



Joint Council for Economic Opportunity  
of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc.

# 2023



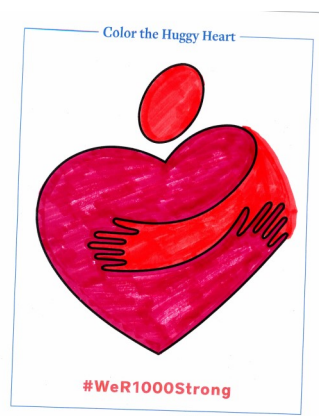
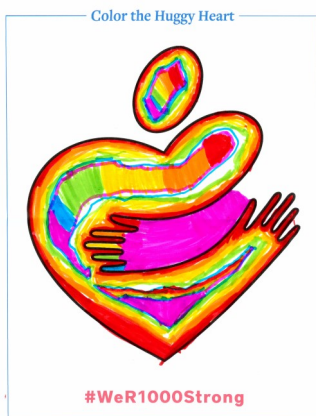
# ANNUAL REPORT





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from our CEO .....	1
About JCEO & Our Board of Directors .....	2
2023 In Review .....	3
A Year of Upgrades at Valco Drive .....	5
Get to Know the Senior Outreach Program .....	7
Head Start & Early Head Start .....	9
Fun & Games .....	11
Celebrations .....	13
Financial Report .....	14



Do you ♥ Community Action too? These Huggy Hearts were colored by JCEO Head Start students for Community Action Month!

# A Letter From Our CEO

As I reflect on the past year, it fills me with immense pride to share with you the profound impact our organization has made in the community. Each day, our dedicated staff work tirelessly to serve those in need, and their unwavering commitment has truly been the driving force behind our success.

Throughout the challenges we've faced, including the ongoing repercussions of the pandemic, our staff has shown remarkable resilience and determination. They have adapted to new circumstances, implemented innovative solutions, and continued to serve with compassion and empathy.

Behind the scenes, our staff work tirelessly to ensure that our programs run smoothly and effectively to serve our community. Their dedication to our mission is truly inspiring, and I am continually humbled by their selflessness and dedication.

As we look ahead to the future, I am confident that with the continued support of our community, we will build upon the foundation that our staff has worked so hard to establish. Together, we can create positive change and make a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

On behalf of everyone at JCEO, I extend my deepest gratitude to our staff for their unwavering commitment and to you, our valued supporters, for your ongoing generosity and belief in our mission.

*Nicole Laurin*





## About JCEO

Established after the passage of the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act, the Joint Council for Economic Opportunity of Clinton and Franklin Counties (JCEO) has been a champion for the alleviation of poverty in the North Country for nearly 60 years. A member of the nation-wide Community Action Agency network, JCEO operates more than 20 offices, strategically located throughout Clinton and Franklin Counties. These locations serve as a vital resource hub for thousands of individuals and families every year.

Through a wide range of programs and services, JCEO addresses the diverse and ever-evolving needs of our community, providing essential support and fostering solutions that empower residents towards a brighter future.

## Our Mission

JCEO's mission is to provide resources and services that enhance people's dignity and self-reliance.



# Board of Directors

## Consumer Sector

Maria Alexander  
Deb Coryer – *President*  
Rich Holcomb  
Irene Levasseur  
Matt Maguire  
Becky Preve  
Hannah Provost – *Treasurer*

## Private Sector

Erika Bezio  
Sonny Giroux  
Thom Gosrich – *Assistant Secretary*  
Mark Kaiser  
Darlene Trombley  
Meghan Zedick, Esq.

## Public Sector

Wendy Baker – *Vice-President*  
John Drollette  
Jim King – *Assistant Treasurer*  
Janet McFetridge  
Rick Wilburn  
Barb Zelenski – *Secretary*

# 2023 IN REVIEW



**738**  
Children received care from 74 daycare providers.

**607,354**  
Pounds of food recovered from local grocery stores & Feed the Children.

**3,177**  
Children received gifts for the holidays.\*

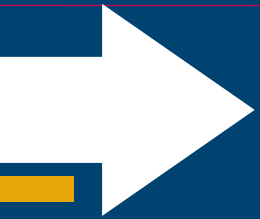
**12,692**  
Rides to medical appointments, equal to 20,652 volunteer hours.

