



Greater
Lawrence
Community
Action
Council, Inc.

GLCAC

Creating Opportunities: Ending Poverty

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. opens pathways to stability and prosperity for people in need, and prepares them to make decisions that will positively affect their lives.



William Buckley
President



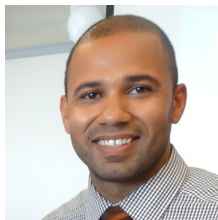
Ana Luna
Vice President



Kenneth MacKenzie*
Treasurer



Cynthia Mazella
Secretary



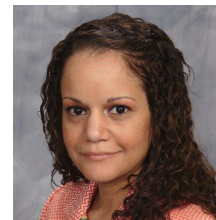
Joshua Abreu*



Sharon Birchall



Susan Brunette



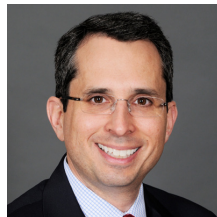
Yesenia Gil*



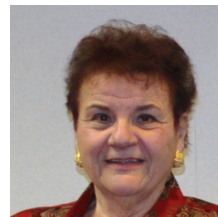
Thomas Hartwell**



Victor Jarvis



Jonathan Pearlson



Maria Rosati



Tricia Sabulis



Neily Soto

A MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

We at the Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. are honored to be celebrating 50 years of service to the people of Lawrence, Methuen, Andover, North Andover, Reading and North Reading. During these 50 years, GLCAC, Inc. has provided important supports for people in need, and we continue to do so today. Looking back, we thank and salute the many dedicated board leaders, community partners, funders, volunteers and donors who have made our work possible. And we recognize, in no small part, the dedicated work of our many current and former staff members.

Last year, we reported that we had completed our first-ever strategic plan which refocused the agency on supporting our program participants on their path to self-sufficiency. This year we have been working to implement that plan by adding workforce development programs, including English for Speakers of Other Languages classes and a summer youth employment program. We will continue to add more programs in workforce development and education as we progress.

In addition, we are seeking to rebuild some of our older facilities and add additional classrooms for 129 more preschoolers in Lawrence, in conjunction with local non-profit organizations, the Department of Early Education and Care and the Lawrence Public Schools.

In this year's report, you will read about some of our staff and volunteers who have collectively helped many local people in need. You will meet families who have made great strides in their self-development.

We want to acknowledge our outgoing board members: Natalie Coon, Malinda McDonagh, Helen Ann Knepper, Victor Martinez and Gilda Duran. We heartily thank them for their many years of service. Lastly, we thank our friends at fellow non-profit agencies and in the public and private sectors for 50 years of partnership. Together we are making a real and powerful difference in the lives of so many people.

All the best,

William Buckley
President

Evelyn Friedman
Executive Director

EARLY LEARNING SERVICES

LEGACY OF CARING AND COMMUNITY

The photo shows a defiant boy, standing with his back to his teacher, refusing to get on the school bus. Robin Lynch was a new teacher at GLCAC's Child Care Center with her hands full when a colleague captured the scene in the early 1980s.

Today, Robin is director of the Child Care Center and the boy, José Gonzalez, is the father of two children enrolled at the center. They are pictured on the cover of this report.

"I was a little rambunctious, but she tamed me," says José, who stayed in touch with Robin through the years. With fond memories of a caring staff and a sense of community, José was eager for his children to attend the center.

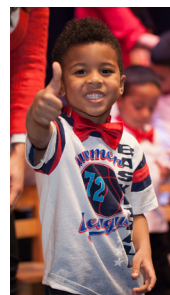
How do his son, 5, and daughter, 3, compare to their dad at that age?

"They are angels," says José.

"Yes, angels," Robin quickly agrees.



GLCAC STUDENTS STAR IN 2014 WINTER FESTIVAL PERFORMANCE



FOCUSING ON FAMILY

Our commitment to early childhood education extends beyond the child and embraces the whole family. Both our Head Start program and Child Care Center focus on learning and healthy development of the children. They also connect the parents with important services such as English language classes, nutrition programs, home heating assistance, job training and parenting skills. We concentrate on the school readiness of the child and the readiness of the whole family to achieve self-sufficiency.

