Channyn is a confident, independent, and self-motivated young woman and an excellent role model for her daughter. The only piece of her puzzle that was missing was a permanent place to call her home. Now that she has that through the Home Together program, I have every reason to believe that Channyn will accomplish anything she puts her mind to."

~ Maggie Howard, **ACTION** Director of Client and Housing Services

Channyn and her infant daughter had been living in a homeless shelter for almost three years when she first learned about **ACTION**'s Home Together initiative through a case worker. Channyn had been struggling with bipolar and post-traumatic stress disorders and was frustrated that she was unable to find a way out of the shelter and provide more stability for her family.

"Living in a shelter, sharing bathrooms and sharing living space—I was grateful for a roof for my daughter, but I prayed daily for a better life."

Channyn met with **ACTION**'s Director of Client and Housing Services, Maggie Howard, who helped her obtain a Home Together housing voucher and move

into an affordable apartment in Gloucester. Maggie also helped Channyn transition out of shelter life, answering questions, sitting with her for hours at the Department of Transitional Assistance office, and helping her land an interview for a job. Most of all, Channyn says, Maggie was a friend who encouraged her when obstacles seemed insurmountable.

"The day I moved into my apartment I sat on the floor and cried. I had never been happier and more grateful in my life—other than giving birth! ACTION has given me my independence again."



Services

Jen J

Services

Part of **ACTION**'s Client and Housing Services division, Client Services connects people with the services and resources they need to take steps toward improving their lives. We offer case management to help identify and address each client's needs and goals, access to public benefits, enrollment in MassHealth and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, help applying for disability benefits, housing assistance services such as help with eviction notices and subsidized housing applications, and referrals to other programs and services.

Key Players

Maggie Howard, Director of Client and Housing Services Laura Hart, Client Services Coordinator (pictured)

Client Services in 2012

- Helped 42 people obtain health insurance
- Helped 120 with food assistance
- Provided housing advocacy to 336 households
- Helped 140 households with their taxes
- Worked with 40 community partners
- Made 1,288 referrals





Youth

Compass in 2012

- 6 Day Program seniors earned high school diplomas
- 11 Day Program juniors moved on to senior year
- 7 Night Program students earned high school diplomas
- 10 students passed the GED exam
- 5 students participated in internships

buth Program

Services

The COMPASS Youth Program is an alternative high school located at **ACTION INC.** COMPASS helps at-risk youth (ages 16-21) identify and address barriers to success at school, at work, and in life. We offer a Gloucester High School Satellite Day Program, a Night Diploma Program, and a General Equivalency Diploma Preparation Course, along with academic and career counseling, internship opportunities, life skills, and support services. COMPASS helps students recognize their individual strengths and goals and work to become successful adults.

Key Players

Shari Cornett, Director of Job Training and Education Elizabeth Moran, COMPASS Youth Program Coordinator

Services

Inergy

Services

ACTION's Energy Services division works to bring affordable energy to the Greater Cape Ann area and far beyond, through conservation programs, financial assistance, and state- and nation-wide advocacy for energy efficiency and affordability. Energy Services offers home weatherization, fuel assistance, advice and products to reduce electricity use, heating system services, and phone and utility discounts to eligible economically disadvantaged households. The division also oversees major energy conservation initiatives across the state of Massachusetts.

Key Players

Elliott Jacobson, Vice President for Energy Services Rita Carvalho, Energy Director Marie Sanviti, Assistant Energy Director Craig Brown, Conservation Services Director

Energy Services in 2012

- Oversaw energy conservation projects on 11,011 households across the state
- Worked with 47 partners to advocate for affordable, efficient energy
- Provided financial assistance to help 2,237 households heat their homes





Care

Home Care in 2012

- Served 553 seniors and disabled adults
- Completed 441 hours of staff development training
- Added new services to enhance our continuum of care, including services for clients with Alzheimer's and dementia

Services

ACTION HomeCare helps seniors and disabled adults live within the comfort of their own homes, through services ranging from personal care and errand-running to Home Health Aide services and hospice care. **ACTION** HomeCare's staff of more than 90 compassionate care providers is continuously trained to offer new services as the needs of our clients evolve. We aim to provide a continuum of care for each individual we serve.