**210**  
Children and their families received comprehensive early childhood education.

**1,922**  
People received household furniture, clothing, and hygiene goods.

*\*In collaboration with the Christmas Bureau and Holiday Helpers*





# Our Impact

**57** Years of serving  
the community

**7,407** Households

**12,407** Individuals



**6,253**  
Children



**3,342**  
Adults



**2,017**  
Seniors

*\*795 unknown or not reported.*

# A YEAR OF UPGRADES at Valco Drive

2023 brought some incredible upgrades to JCEO's Valco Drive Outreach Center in Malone, made largely possible thanks to the generous support of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation (MCHF). With their aid, we were able to enhance the facility and expand our services, to better support the vulnerable communities in our region. These upgrades could not have come sooner, with the expiration of COVID-era benefits in the spring of 2023.



Fresh tomatoes growing in the greenhouse.



C.O.P. Director Lisa Goodrow with the new cargo van.

This project encompassed multiple aspects of the location, including the transition of the pantry into a Choice Pantry, the division of the warehouse to include offices for Community Outreach staff, and the revitalization of key facilities such as the bathrooms and kitchen. These enhancements weren't just an improvement on the center's functionality, but on the comfort and privacy for both consumers and staff.





The transformation into a Choice Pantry Model is one we're particularly proud of—this innovative approach empowers consumers by providing them with options over their food selections, giving them control during challenging times and minimizing food waste.

*You may remember, we just incorporated the Choice Pantry Model at our pantry on Margaret Street in Plattsburgh in 2022, and it has been hugely successful!*

## Partnerships

2023 was a year for collaboration, and our partnerships with organizations like Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York, Citizen's Advocates, and Cornell Cooperative Extension grew ever stronger.

**Regional Food Bank** We are in the process of becoming the designated drop-off point for the Regional Food Bank, where we will facilitate the distribution of goods to surrounding pantries.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension** With a new horticulturist through CCE, we are improving the quality and quantity of fresh produce grown in our greenhouses. Additionally, we are now able to offer seasonal classes on food cultivation and preparation—keep an eye on our Facebook for the events!



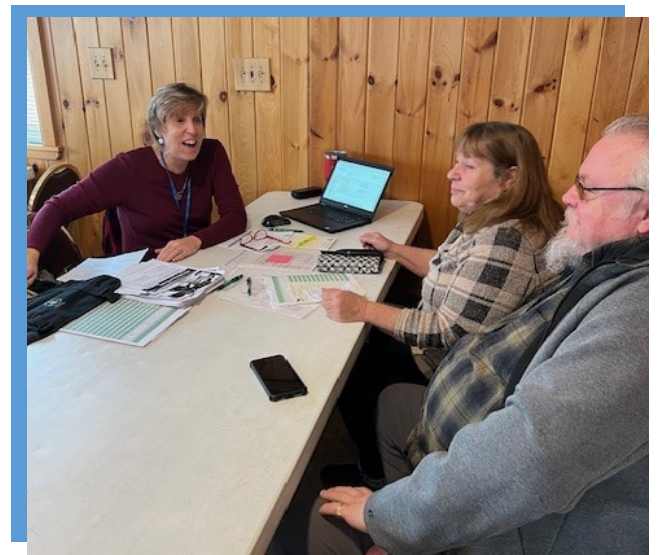
*Cornell Cooperative staff helping pack Holiday Helper bags in December.*



# Get to know our Senior Outreach Program

JCEO's Senior Outreach Program stands as a beacon of support and care for the aging population in Clinton County. With a dedicated team of Senior Outreach Program staff, this program addresses the diverse and unique needs of seniors. In 2023, Senior Outreach assisted 1,563 individuals—more than half of whom were over the age of 75.

Program services cover a wide variety of senior needs, from health insurance counseling and medical transportation, to companionship and home repair.



Tina helping at the open enrollment clinic.



