



mid michigan  
**COMMUNITY**  
*Action*

# 2007 Annual Report

From a Vision to Reality...



## Mid Michigan Community Action Board of Directors

Mid Michigan Community Action's Board of Directors has three representatives from each of our six counties. This means that the board comprises 18 members: one-third local, democratically elected representatives of low-income people, one-third public officials and one-third members from the private sector.

This set up of board membership is to ensure that low-income families and individuals are represented by every sector within our communities.

### **BAY COUNTY**

William Reder (Chair)

Vaughn Begick

Jose Costilla

### **CLARE COUNTY**

Lynn Grim

Tammy Miller

Ron McKay

### **GLADWIN COUNTY**

Kathy Wilton

Don Kehoe (Vice-Chair)

Tom Tucholski

### **MECOSTA COUNTY**

Jerry Williams

Matthew Klein (Treasurer)

Helen Chappell (Secretary)

### **MIDLAND COUNTY**

Otis Wilson

William Hargreaves

Gerald Malzahn

### **OSCEOLA COUNTY**

Larry Morlock

John Calabrese

## Mid Michigan Community Action Executive Message

2007 has been a landmark year in the history of Mid Michigan Community Action. It has been a year of triumph in that we assisted 50 homeless individuals and families into stable housing, and we witnessed the culmination of five years of planning and work with the opening of our office facility and three new classrooms.

The agency continues to make progress in the fight against poverty despite the worsening economic conditions in the state, which is making life even more difficult for the "working poor" in our communities. This is a testament to the mission and vision of Community Action.

Through the efforts of staff and volunteers we were able to reach over 20,000 households with \$10 million in services. These numbers give a sense of overall impact, but they fail to measure the personal impact: the gratitude of our customers, the support we receive from the public and the satisfaction employees receive from helping others.

As we look into the future, we know the road is not easy--times are hard in mid-Michigan and critical funding is more difficult to come by. However, we remain confident that through the continued cooperation between Mid Michigan Community Action staff, volunteers, local leaders and community partners, we can make a lasting impact in our communities.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Gilbert, Executive Director

## Mid Michigan Community Action: Our New Headquarters



### Building Facts

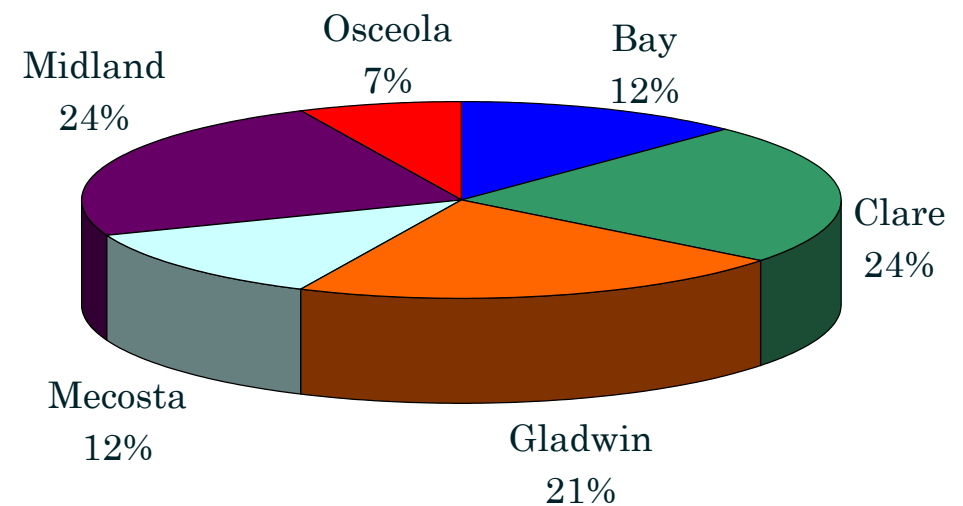
- Consolidation of five locations will save the agency \$120,000 to \$200,000 annually in operation costs.
- Building project has received tremendous community support with a fundraising total of \$1.3 million.
- These savings will be used to expand services to hundreds of families.
- The new complex houses the administrative office, one of our preschool sites, Outreach Services, Early Head Start and is the future site of the commodity foods warehouse.

## Fiscal Management

### Use of Funds by County

For Program Year Ending September 31, 2007

Bay County	\$1,236,227
Clare County	\$2,381,081
Gladwin County	\$2,163,170
Mecosta County	\$1,225,632
Midland County	\$2,403,178
Osceola County	\$687,392
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,096,681</b>





## Year in Review Youth Services

### Mid Michigan Community Action Preschools



Mid Michigan Community Action Preschools use a hands-on approach to learning; students learn and acquire skills as they have fun.

The program is free to eligible three and four-year-olds, and in program year 2007, 467 children were served, including 71 who benefitted from early intervention services for special needs.

Some of the day-to-day preschool activities include the following: language and literacy, counting, social-emotional development, small and large group times, computers, dramatic play, art, music and making positive choices.

### Youth Services' Highlights

- In collaboration with Clare-Gladwin RESD, MMCAA has maintained a home visiting program which is a support group for teen parents.
- MMCAA partnered with other community organizations for Clare's Fun Day in the Park to provide fun, games and access to resources for over 200 families who participated.
- Youth Services received two grants from United Way to promote and expand the Fatherhood Involvement program in Clare and Gladwin Counties.



## Year in Review Family Services

### Early Head Start Participants Receive State Achievement Award

James and Bonnie Sewell (see picture), of Gladwin, received two awards this year for their perseverance and dedication in raising their four grandchildren. In March, the Sewells received a participant of the year award at the Mid Michigan Community Action annual awards banquet. A few months later they were honored at the Michigan Community Action Agency Association. The Sewells are actively involved in the Early Head Start programs and preschools.



