

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Growing Stronger Communities



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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Sandra Soroka NC Executive Director



This past year, we reflect on the impact the Neighborhood Center has had on our community, the individuals we serve, and our staff. While looking back, we truly saw how we've grown and flourished, and our agency impact has spread throughout our region–similar to the roots and branches of a tree. The "branches" of the Neighborhood Center, reaching out to all the communities we serve, and more importantly, belonging and being rooted to something larger than any one service, any one individual, and any one organization.

2022, a year after coming out of a pandemic, we all took inventory. Inventory of our lives, our work environment, and the world around us. In doing so at the Neighborhood Center, we reflected on who we are, what we do, and again, what impact we make. In doing so, we realized how strong our mission remains today and throughout the past 119 years—we are like a tree deeply rooted in mission. A tree that has grown and branched out through the past century. A tree that has provided support and helped people grow, be strong, and feel rooted and connected.

Since coming out of the pandemic our growth has been much greater. We have added to our rings by expanding our Mental Health Services; something that is needed for so many individuals coming out of very uncertain times. We have all felt ourselves needing to understand the world around us and to

regain a feeling of being safe and belonging. The pandemic separated us from the safety of our community and isolated us for a time being. We know how important it is to help our youth and the adults we serve to reconnect in a real world environment and not just virtually.

2023 promises to be a strong year of growth for The Neighborhood Center. We are expanding our Mobile Crisis Assessment Program (MCAT) and working with NYS to be part of the national 988 system. If you or someone you know is in crisis you can simply dial 988 to access help! This is a big initiative for the nation, NYS and our own MCAT program.

In addition we are gearing up to be a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC). By becoming a CCBHC we will expand our Mental Health Services that will include Substance Abuse treatment, outreach programs and the integration between physical health needs and behavioral health for a full holistic approach and a connected system of care across providers. To accomplish this, we received a Federal Grant to support the development of an infrastructure that will allow us to provide comprehensive, integrated, coordinated care that is person-centered on individual needs. This infrastructure funding is necessary to ensure we have the staffing resources and technical abilities to not only provide the services but support the success with in-depth data collection and analysis.

These opportunities are possible because we received over \$8 million in Federal and State grants which have been awarded to our services over the next few years. A time for growth.

During our reflections and the excitement over our growth opportunities it led us to re-define the image that represents our legacy, our mission and all that we do. In such, we are excited by our new logo and have improved our website for easier access to the information people need and want! While many take these opportunities to refer to it as rebranding. At The Neighborhood Center, we do not see it as rebranding, we are steadfast in our knowledge of what our mission is! However, we also know it is important that we continually and always assess how we do things and why we do them in association with our mission!

As I noted above, our branches and roots are as strong as ever! Thanks to our dedicated staff, our supporters, and to all we serve! By working and caring about those around us our growth is not just about ourselves, but knowing collectively we all grow stronger!

Together we are always stronger! Sandy

MISSION STATEMENT

To enrich the lives of individuals and families through cooperative opportunities, resources, and advocacy, which embrace diversity, promote empowerment and foster responsible citizenship.

Our areas of service are like branches on a tree, we serve over 40,000 individuals and families yet our roots remain as one.

HOW WE'RE CHANGING LIVES:

A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact

CHILD CARE & FAMILY SERVICES

We believe the future of our community is in the hands of our neighbors and we are all neighbors. We take great pride in offering quality childcare for children ages 6 weeks to 12 years at our Centers and at Family Court. We work with local school districts to provide Universal Pre-Kindergarten programming, we engage our neighborhood youth by providing free drop in social, recreational and educational activities. Youth between the ages of 13-18 can focus on educational planning and goal setting while learning about themselves. We provide perinatal supportive services for women and infants as well as resources and case management for adoptive, guardianship, and kinship families. We work with NYSOCFS to help grow and monitor home child care businesses as well as working with individuals to navigate the NYS Health Marketplace. Neighbors helping neighbors-we are in this together.

Our Child and Family Services help families and their children navigate different services and programs that encourage growth and development. These programs promote the social well-being of children and families by helping to build connections to home, school, and community. Given the right tools and support, families can help themselves to a better future.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Our Behavioral Health Services include out-patient mental health clinics; care management services to aid clients in their ability to manage their daily lives; a drop in center for adults with mental health diagnosis, and several other programs aimed at providing support and other services to persons with mental illness. Our Mobile Crisis Assessment team (MCAT) provides help to persons in crisis in Oneida, Herkimer, Schoharie, Otsego, Delaware, and Chenango counties. MCAT is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

This year, our dedicated team has made a difference in the lives of over 27,000 adults, children and families throughout six counties. Our staff place their focus and care on the emotional, social, and physical well-being of those we serve.

