

2020 Annual Report A Year Like No Other





In 2020, the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other members of the Black community highlighted, once again, that more must be done in the pursuit of justice and equity for all in our community. We cannot stand by and allow our friends and neighbors of color to continue to be victimized by racist individuals, policies, and practices. We must call out injustice in all its forms.

Community Action Agencies like ours were born as part of the civil rights movement. For Martin Luther King, the battle to bring real equality didn't end with civil rights, but in addressing the underlying economic injustices in our communities. As he famously said: "What good is having the right to sit at a lunch counter if you can't afford to buy a hamburger?"

As an agency we recognize that we have a lot of work to do to live up to our mission and our goals. We must recommit ourselves to the radical work of eliminating poverty and systemic racism, of building an anti-racist movement, and using our platform to promote racial and economic justice.

The Values of Community Action State: "We believe that all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender, and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed." If we believe this to be true, we must commit to it. In 2021, we pledge to take bold steps to ensure we are able to better represent all of the people we serve and build towards an equitable future for everyone.



Our Programs

Affordable Housing

Emergency Shelter & Homelessness Prevention

Public Benefits and Housing Assistance

Mortgage & Rental Assistance

Eviction Support & Guidance

Fuel Assistance

Energy Efficiency Updates & Weatherization

Utility Advocacy

Adult Education

Alternative Education for Youth

Nurse Aid Trainings

CDL Training

Trades Career Training

Career Development

Financial Literacy Workshops

Holiday Drives & Community Initiatives

CONFRONTING A CRISIS —COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Dear Friends,

2020 was a challenge for us all. Whether it was lost employment, isolation from loved ones, or suffering caused from the virus directly, we all experienced a tough year—a year that none of us expected.

At Action Inc. our job was to respond to the growing and changing needs of our community, despite the significant logistical challenges the pandemic caused. We had to find new ways to respond to the community needs with a renewed focus on supporting the most vulnerable in our community and ensuring that **all people** can access stability and opportunity, even in these most trying times.

Thanks to our committed staff, our compassionate and supportive community, and the leadership shown by our Board and so many local leaders and partners, we were able to respond quickly to even the most complicated challenges. We were able to reorganize our programs and services to keep people safe, and ensure that those suffering the economic shock of the pandemic always had somewhere to turn for help. **Not only did we stay open and serving our community, we expanded our services and launched new initiatives,** focused on low-wage workers, struggling families, and those with nowhere else to turn.

2020 was a test, and we can be proud of how we responded, both as an agency and as a community. We know that whatever the future holds, by working as a community, remaining true to our mission and the people we serve, there is nothing we cannot overcome **together**.



Peggy Hegarty-Steck
PRESIDENT & CEO



Gretchen Wood
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2020

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Peggy Hegarty-Steck, Jen Beloff, and Erin George of Action Inc. present Tim Flaherty of Cape Ann YMCA with a thank you gift Our neighbors experiencing homelessness are among the most vulnerable in our community and were hit extremely hard by the pandemic. Without stable housing they were unable to stay home and stay safe. Emergency Shelter services were then expanded, adding extra staff and extending hours to stay open 24 hours a day. To better protect guests and the community, we quickly relocated our shelter site in March to the Cape Ann YMCA for several months, allowing guests to distance and allowing us to coordinate programming with other providers.

We connected with municipal and community partners to provide additional resources and coordinated extensive testing and vaccinations for our staff and guests. We were humbled by the support of hundreds of local individuals who provided much needed donations of food, personal items, and cash to help with increased costs of operation.

