LifeWorks COMMUNITY ACTION

Help Starts Here.

Formerly Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council

2021 Impact Report

2021
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Building Community & Changing Lives

^î‘R k-‘ ö‘™¥ Ë î‘ î™ g?2 Øk‘R™ k^^-`?¥Ë ¥?k` î2¥‘ ?`3 known for more than 55 years as Saratoga County Economic Opportunity k-` ?U Z/~ [M qk‘ ¥:î` î Uk3k î` `î^ :î`3 H k-‘ ` Å 3?` ?`3 was an opportunity to recommit to and embody the spirit of community î¥?k`M ™ Å `¥‘ ¥: ™ k` Ë î‘ k2 ¥: Žî` ^? H ¥:?™ k^^?¥¥^`¥ 2U¥ îUU ¥: ^k‘ ?^Ž ‘î¥?Ä M ™ Ž- U? : îU¥: k` ‘`™H ¥: ö"k`k^? effects of the pandemic, and social isolation continued on, we strived to î î k` k2 :kŽ Ë k22 ‘?`3 ™kU-¥?k`™ î` -?U ?`3 k^^-`?¥ËM

LifeWorks is a community made up of every person that works, volunteers, donates, partners, supports and participates in our programs î` ™ ‘Ä? ™M /î : î ¥ k2 ‘ î :?`3 k-¥ 2k‘ : UŽH ‘ ™Žk` ?`3 ¥k ¥: ` ™ k2 our neighbors, doing our part to support each other in a way that we can, strengthens who we are as individuals, as a community and as LifeWorks k^^-`?¥Ë ¥?k`M

As you read the 2021 Impact Report, keep in mind that we did this ¥k3 ¥: ‘ ZË ™H ¥:î¥ ^ î`™ Ë k- ¥kkJ[M ™ ` ™ :îÄ 3‘kU ?3¥i pandemic, so too has our community and together, neighbor helping ` ?3: k‘H Å î‘ :î`3?`3 U?Ä ™M

Jo Anne Hume
Executive Director

LifeWorks' Vision

To create a community of neighbors helping neighbors, in which people in need are provided the methods and resources to achieve their goals

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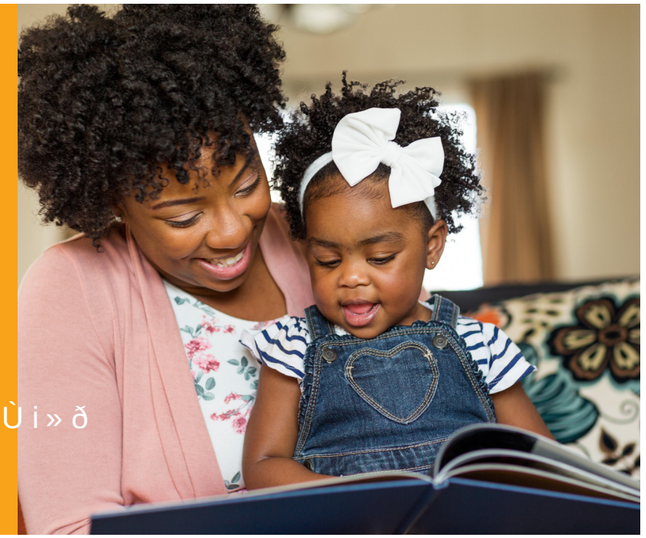

Who We Are

LifeWorks Community Action has helped thousands of individuals through periods of economic hardship and toward more secure U?Ä ™ öUU Å?¥: kŽŽk‘¥-`?¥ËM

LifeWorks is one of only 50 designated safety net community action agencies in New York and k` ?` î ` ¥Åk‘R k2 H `î¥?k`îUU ËM

We stand at the intersection of the economic •-îU?¥Ë î` ™k ?îU O-™¥? ^kÄ ^ `¥™M

We recognize that structural race, gender and other inequities remain barriers that must be î ‘ ™™ M

As a community and as a nation, we must ensure that no one is forced to endure the :î‘ ™:?Ž™ k2 ŽkÄ ‘¥ËM

We believe that by working together, we can îUU Ä?î¥ ¥: ™Ë^Ž¥k^™ k2 ‘ ™k-‘ î` ‘ îR ¥: Ë U k2 ™Ë™¥ ^? ?™î

Our team of dedicated staff and volunteers takes a whole-person and whole-family îŽŽ‘kî :¥k ™ ‘Ä? kk‘ ?`î¥?k`M Ø?¥ programs under our umbrella, we are uniquely situated as a one-stop shop for î™™?™¥î` M