A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact

CHILD CARE & FAMILY SERVICES

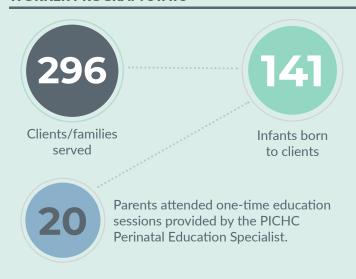
Our Child and Family Services provides an array of child care and preventative services for youth and families. These programs promote the social well-being of children and families by helping to build connections to home, school, and community. Given the right tools and support, families can help themselves to a better future.

Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network at The Neighborhood Center Inc. and PICHC: Perinatal and Infant Community Health Collaboratives Initiative/Community Health Worker Program

PICHC programs assist in decreasing rates of low birth weight, maternal mortality, and infant deaths. The Community Health Worker (CHW) Program enrolls high-need, low income families during or between pregnancies and through infancy. In 2022, the CHW Program exceeded expectations, with high numbers of home visits that kept families engaged in education and support. The agency's Perinatal Education Specialist reached additional families through small group sessions. PICHC staff presented timely, evidence-based information on prenatal/postnatal health, childbirth, infant care, breastfeeding, safe sleep, nutrition, mental health, and much more. Families were referred to resources for medical care, food, housing, education, and material needs. PICHC staff continued MVPN's Healthy Babies Consortium and Infant Safe Sleep Coalition meetings; provided professional training; MV Breastfeeding Network, and numerous other partners to ensure fruitful collaborations toward perinatal and infant health goals.



2022 COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM STATS



A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact



Holiday Assistance

In 2022, our holiday assistance program **provided** meals and gifts to 592 children and 325 adults.



Daycare Registration

The Neighborhood Center's Day Care Registration program oversees the licensing of family day care homes and school-age child care centers in Oneida County. The regulators monitor child care programs for compliance with regulations set forth by social services law and The Office of Children and Family Services child care regulations.

Additionally, the program investigates complaints of illegal child care facilities, as well as complaints against licensed facilities.





Child and Adult Care Food Program

As food prices soar, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides much needed reimbursement to child care providers for providing nutritious meals to enrolled children. Children in child care received 80% of their meals from their daycare, making these meals crucial for a child's growth and development. Through continuous education and training, child care providers are educated on such topics as kitchen cleanliness, childhood obesity, and picky eating. The Neighborhood Center provides over \$1 million dollars in reimbursement yearly to child care providers in Oneida, Herkimer, Madison, Fulton, and Montgomery counties.



SECTION 2 | ANNUAL REPORT 2022

HOW WE'RE CHANGING LIVES:

A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact



SOHO Regional Permanency Resource Center

SOHO, a Regional Permanency Resource Center, provides support and services to post-adoptive or post-guardianship families in Schoharie, Otsego, Herkimer, and Oneida counties. We will work with you to find the resources you need to strengthen your family, while giving you the opportunity to meet other families, who may be experiencing the same as you. We have many family fun events throughout the year, such as beach parties, picnics, and parties, which gives all a chance to socialize with others.





Health Benefits Navigator Program

The Health Benefits Navigator Program ensures that individuals and families have health insurance that fits their needs. This gives families and individuals the confidence to look for the healthcare they need including mental health, physical health, oral health, and vision health. The navigators make sure that the application process is complete and that insurance is obtained as soon as possible.



The Navigators served 1,055 adults ages 19-65 and 407 children ages 0-18.



Project AIM (Achieve, Inspire, Motivate)

Project AIM cultivates youth skills, guiding them towards a healthy, well-adjusted productive adulthood. AIM helps young people build selfconfidence, reduce negative social behaviors, and foster belonging and connection to their communities. The programming assists young people in developing personal and social assets, teaches essential life skills, and allows them to form supportive and meaningful relationships with trusted and caring adults so youth feel accepted, respected, and valued.

Project AIM served 25 youth from The Youth Bureau, 71 youth from Outreach & Prevention (Enhanced) and 36 youth from Central Valley.

A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact



Outreach and Prevention

Outreach and Prevention provides youth with a nurturing, supportive, and structured environment. This safe space limits youth participation in risky behavior or exposure to negative influences and encourages them to be contributing members of their schools, homes, and communities. Youth gain valuable life skills, forge supportive relationships with adult mentors, and have opportunities to explore their social and cultural community. Our programming aims to help young people find their voices, build relationships, and establish a positive view of themselves and their future.