Our Municipal & Community Partners

Alisha Clayton & The Cove Café
Cake Ann Bakery
Cape Ann Coffees
Cape Ann Museum
The Cape Ann Referral Group
Carole Sharoff
& Atlantic Vacation Homes
Cheryl Deckart
David Dow
Emerson Inn
George's

The Grace Center/Lifebridge
Groom Construction
Jean McCafferty
Jessica Lindly
Kathy Day
Laura Dow & The Vista Motel
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Liz Wuenchel
The Lundberg Family
Michelle Rich
/Volunteer at The Open Door

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Nina Randazzo
The Open Door
Orthodox Congregational
Church in Lanesville
Ruth Pino & Re/Max Advantage
Ryan & Wood Distillery
Sally Smithwick
Sara & Sander Shultz
Steve Kirby

Steve Yost
Sunshine Fund
Suzanne Kirvan
Trader Joe's – 114 Peabody
Two Sisters (Katy)
We Are All in this Together
Gloucester FB Group
Zeke's Place



CAPE ANN EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

The pandemic also brought about a huge increase in unemployment as stores, restaurants and businesses of all kinds were forced to close, laying off or reducing hours for their workers. 365 local families received direct financial help through the Cape Ann Emergency Relief Fund. The fund, a partnership between Action Inc., the City of Gloucester, and the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, raised and distributed over \$380,000 for local hourly workers and self-employed individuals who had been most affected by the pandemic.

In another amazing display of community support, hundreds of people donated to the fund.

RENTAL AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

In addition to the cash assistance provided through the Cape Ann Emergency Relief Fund, we worked with municipal partners in Gloucester, Ipswich, Rockport and Manchester to establish Rental and Mortgage Assistance programs for those who were struggling with lost income due to the pandemic. Beyond this, we also worked with other public and private entities to secure additional funding for much needed rental assistance funds.



Quick Facts

CAPE ANN EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

Distributed Over

\$380k

for Local Hourly Workers & Self-Employed Individuals

365
Local Families
Recieved Direct
Financial Aid

RENTAL & MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

628 Individuals & Families Helped with Rent Payments

175 Individuals
Helped Avoid Eviction

EMERGENCY SHELTER & SERVICES

130 Individuals
Obtained Safe
Temporary Shelter

80+ Individuals
Received Mental Health
Services

50+ Individuals
Received Treatment for
Substance Use Disorder

HARBOR VILLAGE

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, progress remained steady at **Harbor Village**, our mixed-use affordable housing development on Main Street in Gloucester. Work on the site, which will house **30 units of much-needed affordable housing** and first floor retail space, got underway in late 2019.



By the end of 2020, the building was heading toward completion, with windows installed and work beginning on the interior fixtures and fittings. Harbor Village was named, "Project of the Month" in August by the New England Real Estate Journal and featured on the journal's cover. In the article, Gloucester Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken said, "A vibrant downtown is made for people, is made vibrant by their presence, and this project will propel that. We believe this investment will draw people downtown and will be a catalyst that spurs economic growth."

Harbor Village has been designed using passive house energy standards, which will make it one of the most energy efficient buildings on Cape Ann and greatly reduces its ecological footprint.



ENERGY SERVICES

Lockdown affected our ability to deliver energy efficiency services in 2020. As a program that involves visiting homes (in many cases the homes of seniors or individuals with disabling conditions), most of our work was stopped for a period. When programs did restart, Action Inc. and our partners across the network implemented strict PPE and distancing requirements to ensure the safety and comfort for clients and staff alike. Despite restrictions and stoppages, in 2020 we made homes safer, more healthy and improved energy efficiency for 439 local residents.

During the pandemic, our Energy staff worked with partners to develop a remote Appliance Management Program (AMP) so that clients could continue to be served. Remote AMPs were conducted via phone calls, FaceTime, or Zoom. Energy Services staff helped clients assess their home's lighting and energy efficient upgrades were sent directly to the client's home. Fuel Assistance applications were processed via phone or email.

3,130
Local Families
& Individuals
Received Fuel Assistance
or Utility Payments

439
Homes were Made
to be Energy Efficient
or Health and Safety
Improvements were
Made for Residents



MA Ranked

In its energy efficiency scorecard report by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy thanks to Action's LEAN program In October, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy ranked Massachusetts first in its energy efficiency scorecard report.