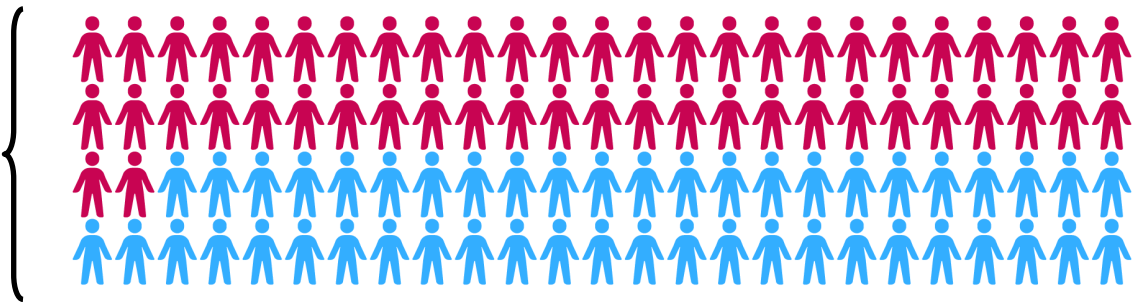
The JCEO table at the Senior Citizen Council of Clinton County's first Annual Senior Celebration since COVID-19!



Goodie baskets local seniors received over the holidays.



52% of the seniors served were 75+



**Information, Referrals, and Beyond**

One of the cornerstones of the Senior Outreach Program is the provision of comprehensive information and referrals for various programs, benefits, and services that are tailored to the needs of local seniors. Dedicated Senior Outreach staff assist seniors with paperwork and applications for essential services, serving as advocates during challenging times with social security, food stamps, Medicaid, health insurance, and more.

**Rural Transportation**

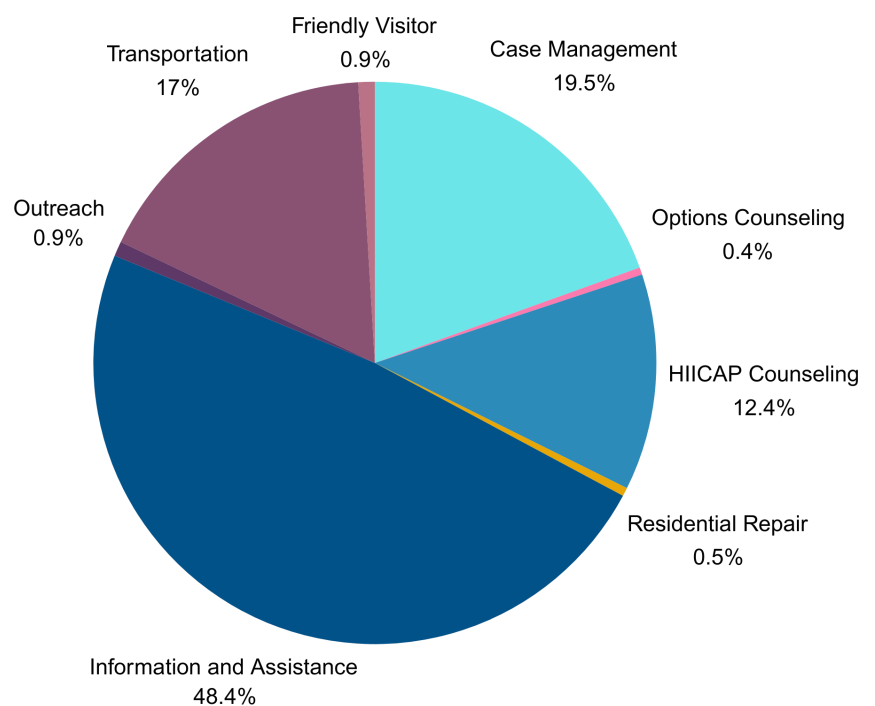
Senior Outreach's Rural Transportation program is a county funded service that provides volunteer drivers to bring seniors to and from medical appointments within Clinton County.

**Senior Care/Repair**

This program helps seniors find reliable assistance with items like yard work, housekeeping, personal assistance, and home repairs.

**Senior Nutrition Workshop**

Launching in 2024, this new workshop aims to empower seniors to make informed and healthy food choices. Sponsored by Hannaford Supermarkets and in collaboration with the Senior Citizens' Council of Clinton County, the Clinton County Health Department, and Cornell Cooperative Extension, this program will teach seniors how to read nutrition labels, gain confidence in cooking healthy meals, and navigate the grocery store with ease.



*Take a peek at what percent of SOP time was dedicated to each service.*

# Head Start and Early Head Start

The Head Start program at JCEO implements the Creative Curriculum, a research based curriculum that encourages hands-on exploration and discovery as a way of learning.