Our Outreach and Prevention program served 23 youth and 17 families.



The Children's Center

The Children's Center provides safe, supervised, and free-of-charge, drop-in childcare for local caregivers needed in connection with court matters. We provide an information-rich environment to help the whole family, providing connections to resources and referrals based on the family's specific needs. Our secure facility offers caregivers peace of mind and acts as a haven for youth, shielding them from potentially distressing and traumatic experiences within the courtroom.



Our Children's Centers in both Rome and Utica remained closed in 2022 and will reopen in 2023!



Kinship Connections

Kinship Connections is a program that helps caregivers who are taking care of children that are not their own. They may have custody of the children or not. We will help them find the services that work best for them and the children in their care, including financial, health insurance, and court assistance.

Kinship Connections served 37 families, 50 adults and 63 children.



Childcare Center

The Childcare Center is a state licensed facility that serves children eight weeks old to five years. The program promotes early childhood education with helping young children reach their developmental milestones, nurturing growth and independence. Our program is curriculum based, with daily meals served, and promotes kindergarten readiness.

The Childcare Center served 133 children between the ages of six weeks old to five years old and served 111 families in 2022. 10

HOW WE'RE CHANGING LIVES:

A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact



The North Utica Senior Citizens Recreation Center, Inc.

The North Utica Senior Citizens Recreation Center is a true community center-providing educational, social, recreational, and health and wellness activities to all members of our community. Our program includes physical, social, emotional, and creative components to meet the needs of our senior participants, child care for school aged children and a Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program. We provided a wide range of classes, activities, and events including card tournaments, painting classes, chair yoga, Zumba, quilting, and two very successful craft fairs to name a few. Our activities are meant to foster independence, enrich quality of life, and help establish or maintain personal health and wellness.

400+

People Served in 2022



School Age Childcare

Our school age childcare provides before and after school care along with school holidays and breaks. The program provides meaningful experiences, promotes literacy, education, STEM, arts and crafts, socialization, and life skills.



The School Age Child Care Center served 87 youth and 71 families.



Universal Pre-Kindergarten

We operate three UPK programs for the Utica City School District and one for the Waterville School District. This program is designed to meet the social, cognitive, linguistic, emotional, cultural, and physical needs of children. This program is for children who are four years old by December 1 of that calendar year with the goal of having them kindergarten-ready.

Our UPK sites for the Utica City School District at The Neighborhood Center, Conkling Elementary, and North Utica Community and Senior Center served 161 children in 2022. Our UPK site for Waterville School District at Memorial Park Elementary School served 58 children in 2022.



A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact

CHILD CARE & FAMILY SERVICES

The Neighborhood Center, Inc. provides professional, state-of-the-art clinical, crisis, and community-based services for children, youth, adults, and their families, that struggle with mental health and/or addiction as well as care management services for adults and youth and psycho-social management services for adults.

Staffed by a multi-disciplinary team of professionals (including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, masters-level and bachelors-level therapists and counselors,) our behavioral health care services build on your unique strengths to develop the best individualized outpatient treatment plans possible.

Community Mental Health Promotion & Support (COMHPS)

The COMHPS team provides community engagement, mental health wellness promotion, individual screenings for mental health conditions, brief counseling, and referral to licensed mental health professionals. The COMHPS Program aims to support Oneida County residents with mental health needs and establish, maintain, and improve individual and community mental health and wellness. Through collaboration with other community service providers, COMHPS supports community members and providers, and acts as a valuable resource to the populations they serve.



TOTAL NUMBER SERVED IN 2022: 2,247

(Through Project Hope-which transitioned into COMPHS in December 2022)



A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact

Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT)

Our Mobile Crisis Team (MCAT) provides crisis intervention services and Emergency Department diversion to a six county region located in the Mohawk Valley of New York State: Oneida, Herkimer, Otsego, Delaware, Schoharie and Chenango counties. Our nationally accredited program, American Association of Suicidology (AAS) and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL/988)-affiliated program serves children & adults; provides 24/7 mobile crisis in-person, telehealth and telephonic response; operates a local crisis line; and accepts NSPL/988 crisis calls for the region. MCAT responds regularly with law enforcement and works collaboratively with first responders. The implementation of our pilot Crisis Response Team (CRT) at Utica Police Department in April 2021 has demonstrated positive outcomes through the use of population targeting, proactive outreach to frequent crisis response system clients and response to patrol MHL calls within the City of Utica. In September 2022, our Team was awarded a SAMHSA grant to expand our CRT programs to a second shift at Utica Police Department and newly established programs at Oneida County Sheriff and Herkimer Police Department.