In its report, ACEEE specifically recognizes the work of the Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN), chaired by Action Inc., as "among the most successful programs of its kind."

Through LEAN and our various energy programs, Action Inc. works to promote energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions while delivering important energy and cost savings for residents.

JOB TRAINING & EDUCATION

When COVID-19 shut down businesses and schools, our Job Training & Education programs adapted quickly. The Adult Education program shifted its operations online, using Zoom and Google Classroom to allow students to learn remotely. For students in our COMPASS Youth Program, we developed a tablet-lending program so students with limited technology access could still engage with our program and with making progress toward their personal goals. Additionally, COMPASS created a by-appointment-only system last summer to maintain the in-person contact for as long as possible. These in-person meetings provided an opportunity for the instructor to get a better idea as to how the students were doing and if they needed additional, non-academic supports.

65 Individuals
Receiving Job
Readiness Training

67 Individuals
Enrolled in
Education Programs

Empower Essex County Financial Literacy Program

In FY2020, Action Inc., in conjunction with the Essex County Community Foundation, Santander Bank, and our sister Community Action Agencies in Essex County launched a county-wide initiative to improve our clients' financial wellbeing. At Action Inc., Empower Essex County began with a 12-week program providing weekly financial literacy workshops and one-to-one, individualized financial coaching to 10 local residents.

I handled my credit card debt! Negotiated from \$3,200 to \$800. I made a budget, **3** and I'm sticking with it. I am more comfortable handling emergencies.

COMPASS GRADUATION

In October 2019, more than 50 family, friends, and community members joined staff and students at the North Shore Art Association to celebrate the nine graduates of the COMPASS Program. The students, aged between 16 and 24, completed all five components of the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET).

Graduates received words of encouragement and congratulations from Gloucester's Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken, as well as Action Inc.'s Executive Director Peggy Hegarty-Steck. Student speaker Catherine Aiello also addressed her fellow graduates and commended their effort and hard work. "When you're 17, 18, or 19 and have to worry about living arrangements, feeding yourself, and taking care of tiny humans, graduating seems to be the last thing on your mind. I applaud you for taking the steps to better yourself and the situation you found yourself in. Life threw a lot at you because you could handle it. And you did, because you're here today."

The COMPASS Program is designed for young adults who have withdrawn from high school but are looking to continue their education and obtain their High School Equivalency Diploma. In addition to individual tutoring and small class instruction, COMPASS students work with Action Inc. staff to explore college and career opportunities to build a more secure future for themselves and their families.

Life threw a lot at you because you could handle it. And you did, because you're here today.

— Catherine Aiello, Student Speaker





Through our annual toy drive and holiday store, parents "shopped" for gifts for kids aged 0-16. Fifty local businesses and organizations collected toys to fill the store and 33 volunteers helped staff it. In addition to toys, all children received brand-new books, pajamas, stocking stuffers, and cold-weather items like hats, scarves, and gloves, all free of charge. This year the store operated from December 14th–18th, serving nearly 400 local families and providing gifts for over 700 children on Cape Ann.

We have been thankful to receive clothing such as pajamas or hats/gloves/scarves, which you cannot have enough of with kids. Books, toys and even gift cards to department stores are also provided, which for a single full-time working mom of three school-age kids has been super helpful for my family.

— Nicole Jerome, Project Uplift Recipient





PARTNERS & PUBLIC FUNDERS

OCTOBER 1, 2019 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

ABC Home Healthcare Professionals

Aberdeen Home Care, Inc.