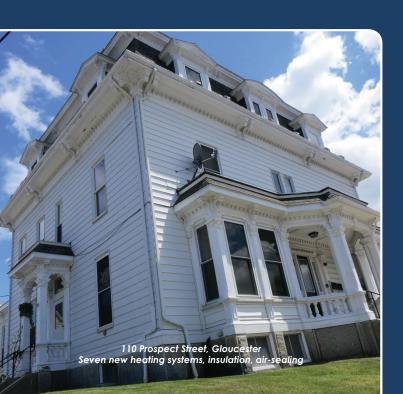
Key Players

Karen Turnquist, Director of HomeCare Lisa Murrin, Operations Manager

Amproving Homes Hoross the State

Thanks to a continued partnership with global utility company National Grid, 2012 saw a major expansion of **ACTION** Energy Services' multi-family energy conservation program. For years, **ACTION** and National Grid have been teaming up to perform weatherization, appliance replacements, and other cost-saving energy efficiency measures on single-family and 5-25-unit multi-family buildings throughout the North Shore. This past year, National Grid invited **ACTION** to oversee projects on huge public and private affordable housing developments across Massachusetts—from Gloucester to Cape Cod, to the Berkshires and beyond.

"We're working in high-rise buildings with 200 or 300 units, where we're really able to maximize opportunities for energy efficiency. The people living in these buildings are going to see huge savings," said ACTION Conservation Services Director Craig Brown, who helped **ACTION** spend \$14,892,896 in National Grid funding on 10,716 units across the Commonwealth. A portion of that was used right here in ACTION's hometown of Gloucester—check out the photo captions for some examples.



Before hiring contractors to perform weatherization work, **ACTION**'s Building Performance Specialists visit each potential project site to assess opportunities for savings. These energy experts inspect the buildings' heating and hot water systems, use infrared scanners to check the walls for insulation, and look for air loss around doors and windows. In large developments with many floors and multiple heating systems, replacing old burners with new, efficient models makes a major impact on both the budgets of low-income families and on the environment. In many cases, old systems that are running at 60% efficiency are being replaced with ones running at 97%.

ACTION also works to reduce the amount of electricity being wasted in these buildings, replacing old light bulbs with compact fluorescents and LED lights, and replacing inefficient refrigerators and washing machines with Energy Star rated models.

ACTION Energy Services, National Grid, and our partners—including Action for Boston

Community Development—are leaders in energy efficiency programs not just in Massachusetts, but across the country. In 2013 **ACTION** and our partners were co-winners of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's award for Low-Income Multi-Family Energy Retrofits.

"This is truly an unprecedented program." said Elliott Jacobson, Vice President for Energy Services. "No other state in the country is doing anything quite like it. There are loan programs and rebate programs, but nothing else that truly serves low-income families in this way."



"Energy efficiency programs, especially those involving multifamily buildings, really do work within the mission of serving economically disadvantaged people. They also work to stimulate the local economy, create job growth, and help the environment."

~ Rita Carvalho, **ACTION** Energy Director

Services

Housing

Services

Part of the Client and Housing Services division, Housing Services helps struggling individuals and families find stable, affordable housing situations. **ACTION** has played a major role in local homelessness prevention by owning and operating an emergency shelter for men and women; affordable, permanent housing units for individuals; and now brand new apartments for families. We also offer help accessing subsidized housing and supportive services including case management and access to other **ACTION** programs.