Then

In 1965, Lawrence Head Start opened as an eight-week summer program. Six years later, Lawrence General Hospital established the Child Care Center with seven students. Both are now GLCAC programs, educating about 900 children in FY14.

Now



BUSY BEE

Reading builds young brains, and our Bee Literate busily read and played games with hundreds of children during dozens of play groups and library visits in our area. Brought to life by Luz Montijo, Bee Literate is a fun and approachable way for our staff to engage parents and help them be their child's most important teacher. Bee Literate is part of our mission to start educating children early in life.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

HEALTHY FAMILIES NEED MORE THAN FOOD

Escaping an abusive relationship, a homeless mother with two toddlers was couch-surfing with family and friends. When she walked into our Women, Infants and Children Program, our staff knew she needed more than food.

Family support coordinator María Castellanos helped the mother develop a “focus plan” to achieve independence. WIC provided nutrition benefits and referred the client to additional service providers, including a referral for an apartment. They worked on her resume, she landed a clerical job, and the boys enrolled in daycare

María continues to work with this family as she does many WIC clients. Every day, people enter GLCAC looking for help with one need, and our goal is to help them meet all their needs.



CHECKING UP ON YOU

GLCAC's programs are focused on the health and well-being of the families and children served. We provide access to healthy food and screenings for lead poisoning. Students in our early childhood learning programs are checked for inoculations and healthy teeth. The uninsured sign up for health coverage with our staff. Good health is key for families striving to achieve self-sufficiency.

AS SEEN ON TV

Have you seen this man?

If you turned on a TV, opened a newspaper or hopped on a bus or train last fall, you probably have. Meet Queyron Nolberto, GLCAC Client Intake Specialist and Navigator, and face of the Massachusetts Health Connector's ad campaign urging people to sign up for insurance.

Since GLCAC is an official state Navigator, Queyron's day job was signing up people who saw him on TV and took his advice. Together, he and his colleagues helped about 1,100 individuals and families sign up in the 2014-2015 enrollment period.

"I just want people to have health care," says the ever-modest Queyron.

Then

Started in 1976 as the Lead Poisoning Prevention Program in Lawrence, the Merrimack Valley Lead Poisoning Prevention Program today serves 67 communities stretching from west of Lowell to the North Shore.

Now



“Need health coverage?
Now's the time.”

Queyron Nolberto, Navigator
Greater Lawrence Community Action Council

50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ACTION IN GREATER LAWRENCE



President Lyndon Johnson signs into law the Economic Opportunity Act.

The Lawrence Community Action Council incorporates.

GLCAC opens the Spanish Community Services Program to serve the immigrant population.

GLCAC expands energy services with the Weatherization Assistance Program; adopts Child Care Center from Lawrence General Hospital.



Then-Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti (center), delivers funding for the Consumer Protection Program. His successors also funded the dispute-resolution program.

Head Start begins offering full-day and full-year classes.

1964 1965 1966 1967 1972 1976 1978 1980 1983 1990 1994 1995

The Lawrence Community Action Council forms, a precursor to GLCAC.

Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. expands to serve Greater Lawrence.

GLCAC moves headquarters from the Bay State Building on Lawrence Street to 350 Essex Street.

Child abuse prevention services added to Social Services Program.

U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy and President Clinton's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros attend the groundbreaking of the Water Street Head Start Center in 1994. Kennedy stands with Maureen Mulcahy (left), who retired as GLCAC's Programs and Planning Director in 2013 after 48 years of service.

GLCAC launches:

- > Women, Infants and Children Program
- > Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
- > Fuel Assistance Program





GLCAC relocates headquarters to 305 Essex Street.



Executive Director Evelyn Friedman (left) and retired program director Isabel Melendez at the GLCAC Resource Fair. Ms. Friedman joined GLCAC in 2013 after departing the cabinet of Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino. Ms. Melendez retired in 2012 after 41 years with the agency.