Accord Food Pantry

Action for Boston Community Development

Addison Gilbert Hospital /Beth Israel Lahey Health

Amelia Peabody Foundation

American Legion Post 3

Annisquam Village Church

Apple Lane Foundation

Applied Materials

Ascension Memorial Church

Babson-Webber-Mustard Fund

Backyard Growers

BankGloucester

Bass Rocks Golf Club

Bayada Home Health Care

Beauport Ambulance Service

Beauport Financial Services

Beauport Hospitality Group

Berkshire Community Action

Council

Beverly Bootstraps

Beverly Housing Authority

Birth to Three

BNI Lighthouse

Breen & Sullivan Mechanical

Services

Brookline Bank

Bruce J. Anderson Foundation

(Boston Foundation)

Cape Ann Business Alliance

Cape Ann Chamber of

Commerce

Cape Ann Interfaith Commission Cape Ann Moose Lodge

Cape Ann Motor Inn

Cape Ann Savings Bank

Cape Ann Transit Authority

Carpenter & MacNeille

Catholic Charities

CB Fisk, Inc. Organ Builders

Citizens Bank

Citizens for Citizens

City of Gloucester

CK Pearl

CLEAResult

Coldwell Banker

Community Action of Pioneer Valley

Community Action Programs of Inter-City, Inc.

Community Action, Inc.

Community Research Initiative

Community Teamwork, Inc.

Connected Homecare

Crackerjacks

CrossCountry Mortgage

Den-Mar Health & Rehabilitation Center

Disability Resource Center

Dolce Vita Salon

Dusky Foundation

Edward S. & Winifred G. Moseley Foundation

Element Care

Eliot Community Human

Services

Emerson Swan

Emmanuel Church

Emmaus

Essex County Bar Association

Essex County Community Foundation

Essex Elementary School

Essex Housing Authority

Essex Police Department

F.W. Price

Family Promise

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Fenway Health/AIDS Action Committee

First Baptist Church

First Congregational Church of Rockport

First Parish Church Congregational

Fluid Industrial Associates, Inc.

Food and Fuel Fund

Freudenberg Medical LLC

Gilbert Fund For Indigent Persons

Gloucester Biotech Academy

Gloucester Community Preservation Committee

Gloucester Department of Public Health

Gloucester District Court

Gloucester Family Health Center/ North Shore Community Health

Gloucester Fire Department

Gloucester Healthcare

Gloucester House Restaurant (in collaboration with Salvation Army)

Gloucester Housing Authority

Gloucester Marina Inc.

Gloucester Police Department

Gloucester Pride Stride Committee

Gloucester Public Schools

Gloucester Rotary Club

Gloucester Stage Company

Good Friday Walk

Gorton's of Gloucester

Grace Center

Greater Lawrence Community Action Council

Greater Lawrence Family Health Center

Greater Lynn Senior Services

HAWC (Healing Abuse, Working for Change)

Healthy Gloucester Collaborative

Herbert B. and Jayne Cohan

High-Tech Electrical Contractors, Inc.

Highwave Hair Design

Holy Family Parish

Housing Assistance Corporation

Institution for Savings

Invest in People

Ipswich Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board/Housing Partnership

Ipswich Aware

Ipswich Caring

Ipswich Housing Authority

Ipswich Public Library

Ipswich Public Schools

Ipswich Refugee Program

Ipswich Utilities

Island Brand Seafood Imports

JiMary Land Trust, LLC

John J. Walsh Insurance Agency

JRI/Children's Friend & Family Services

Kanter Kallman Foundation

Lahey Health Behavioral Services

Landmark School

Learn to Cope

Ledgewood Rehabilitation & Nursing Center

Lifebridge

Liberty Mutual Group, Inc.