Key Players

Maggie Howard, Director of Client and Housing Services

Housing Services in 2012

- Continued to own and operate 15 affordable housing units in Gloucester for individuals
- Designed and developed 4 brand new affordable rental units for extremely low-income families
- Provided emergency shelter to 261 homeless men and women
- Provided case management to 403 homeless and previously homeless individuals



ACTION staff accept a donation of blankets to the ACTION Emergency Shelter on a cold winter day.

Training

Job Training 4 Education in 2012

- 30 students enrolled in 4 Adult Basic Education courses
- 16 students graduated from the Clinical Medical Assistant Program and 45 from the Home Health Aide Program
- 67 individuals gained basic computer skills
- 46 students improved their English language skills

4 Education

Services

ACTION's Job Training and Education division helps people improve their job opportunities through education, training, and resources. We offer career coaching including help with resumes and interview skills, training programs in the healthcare industry, adult education classes to help with basic reading/writing and math skills, help preparing for the General Equivalency Diploma exam, and referrals and supportive services that help unemployed and underemployed individuals access the resources they need to join the workforce.

Key Players

Shari Cornett, Director of Job Training and Education

During 2012 ACTION's Job Training and Education division partnered with North Shore Community College to offer adult education programs through a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Through this partnership, **ACTION** offers three levels of education to help improve employment opportunities for economically disadvantaged individuals on Cape Ann.





Learning for a Better Life

Operated out of classroom space within **ACTION**'s main building, the classes include Adult Basic Education, Pre-GED (General Equivalency Diploma), and GED Preparation, plus a weekly math lab. Students also receive supportive services and access to **ACTION**'s other programs to ensure future success.

"North Shore Community College is pleased to partner with **ACTION INC.** to expand service to Gloucester, better serve non-traditional adult students, and improve employment skills."

~ Laura M. Ventimiglia, NSCC Dean for Academic Assessment, Curriculum and Special Programs

Adriano's Story

"By attending class regularly, being persistent about his studies, and never thinking he couldn't reach the level of education he has now achieved, Adriano has made himself a role model for adult learners."

~ Michele Ameno, **ACTION** Adult Education Coordinator

A native of Brazil, Adriano has never stopped seeking opportunities to improve his English and advance his education. He first joined **ACTION**'s English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program seven years ago while simultaneously studying Enalish at North Shore Community College and working for a landscaping and cleaning company. As his English improved, he eventually became a supervisor.

Over the years, Adriano's skills continued to grow, and so did his ambitions. He joined **ACTION**'s new adult GED program in 2012 and began working toward taking the General Equivalency Diploma exam. He is now on track to be the first **ACTION** Adult Education student to earn a GED. But as far as Adriano has come already, he's still looking to the future and hopes to one day study business and computer technology at the college level.

"I wouldn't be thinking of going to college if it weren't for my teachers at ACTION."

In the meantime, when Adriano isn't studying he's found time to volunteer with ACTION's Project Uplift holiday drive as a way of giving back.



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extends a heartfelt thank-you to the partners that make our work possible. from the many donors and funders listed here, to all of the individuals and groups that work alonaside us to improve **Greater Cape** Ann—for now and for future generations. Together we can make a difference.

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Project Uplift

Partnering with the Community for Cape Ann's Kids Every year **ACTION** organizes the Project Uplift holiday toy and clothing drive for disadvantaged children. With the help of generous individuals, groups, and businesses throughout the community who donate space, gifts, and time to the program, we served more than 734 children in 2012—from newborns to teenagers. More than 50 local businesses and organizations served as donation collection sites. The program ran without a hitch thanks to eight adult volunteers and five junior volunteers from local elementary schools. Thank you to all who made the holidays special for Cape Ann families in need.



Franklin, Hampshire, and North

Quabbin Regions



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ACTION is governed by a tripartite Board of Directors with one third private sector, one third public sector, and one third community sector representatives.

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.....Job Training and Education.....