Participants are not only connected with the resources here at LifeWorks but also throughout ¥: k^^-`?¥ËM

This comprehensive approach ensures that our neighbors have the skills, tools, resources and kŽŽk‘¥-`?¥? ™ ¥k ^îR ^ î`?`32-U :î

Learn more at lifeworksaction.org

Grassroots Programs

LifeWorks' grassroots programs rely on generous community partners, private grants and the Community Services Block Grant to provide critical services that support the whole person and the whole family. These services have a county-wide impact because we leverage the reach of our larger federally funded programs.

FOOD PROGRAMS

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The Pantry remained dedicated to choice despite the challenges k2 î ™ k` Ë î' k2 ¥: ~×T'` Žî` ^? M Ø an online ordering system tied to our live inventory, so pantry customers can shop and place their orders for items relevant ¥k ¥: ?' Žî'¥? -Uî' ` ™ 2'k^ î ™^î'¥Ž:k` k Volunteers packed and delivered more than 12,000 packages of groceries and household supplies from The Pantry, amounting to kÄ ' H ^ îU™M

The Kitchen remained open 7-days a week throughout the year and returned to in-person dining with health and safety proto - kU™ ?` ŽUî M ¹k`3k kŽ¥?k`™ î' ™¥?UU î ÄkU-`¥ '™ Ž' Žî' î` ™ 'Ä H ^ îU™M

Some other highlights:
1,300 Thanksgiving Baskets distributed providing a holiday meal
2k' H Ž kŽU M
H ¬-^^ ' g-` : ™ Ž'kÄ? ¥k :?U ' ` -'?

Let's Talk About Food

We know, and we think you know too, that food is so much ^k' ¥:î` 2kk M

At a basic level, food powers us and is foundational to our health î` Å UU` ?`3M

When we cook, or sit down for a meal though, we are doing more ¥:î` ŽkÅ '?`3 k-' k ? î22 î` Food is also how we come together, how we celebrate, how we mourn, how we share, how we show our love, how we express our values and our ? `¥?¥ËM

Gkk ?™ îU™k k` k2 ¥ expenses to be cut when hard choices need to be made about :kÅ ¥k ^îR ` ™ ^ ¥M

So, at LifeWorks, when a neighbor comes to us for food, we always remember that we are helping someone do so much more than put a meal on the ¥î U k' 2kk ?` ¥: ?'

We believe that providing î ™™ ¥k 2kk ?™ î` î of dignity and our collective :-^î`?¥ËM

"I never thought I would have to ¾B ðö">ðüã ;»ð OJðAÞ ð÷ ¾ßðAðßÿß»ðZ ð " ãð ¾ßãð ãðöãã ðã Ø¾>>¾BBãß»ð They got me a food package right away and took the time to Ù" ãÙJð ãðcÿJüð"Jüã>ð;>"÷>¾ B»Ü

FAMILY SERVICES

¹: ™î2 ¥Ë ` ¥ ™Ë™¥ ^ î` :î' ¥k `îÄ?3î¥ M navigators learn about each participant's challenges, identify ™kU-¥?k`™ î` î k^Žî`Ë ¥: ^ k` ¥: ?' Ok-'` ËM

Mobility Mentoring is a trauma-informed coaching program 2k -™ k` k`k^? î` Ž '™k`îU Å UU` ?`3M acheived more than 130 goals including obtaining stable housing, ^ŽUkË^ `¥ Å?¥: ?` ' î™ î'`?`3™ î` ™îÄ?`3

Case Management and Referrals were also provided to 200 Ž kŽU ¥k î ' ™™ ^k' ¥:î` ` ™M

IMMIGRANT SERVICES

We empower immigrant neighbors as they navigate life in a new k^^-`?¥Ë î` -?U ™¥'k`3 ¥? ™M

Our bilingual staff break down barriers by offering ESL classes, translation and interpretation, as well as assistance accessing :îU¥:H U 3îUH - î¥?k`îU î` ö`î` ?îU ™ 'Ä?

Highlights from 2021 include:

- COVID-19 vaccine education and appointment facilitation
- Creation of an Immigrant Business Group for entrepreneurs
- Farmers' market style pantry days at the Saratoga Backstretch
- English classes, tax preparation and interpreting for more than 300 backstretch workers
- Interpreting, case management and advocacy for 650 immigrant neighbors
- Community-wide documentary photography exhibit Estamos •-A ?™ŽUîË ?` -™?` ™™ ™ ¥:'k-3:k-¥ ¬ ¥: 2-UU Ê:? ?¥ k`U?` î¥ ÅÅÅM ™¥î^k™î•-?