Partnership with Exchange Clubs of Merrimack Valley begins, expanding and renaming the Social Services Program to the Family Support Center.

GLCAC starts assisting low-income taxpayers with filing taxes and claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

GLCAC named one of 10 Navigators to help Massachusetts consumers sign up for health insurance under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Project SENIOR begins helping senior citizens live independently by offering minor home repair services.

GLCAC celebrates 50th anniversary.

1995

2000

2005

2007

2011

2013

2014

2015

1996

2003

2005

2007

2013

2013

2015

Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program launched.

GLCAC chosen to manage City of Lawrence Lead Abatement Program to reduce lead in houses and apartments.

The Community and Family Support Center is created by the merger of the Family Support Center and the Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Program.

GLCAC unveils a new strategic plan to steer agency toward providing low-income individuals with a pathway to self-sufficiency.

GLCAC wins a state contract to help individuals comply with new regulations mandating health insurance.

Head Start educators receive honors for innovation and leadership in teaching science, technology, engineering and mathematics, also known as STEM, to preschoolers.



SOCIAL SERVICES

CHAMPIONS OF CHILDREN

In the dark shadow of child abuse and neglect, hope is found in the people committed to protecting children. They are the Children's Champions.

In 2014, a coalition of Merrimack Valley non-profits created the Children's Champion Award to honor those who combat child abuse. The first recipient, Juvenile Court Judge Mark Newman, earned accolades for his tireless commitment to children both in and out of the courtroom.

GLCAC's Michael B. Christensen Community and Family Support Center joined with the Exchange Clubs of the Merrimack Valley and the Merrimack Valley YMCA to create the award and unite the community against child abuse and neglect.



"If we can work together, families will feel supported in our community and will be better able to nurture and care for their children."

The Honorable Mark Newman,
Associate Justice,
Essex County Juvenile Court

THE PROBLEM SOLVERS

GLCAC's problem solvers help low-income individuals and families overcome challenges – everything from immigration to identity theft. And while our programs offer many services, we are a leader in the non-profit community, connecting people with the right organizations to meet their needs. Our annual Resource Fair, held each August in Campagnone Park, is a must-attend event for Greater Lawrence non-profits and people in need of a helping hand.

Then

The Spanish Community Services Program opened in 1971 to serve the region's immigrant population.

&

Renamed the Community Service Center in 2007 to reflect its service to the entire community, the staff assisted 3,833 clients in FY14.

Now



ENERGY AND HOUSING

WARM UP FOR SAVINGS

As a working mom, Fatima struggled with her heating bill. In the winter, she paid nearly \$600 per month to heat the first-floor apartment she shares with her three children. When her boiler broke and left the apartment cold, she turned to GLCAC.

GLCAC's fuel assistance and weatherizing programs supplied a new boiler at no cost to Fatima and paid for about a month of heat. In addition, an energy audit discovered she qualified to save on her electric bill by replacing an inefficient refrigerator with a high-efficiency model. Our crews also installed energy-saving light bulbs and smart strips, weather-stripping, water-tank wrap and wall insulation.

While she is still tallying up the monthly savings, her gas bill dropped \$200 this February compared to last. That's money in Fatima's pocket now used to support her family.

Then

GLCAC started a fuel assistance program in 1976, four years before the U.S. Congress created the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. GLCAC aided nearly 10,000 families with heating bills in FY14.

Now



Robin Rozzi, director of the Weatherization Assistance Program, blows insulation into the walls of a Reading home in 2008. The Weatherization Program has been helping low-income families save on energy costs since 1978.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CHANGING A LIFE

Roselio emigrated from the Dominican Republic about five years ago and worked in a Lawrence fruit warehouse. He could speak Spanish at work, but Roselio watched American TV and translated Spanish literature into English to learn the language of his adopted country. Roselio showed great determination, if not great results.

Landing a job as a personal care assistant created the need for Roselio to improve his English. On the radio, he learned about GLCAC's English for Speakers of Other Languages classes.