Shari Cornett, Director of Job Training and Education Michele Ameno, Adult Education Coordinator Joan Fitzpatrick, Home Health Aide Instructor Michael Hayes, Adult Basic Education Instructor Yun Wang, Adult Basic Education Instructor

ACTION HomeCare Workers and Home Health Aides: Eva Agosto-Baez, Deborah Aiello, Mary Jane Aiello, Maria Amaral, Holly Amaral, Jennifer Baptiste, Jaime Barry, Patricia Barry, Edna Beaudoin, Alvse Bedard, Nina Bennett, Caron Bernier, Michalene Borowski, Danette Bruni, Andrea Burnham, Judith Carey, Wendy Chipperi, Rebecca Cousins, Jerome Curcuru, Stephania DiMaio, Theresa Doucette, Janet Downey, Jillian Dunn, Karen Favazza, Sandra Fincel, Amy Gallagher, Esther Garlick, Virginia Gibney, Cherie Gilliss-Cote, Jane Gleason, Pamela Gledhill, Michele Gossom, Emily Gusmano, Maia Haverty, Debra Hawes, Geraldine Hilton, Jennifer Hinckley, Christina Hovis, Roxanne Holscher, Dana Huffman, Robin Jacobs, Sharon Jordan, Melissa Kippen, Carole Krech, Wendi Lattof, Joseph Lentini, Shelley Lovasco, Florence Mahoney, Leah McEachern, Cherie McPhail, Maryanne Michel, Beth Miller-True, James Milone, Roberta Milone, Catherine Moore, Robert Moore, Virginia Morey, Paula Morse, Kelly Moses, Rhonda Murray, Deborah Nicastro, Patricia Joyce Norris, Lisa O'Brien, Holly O'Connor, Margo Madruga Olds, Joan Oliver, Rachel Oneil, Christa Orlando, Deanna Ouderkerken, Amy Paiae, Marie Paquiot, Donna Pike, Danielle Porter, Doris Rivera, Jackeline Rivera, Grace Romeo, Marry Russo, Francine Ruta, Stevi-Lyn Salafia, Lois Santos, Rose Sawyer, Barbara Sawyers, Shannon Seigas, Jane Selig, Nancy Sheehan, Linda Silva, Samantha Spinola, Sarah Spoon, Beverly Stanley, Paula Stanton, Maureen Surrette, Barbara Todd, Deb Vanhbouaravong, Ida Wheeler, Riva Wilson, Mary Wonson

Ashley Speicher While 2012 was an exciting year at **ACTION**, it was also one

of great sadness as it saw the passing of beloved Advocate Ashley Speicher. At just 26 years old, Ashley had made a major impact on countless people—from her friends and family to her colleagues at ACTION and all of those whose lives she changed as someone who devoted her life to helping others.

Ashley attended Beverly High School and Westfield State College, and earned a B.S. Degree Magna Cum Laude from Southern New Hampshire University. As a college student, she spent time volunteering with the Red Cross and Kid's Club, and helping Hurricane Katrina victims. She also advocated tirelessly for those with disabilities and was crowned Miss Wheelchair Massachusetts in 2009.

At **ACTION**, Ashley worked as a Social Service Advocate and always went the extra mile for her clients, seeking every possible avenue to help improve their lives.

Despite her long and difficult battle with heart disease, Ashley stayed positive and made everyone around her smile. She is deeply missed and will be forever remembered.



Contact M

.....Main Offices.....

180 Main Street Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: 978.282.1000 Fax: 978.283.0523

actioninc.org





.....Satellite Offices......

Ipswich: 15 Market Street, Suite 4 Birth to Three Family Center Ipswich, MA 01938

Rockport: 58 Broadway **Rockport Community House** Rockport, MA 01966

.....Energy Services......

47 Washington Street Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: 978.283.2131 Fax: 978.283.3567

.....ACTION Shelter.....

370 Main Street Gloucester, MA 01930

Phone: 978.283.4125

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180 Main Street Gloucester, MA 01930 978.282.1000 actioninc.org