TS Gold observation assessments are used to measure the progress of children across eight domains: approaches to learning, mathematics, creative arts, physical health and development, language development, science, literacy, and social-emotional development.

Individual School Readiness Portfolios are maintained for each child, containing their work samples, developmental notes, and markers of progress towards achieving specific goals, aiding in smooth transitions.

Head Start recognizes that parents are their child's first teacher. Therefore, there are many activities arranged throughout the year to emphasize the importance of the family being involved in their children's education. Parents are actively encouraged to engage in Policy Council and committees, attend parent trainings and workshops, participate in parent curriculum activities, attend parent trainings and workshops, participate in parent

curriculum activities, attend parent trainings and workshops, join parent-teacher conferences, take part in MICE/ Male Involvement initiatives, and contribute to Individualizing Education Plans.

QUALITYstarsNY, New York's voluntary Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS) for early childhood programs gave all Clinton and Franklin County Head Start sites a star rating of 4 out of 5 stars.

Throughout the year, Head Start students enjoyed visits from various members of the community, including the fire department, postal workers, PBS staff, and local farmers.



*Our Malone 1 Classroom watching the sidewalk being redone.*



# Funded Enrollment

Head Start ..... 205

Early Head Start ..... 88

**Total Number of Children  
and Families Served ..... 492**

Number of applications completed ..... 210

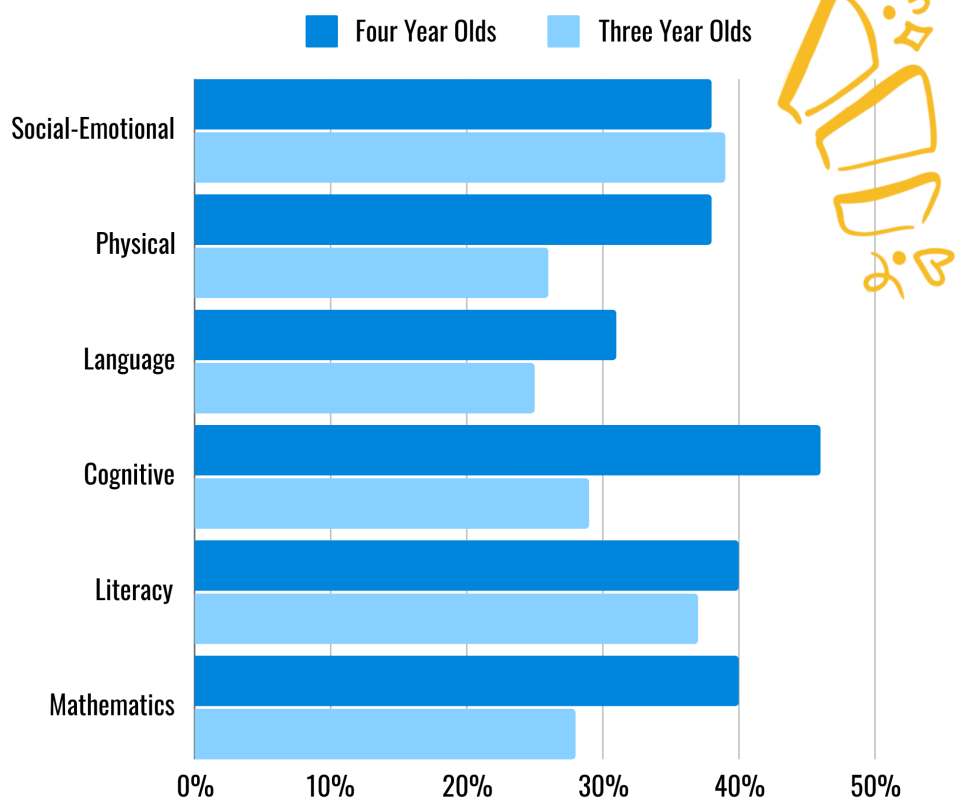
Number of initial home visits completed ..... 203

For both counties, total numbers of child outcomes were 48% for three year olds and 52% for four year olds. The data reflects that the level of growth in all learning areas averaged a growth of approximately 39% among four year olds and 31% with three year olds.