In 2014, GLCAC expanded ESOL classes to meet a growing need in the community. Seemingly before they even started, the classes had a waiting list. GLCAC previously offered ESOL classes for parents of our Head Start students, as well as training for high school diplomas, U.S. citizenship, computer literacy and commercial driver's licenses.

Roselio's English has improved so much his nursing home supervisor recommended he train to become a nurse's assistant. He can better communicate with his patients, and he gained the self-confidence to obtain his U.S. citizenship.

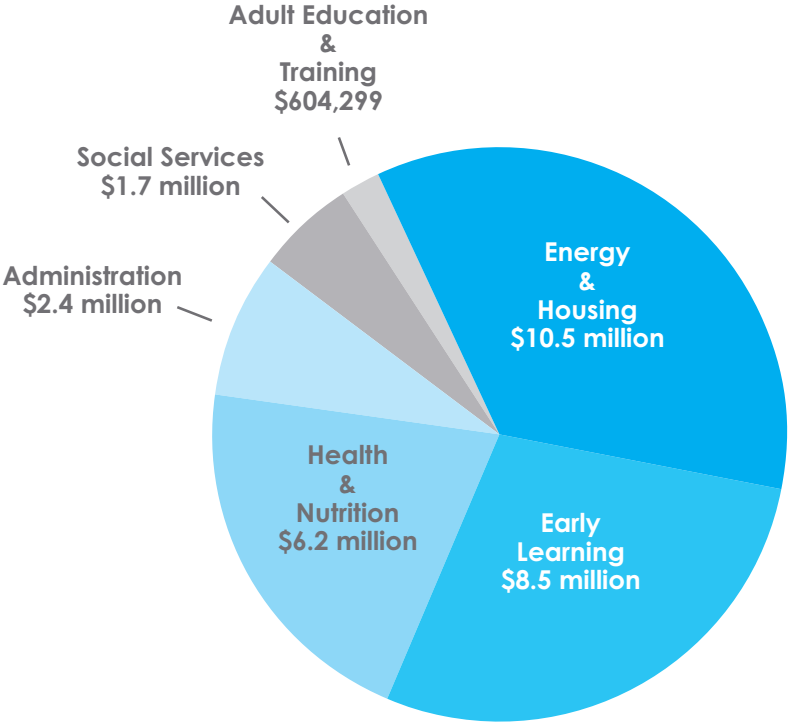


TEAM EFFORT CREATES SUMMER JOBS

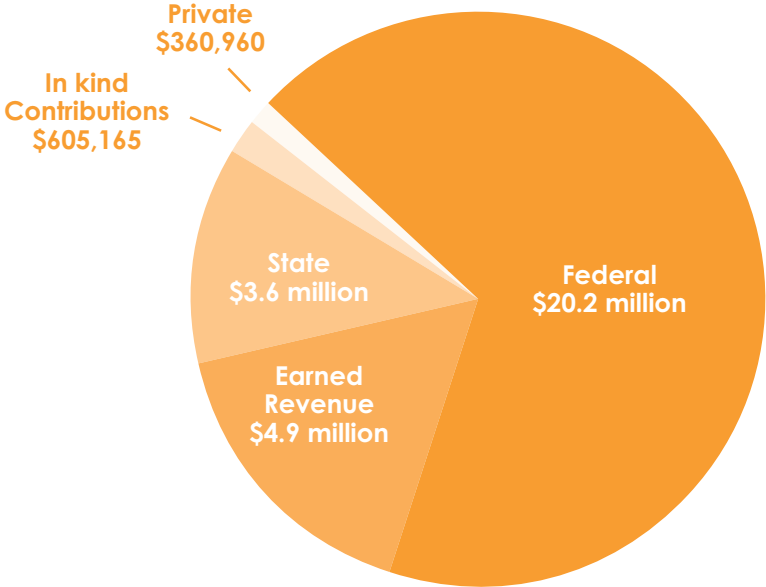
In 2014, the new Summer Jobs for Youth program gave 82 Lawrence teenagers valuable work experience. The initiative was a joint effort of the GLCAC, the Lawrence Mayor's Office, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION



REVENUE



GLCAC, Inc. SUPPORTERS

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to our contributors. Without their support, we would be unable to advance the mission of our organization and assist many needy individuals and families in Greater Lawrence.