Low-Income Energy Affordability Network

Lynn Community Health Center	Montachusett Opportunity Council	Pathways for Children	Springfield Partners for Community Action
Lynn Economic Opportunity	Moore's Way	Peabody Properties	St. John's Episcopal Church
Lynn Housing Authority	Naduse Foundation	Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation	St. Jude Billiart Resident
Lynn Shelter Association			Care Center
MA Clean Energy Center	National ABLE Network	Powderhouse Plumbing	St. Mary's Episcopal Church
MA Department of Developmental Disabilities	National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners	Quincy Community Action Programs	St. Paul Lutheran Church
MA Department of Elementary		Regional Youth Prevention Network	St. Vincent DePaul
& Secondary Education	National Association of State Consumer Advocates	Richardson's Ice Cream	Stanley Roofing Co., Inc.
MA Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs	National Energy Assistance Director's Association	RISE Engineering	Sweeping Heart Zen
MA Department of Housing and		Riverdale Methodist Church	Tarrant Cutler Family
Community Development	National Grid		Charitable Fund
MA Department of Mental	Needy Meds	Rockport Community Preservation Committee	Temple Ahavat Achim
Health	New Chelsea Realty	Rockport Council on Aging	The Caleb Group
MA Department of Transitional Assistance	New England Biolabs	Rockport Housing Authority	The Farm Bar & Grille
	New England Center and Home	Rockport Music	The Manchester Club, Inc.
MA Department of Veterans' Services	for Veterans	Rockport Police Association	The Portland Group
MA Energy Director's Association	New England ISO New England Tractor Trailer Training School	Rockport Police Department	Tides Foundation
		·	TOHP Burnham Library
Magical Beginnings	Nor'East Cleaners	Rockport Public Library	Town of Essex
Manchester Affordable Housing Trust	North Shore Art Association	Rockport Public Schools	Town of Manchester
Manchester Essex School	North Shore Career Center	Rose Baker Senior Center	Town of Rockport
District	North Shore Community Action	Rotary Club of Rockport	Tuck's Candy
Manchester Housing Authority	Programs	Sailors Snug Harbor of Boston	•
Mark & Jackie Nolan	North Shore Community	Salem State University	UMASS Medical School
Family Fund	College	Salvation Army	United Way of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless	North Shore Community Development Coalition	Santander Bank	US Department of Education
Massachusetts Housing &	North Shore Community Health	Scatterday's Driving School	US Department of Energy
Shelter Alliance	Network	Sea Meadow Gifts & Gardens	US Department of Health and
Massachusetts Law Reform	North Shore Continuum of Care	Seacoast Nursing and	Human Services
Institute	Homeless Services Consortium	Rehabilitation	US Department of Housing and
Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission	North Shore Health Project	Self Help, Inc.	Urban Development
MASSCAP	North Shore Housing Action Group	SeniorCare	Valley Opportunity Council
MassHealth	North Shore Workforce	Serenitee Restaurant Group	VNOC
MassHousing	Investment Board	Shaw Fund for Mariner's Children	Wales Family Fund
Max Kagan Family Foundation	Northeast Legal Aid	SJ4 Services, Inc.	Waring School
	Ocean Crest Seafoods		Wellspring House
McCarthy Family Foundation Menotomy Weatherization/ Town of Arlington	Open Door Food Pantry	South Bay Community Services South Middlesex Opportunity Council	Wheelhouse Cowork
	Orlando & Associates		Woodman's Restaurant
Mission of Deeds - Reading	Orthodox Congregational	South Shore Community Action	Worcester Community Action Council
MLS Property Information	Church	Council	
Network	PAARI	SPHS 50th Reunion Fund	YMCA of the North Shore

DONORS

OCTOBER 1, 2019 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

\$75,000	Tides Foundation
\$52,500	Essex County Community Foundation
\$50,000	Sailors' Snug Harbor of Boston
\$30,000	Linzee Coolidge
\$27,000	Cape Ann Savings Bank
\$25,000	Happy Valley Ventures Inc.
\$20,000	Brace Cove Foundation
\$20,000	Nancy Steele & Tom Huhn
\$20,000	Richard & Anne Rosenfeld
\$15,718.94	United Way Of Massachusetts Bay & Merrimack Valley
\$14,000	Tarrant Cutler Family Charitable Fund
\$10,500	Andrew Preas & Miriam Silva Preas
\$10,000	Peter & Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation
\$10,000	Mary Weissblum

\$5,000+

Brookline Bank Joseph Brooks The lebediah Foundation MLS Property Information Network Deborah & Timothy Moore Karina & Gary Roark