The greatest level of mastery for four year olds are in the language and cognitive domains each, with a level of achievement at or above 89%. The greatest level of mastery for three year olds were in the social-emotional, physical, and language domains, with each having a level of achievement at or above 95%.

These levels of achievement for three and four year olds reflect effective in-person instruction throughout the program. The data also reflects a level of effective instruction using our current programs, The Creative Curriculum 6th edition (Developmentally Appropriate Instruction across curricular areas), the Second Step Early Learning (Social-Education.)

**Growth of Total Program for Three and Four Year Olds**

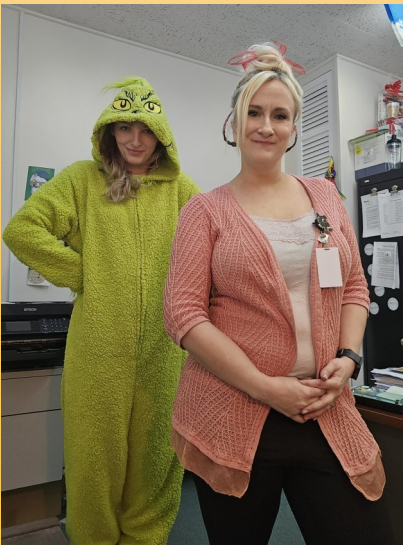
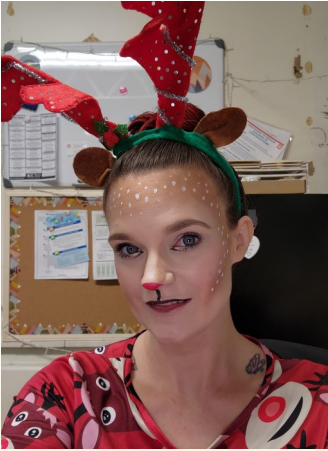


# Fun & Games

The JCEO team works hard, but that doesn't mean they can't have fun while they do it. In 2023, they enjoyed Spirit Weeks, embraced costumes, engaged in all-staff games, participated in trainings, and participated in or organized a variety of fundraising and community events!









# Celebrations

These employees celebrated a milestone anniversary this year. **Congratulations** and thank you for your dedication!

# 5

**Years**

Nicole Fish  
Marissa Jock

# 10

**Years**

Lisa Goodrow  
Karissa Matott  
Tammy Wells  
Sheena Yeddo

# 15

**Years**

Kaleigh Barney  
Breanna Ryan

# 25

**Years**

Debra Hurley  
Shirley Milliser  
Corinne Niles  
Cheryl Wilson

# 35

**Years**

Mary Stowe



JCEO was named Cornell Cooperative Extension of Franklin County's "Friend of the Extension" for 2023.

JCEO Staff completed thousands of training hours in 2023, here are a few of the topics covered:

- Foundations in Health and Safety
- Understanding and Supporting Children With Special Needs
- Identifying and Responding to Anaphylaxis
- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)
- Basic Air Sealing
- Lead Safe Weatherization Practices
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- BPI Envelope Professional
- NYS Manufactured Housing Mechanic

# Financial Report

## February 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023

The following illustrates the sources of JCEO revenue and expenditures through January 31, 2023.

Head Start/Early Head Start	\$3,676,175
Child Care & Development (CCR&R)	\$69,028
Community Services Block Grant	\$979,081
LIHEAP Weatherization Assistance	\$389,055
Child and Adult Food Care Program	\$481,991
Weatherization Assistance Program	\$354,030
<b>Total Federal Awards (direct and passed-through NYS)</b>	<b>\$5,949,360</b>
Total State and Local Funding	\$786,561
Total Contributions	\$48,276
Other Income	\$1,605,372
In-Kind	\$405,423
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$8,794,992</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$8,681,782</b>
<b>Increase in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$113,210</b>

**Management and General Expenses was \$623,718, representing 7.2% of total expenses. This means that over 92 cents of each dollar received goes directly to program costs, providing services to our consumers.**





Joint Council for Economic Opportunity  
of Clinton and Franklin Counties, Inc.

54 Margaret Street  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901

Find us online at [www.jceo.org](http://www.jceo.org) | Facebook and Instagram @JCEONY | [linkedin.com/company/jceo](https://www.linkedin.com/company/jceo)