PRIVATE GRANTS AND DONATIONS

3M Corporation
BayRing Communications
Tracey J. Chalifour
Clipper Ship Foundation
Columbia Gas
Commonwealth Corporation
Gail Compagnone
Amy Corriveau
Anne D'Errico
Double N Inc.
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
Edward S. & Winifred G. Mosely
Foundation
Essex County Community Foundation -
Webster Family Fund
Exchange Clubs of Merrimack Valley
Marie Finelli
Franklin Square House Foundation, Inc.
Evelyn Friedman
Gigante Meat Market
GLCAC, Inc. CFSC
GLCAC, Inc. Child Care Center
GLCAC, Inc. Community Service Center
GLCAC, Inc. Energy Programs
GLCAC, Inc. Finance Department
GLCAC, Inc. Head Start Program
GLCAC, Inc. IT Department
GLCAC, Inc. LIHEAP
GLCAC, Inc. WIC Program
Victor Jarvis
Jenet Management, LLC
Kannan & Pricone Plumbing
Kauppi Communications, Inc.

HelenAnn Knepper
Lawrence Celebration Committee
Lawrence Downtown Parking Association
Massachusetts Association for Community
Action (MassCap)
Marianne Matatall
Cindy Mazella
MD Management Co., LLC
Merrimack Valley Chamber of
Commerce
Michaud Insurance Agency, Inc.
Maureen Mulcahy
National Grid
New England Inpatient Specialists, LLC
Non-Profit Transitions, LLC
North Shore Community College
Joseph Parolisi
The Produce Connection
Richard Robichaud
Santander Bank N.A.
Fred P. Shaheen
Super Mas, Inc.
Rosa Talero
TD Charitable Foundation
Techprint, Inc.
Tomfohrde Foundation
Laura Torla
United Way of Massachusetts Bay and
Merrimack Valley
Stephen Vega
Winn Development Company, LP

IN KIND DONATIONS

Anonymous
Pamela Andrews
Boston University
Boys & Girls Club of Lawrence
Cabeza Barber Shop
City of Lawrence
Converse, Inc.
Anne Cormier
Demoulas Supermarkets, Inc.
Samantha Diaz
E & R Laundry
Marie Finelli
William Healey
Janet Hirschhorn
Home Depot
Noemi Lopez
Metropolitan Credit Union
Milk N It
Optimum Sportswear
Poland Spring / Nestle' Waters
Primitive Methodist Church
Maria Rosati
Shaheen Brothers
Super Stop and Shop #496
Toshiba Business Solutions, Inc.
Dawn Vargas
Stephen Vega

Professor Barry Bluestone, Director of Northeastern University's Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy, addresses the 2014 annual meeting of GLCAC Inc. Professor Bluestone predicted Lawrence is poised for sharp economic growth.



Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these listings. Errors and omissions should be reported to GLCAC, Inc. Development and Planning Office at 978-620-4706.

To the children, she is “abuelita,” Spanish for “granny.” We call her our Super Volunteer. Mercedes Marte Rodriguez volunteered for 1,760 hours in our Head Start program in 2014, reading, playing and caring for the children. Asked about her dedication, Mercedes, speaking through an interpreter, said, “Because God lets me, and it makes me happy.” It makes the children happy, too.



GREATER LAWRENCE COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL, INC.

305 ESSEX STREET

LAWRENCE, MA 01840

PHONE: (978) 681-4900

FAX: (978) 681-4949

EMAIL: ADMIN@GLCAC.ORG

WEB: WWW.GLCAC.ORG

FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GLCACINC

TWITTER: [@GLCACINC](https://twitter.com/GLCACINC)