\$2,000+

Mary Dyer Diane Faissler Kevin Harron David & Margaret Leeco Lyon-Waugh Auto Group Christopher McCarthy Naduse Foundation Susanna Natti **New England Biolabs** Richard D. Wilson Community Response Fund Robert Rosenfield Michael Schiavone Larry Whitten Laurie Williamson **Bethany Woods**

\$1,000+

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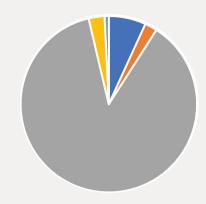
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*While every effort has been made to accurately reflect all of the donations received during FY2020 (October 1st 2019 – September 30th 2020), due to challenges presented by the office closure and lockdown there may be some inaccuracies in how this data is recorded. If your donation information is incorrect or if an acknowledgement has not been received, please contact us so we can correct any inaccuracies. **Email: donations@actioninc.org**

FINANCIAL REPORT



Revenue

Federal Contracts 7%State Contracts 2%Private Contracts 87%

Other Revenue 1%

3%

Grants and Donations

TOTAL \$46,559,001



Expenses

Program Expenses 96%

Administrative Expenses 4%

TOTAL \$46,730,709

Overcoming Challenges, Deepening Impact

OCTOBER 1, 2019 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Like most organizations, Action Inc.'s finances were significantly impacted by the pandemic. Overall revenues were down more than \$20m from 2019, with most of this explained by a reduction in energy efficiency improvement work precipitated by the lockdown. Action Inc. generates revenues from the operation a statewide energy efficiency program; almost all of these revenues are passed on as client benefits. As a result of this work being curtailed, both revenues and expenses were significantly lower, meaning that the overall budget impact was not as significant as the scale may suggest.

While these revenues saw declines, grant and donation revenues, increased as local individuals, foundations and partners stepped forward to support our neighbors in need. Donors engaged to support programs like the Cape Ann Emergency Relief Fund, our expanded Rental Assistance programs, or increased their unrestricted giving to support the expanded need in the community. We saw significant increases in the operating budgets for our housing and our client services program as our shelter operations and homelessness prevention programs expanded.

In FY2020, Action Inc. reported an overall loss of around \$100,000, the first deficit reported in more than 20 years. While the pandemic will continue to impact our budget and operations in 2021, however we have been able to leverage the experience of 2020 to ensure we will be able to continue to meet our mission.





In a year like no other, it was the support and generosity of the community that provided hope for our friends and neighbors in need. The solidarity shown by so many was a beacon of hope in a year of great challenge.

As we emerge from the pandemic, many in our community are still trying to make ends meet in the face of job loss, facing eviction, or struggling to pay their bills and feed their families.

Action Inc. has been on the frontline helping, but we can't do it without your support. Your support makes it possible to keep families from homelessness, to help local residents access education and employment opportunities, to provide a warm meal and somewhere to sleep for someone with nowhere else to turn. With your help we can provide families with the tools to become more stable, and build a better life.

Join us in building a more resilient community, ensuring a more equitable society, and protecting the dignity of our neighbors in need.



Scan QR Code to Make a Donation to Action Inc.

Planned Giving

Action Inc. has been a vital part of the Cape Ann Community for more than 55 years, and with your help, we can continue to serve for decades to come. You can leave a legacy by remembering Action Inc. In your will. It's quick, easy, and we are happy to help with any questions you might have. Best of all, your gift will mean a thriving Cape Ann community, with opportunities for everyone for years to come. If you have questions contact us any time at donations@actioninc.org

Make it Monthly

When we come together as a community it amplifies all of our voices, and the power of our actions to change society. The same is true of a recurring donation; what might seem like a small monthly donation means your impact grows over time. A donation of \$30 a month, less than a dollar a day, results in more than \$1000 of support over a three-year period. Increase the power of your giving by making a recurring donation today.









For more than 50 years, Action Inc. has been a champion for the people and communities of Cape Ann—a coastal region of northeastern Massachusetts. Our mission is to create opportunities that promote a thriving Cape Ann for all.



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actioninc.org