We're in this together!

Volunteers are a big part of the LifeWorks community.

187
volunteers dedicated their time and talent to our grassroots programs

8,460
hours donated by volunteers

$127,000
the monetary value of the time donated by volunteers

15,000+
lives impacted by staff and volunteers working hand in hand to help our neighbors

Learn more at lifeworksaction.org

Federal Programs

LifeWorks' federal and grassroots programs work together to form a strong network, allowing customers to access comprehensive assistance.

HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START

Head Start and Early Head Start supported 265 families and helped 290 children get ready for kindergarten, both î î ^? îUUË î` ™k ?îUUËH ?` M

We are proud to have re-opened our classrooms even as the pandemic persisted and were prepared to transition to virtual ™ ‘Ä? ™ Å: ` ` ™™î‘ËM T¥ :î™ ` î OkË in the classroom, visit in person during home visits and see them U î‘` î` 3‘kÅ ö‘™¥ :î` M

Part of our mission is to work with parents and support families ¥k kÄ ‘ k^ :îUU `3 ™ î` ‘ î : 3kîU™M

9 children were homeless and 63 percent of families had an income below the federal poverty guidelines.

We helped 100 enrolled families meet a goal from securing a job ¥k ö` ?`3 î ŽUî ¥k U?Ä ¥k Ä UkŽ?`3 /`3

Whether it's helping families coordinate medical appointments for vaccinations or locating resources for affordable housing, all of our Early Head Start and Head Start staff go above and Ëk` 2k‘ ¥:k™ Å ™ ‘Ä M

Making Ends Meet

Did you know that the federal poverty level for a family of four with two adults and two children is an annual income $26,500?

Did you know that a basic annual survival budget for that same family in Saratoga County is $95,261?*

Did you also know, that if one adult works full-time and the other provides childcare that working full-time at $14.50/hour is still not enough to make it over the poverty threshhold?

3YV TVSKVEQW LIPT ¼ support our neighbors in building brigh and stable futures.

*livingwage.mit.edu

Every dollar invested in Rÿöã¡"> Bð " O ÿJið ÙJÿ" ð is returned to our economy by creating jobs, supporting local businesses and reducing costs to our community associated with ;"bã>Ji»ð OJ¼ð "BJðÿ ;">J¾ J i¼ðÿJÞBð ¾ ðÿ bãBJ ã Jðÿ ð"O>ðöOJO>ã»ð

WIC (WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN)

Caring for a new baby or small children is one of the most :îUU `3?`3 ¥?^ ™ 2k‘ î ^k¥: ‘ k‘ î‘ 3?Ä ‘M ¹: -` ‘™¥î` ™M

We provide food and nutritional support for pregnant or postpartum Åk^ ` î` ?`2î`¥™ î` :?U ‘ ` -Ž ¥k î3 M

This support includes personalized food packages, seasonal farmers market coupons, and breastfeeding peer counseling, as well as a non-judgmental and understanding space to share concerns and î™R •- ™¥?k`™M

Each month, the WIC staff served approximately 1500 people and increased as the year went on. On average, $92,000 of WIC ` ö¥™ Å ‘ ‘ ^ î : ^k`¥:H î k-¥ w Ž ‘ Žî

WEATHERIZATION

Energy Services helps make homes safe and warm, lowering k¥: -¥?U?¥Ë î` ^ ? îU k™¥™M ¹ :`? ?î`™ comprehensive home energy audit and use the results to develop î` Ê -¥ î ŽUî` ¥k Å î¥: ‘?Õ î :k^ M

This year, 119 dwellings were weatherized helping a total of 439 people M ¹: ‘ Åî™ î` îÄ ‘î3 :k-™ :kU ` ‘3 ?`Ä ™¥^ `¥ k2 w H M

By helping make homes safe, healthy and affordable, families are able to stay in their homes longer, keeping more affordable :k-™?`3 ?` ™¥k RM

76%
of Head Start children are up-to-date o immunizations

100
Head Start families met a goal with assistance from LifeWorks

148
breastfeeding moms were assisted by WIC's breastfeeding peer counselors

$92,000
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119
dwellings were weatherized

$8,800
average investment in each weatherize dwelling