### Family Services Fast Facts

- Family Services has met, and in some cases exceeded program goals: 100% of our program's post-partum mothers breastfed their babies, 98% of participating families are enrolled in WIC, and 93% of children in Family Service programs are up to date with immunizations.
- Family Services is collaborating with Michigan State University on a research project involving infant mental health.
- Early Head Start staff are certified in blood born pathogens/first-aid/CPR as well as the Happiest Baby on the Block and Family Service credentials.

## Year in Review Housing Services

### Individual Development Account Program

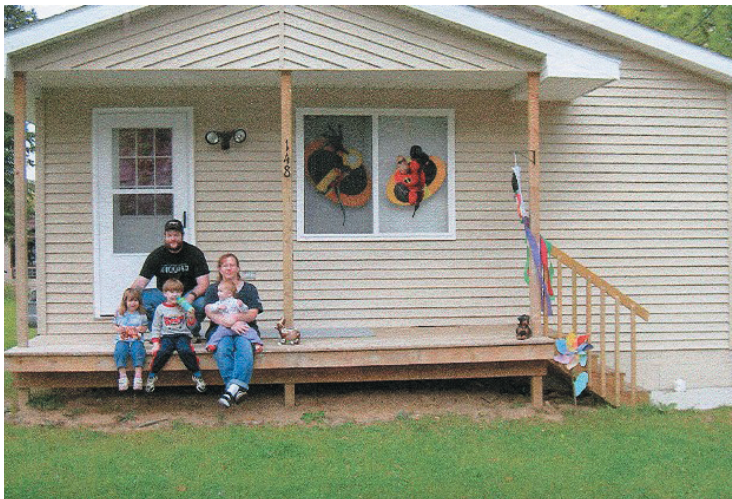
Eleven customers have purchased a home in program year 2007 and 15 more are on their way with the help of Mid Michigan Community Action's Individual Development Account program.

Participants save \$1,000 in a savings account, and MMCAA matches it with \$3,000 giving participants \$4,000 to help with a down payment on a home. The match money is given free of charge.

In addition to the match money, participants receive free budgeting and personal finance counseling as well as homebuyer education.

A small business development IDA program is also available for eligible participants to either start or expand a small business. Development accounts for secondary education will become available in 2008.

Since its inception, the Individual Development Account program has helped over 40 families purchase homes.



### *Housing Services' Impact*

- 28 families purchased their first home through home buyer assistance programs
- These 28 families received \$154,540 in cumulative downpayment support
- 193 homes were made more energy efficient through the Weatherization

## Year in Review Outreach Services

### Tenant Based Rental Assistance

In January of 2007, Mid Michigan Community Action received a \$750,000 grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, which allowed for the creation of the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program.

Fifty slots were created and divided among a six county service area based on need. Eligible participants, homeless families with dependent children, who are referred from partner agencies, are responsible for committing 30% of their income towards rent, and Mid Michigan Community Action subsidizes the remainder.

By July of 2007, all 50 of those slots were full, meaning these families and individuals have moved into safe and secure housing.



*A successful Tenant Based Rental Assistance participant and her two children.*

### Highlights

- Walk for Warmth 2007 raised over \$86,000
- Walk for Warmth 2007 helped 627 households with heat and emergency services.
- 84 families received housing vouchers providing temporary or permanent housing.
- 36 unemployed persons obtained jobs.



## Mid Michigan Community Action: The Numbers

### Outreach Services

- 2,332** families received heat and utility assistance.
- 402** families received shelter assistance.
- 12,364** boxes of food were distributed through emergency food programs.
- 4,819** families received supplemental food commodities.
- 1,377** families were newly enrolled in Medicaid through the Maximus program.
- 530** families received free tax preparation assistance receiving \$432,942 in payments, credits or savings
- 76** families were provided with emergency dental services coverage.
- 28** families received migrant support services.

### Youth Services

- 874** children attended Head Start/Preschool
- 1,445** children received balanced, nutritious meals through the Child Care Food Program

### Housing Services

- 193** homes received energy improvements.
- 301** families were educated about energy efficiency.
- 76** home received were rehabilitated/repaired.
- 75** were educated on credit, home buying and financial management.

### Family Services

- 2,561** families receive food coupons, nutrition education and other support through the Women, Infants and Children program
- 334** children were enrolled in Early Head Start.
- 400** school age children received abstinence education
- 14** high risk children and their families received support services from the Wraparound program.

### Civic Involvement

- 95,114** hours of volunteer hours were provided to agency programs equalling 49 full-time positions.

## Community Action Agencies: A National Network

Community Action Agencies were established in 1964 by the Economic Opportunity Act and Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty. Today, there are approximately 1,000 CAA's serving every state as well as Puerto Rico. All 83 Michigan counties and approximately 96% of counties in the United States are serviced by a CAA.

This vast network of Community Action Agencies serves approximately 11 million individuals, 3.3 million families, annually. Many participants are extremely poor, living at or below 75% of the federal poverty guideline (e.g. \$12,878 for a family of three).

### Commonly Offered CAA Services



Generally, Community Action Agencies offer similar programs. However, the programs offered by each CAA are determined by the needs of the community.

For more information and a listing of agencies in the community action partnership visit [www.communityactionpartnership.com](http://www.communityactionpartnership.com)

Figures obtained from Community Action Partnership & U.S. Census Bureau

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