ONEIDA/HERKIMER COUNTY



3,691
Services provided in Herkimer Co.

14,951

Total Services Provided (3,150 were Peer Advocate and Crisis Case Management Services)



1,070 Services provided Delaware Co.



2,269
Services provided Otsego Co.



FOR CRISIS SERVICES - CALL:

(315) 732-6228 or (844) 732-6228 **24-Hours a Day, 7-Days a Week**



A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact

Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment (CORE)

CORE services provide a person-centered, recovery-oriented, behavioral health support and assists individuals in building skills and self-efficacy to gain and increase independence. CORE addresses both physical and behavioral health needs of individuals 21 years and older. The service has received excellent feedback from members and community partners. Multiple members have communicated the positive impact CORE has had and how significantly it has helped them improve their overall quality of life.

45 adults participated in Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services (CORE PSR) 3 adults participated in Family Support and Training (CORE FST)

Child and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS)

Our CFTSS program provides service to children and youth up to age 21 in Oneida and Herkimer counties. CFTSS provides community and home based services providing expanded access to clinic based services, and rehabilitative interventions. There has been positive feedback from the program as families are able to schedule meetings with their providers around their schedules allowing for increased access to services to better meet the needs of the child/youth. Families have also shared their child's improvement in behavior as most receive services on a weekly basis around their schedules.

CFTSS served 51 children/youth totaling 50 families.

Care Management (Adults)

Care managers work diligently to assist members of the community and ensure their basic needs are met including access to nutritious foods, access to medical care and mental health services, and access to substance use disorder treatment. Care managers also work with clients to ensure they are able to secure safe/stable housing which includes providing advocacy services to individuals facing eviction and/or homelessness.

Care managers served 927 adults.



A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact

Care Management (Youth and Children)

Our children's care management serves children in Oneida and Herkimer counties.

Care managers work with children and their families providing school advocacy to ensure academic needs are being met. Additionally, care managers work with youth/families to ensure household stability by ensuring basic needs are met such as access to food, transportation, and support services. Care managers provided linkage to medical treatment, mental health services, dental providers, and other preventative care service providers.

Care managers served 88 children.

Family TIES (Treatment Intensive Empowering Services)

Our licensed mental health clinician works with high-risk children and their families to prevent out of home placement and inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations. Home and school based counseling services are provided to reduce behaviors and increase self-sufficiency. Services provided allowed families to avoid out of home placement of their children and achieve greater family stability.

Family TIES provided services to more than 30 children between the ages of 5 and 21 years of age in Herkimer County.

Adult Recovery Services

Our ARS program provides support in a safe and positive environment where members can obtain advice and support, socialize, develop job skills, and attend a wide variety of groups that are offered daily. Members can attend outings within the community including trips to

The Wild Animal Park, North Star Orchard, Rome Cinemas, Picnics in the Park, and more! Holiday events are very special at the club. Members look forward to preparing holiday meals for all club members to enjoy in the company of their peers. In 2022, ARS began providing transportation to both Utica and Rome sites. This increased access to services for members residing in rural areas of Oneida County including Boonville, Sylvan Beach, Camden, and Blossvale.

A Closer Look at Our Vital Programs and Their Impact

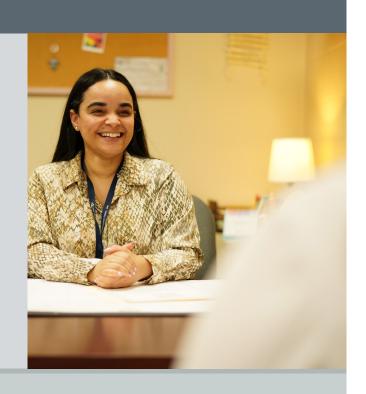
Assisted Competitive Employment (ACE) and Employment Services (ES)

Our program assisted approximately 40 adults in Oneida County to help secure and maintain gainful employment. Service providers assisted individuals with building basic skills required to obtain employment including time management skills, interview skills, organization skills and communication skills. Our job coach assisted individuals with resume building and completing/submitting job applications. Once employed, on-site job coaching services were provided to ensure individuals were able to maintain competitive employment.

Employment services served 26 individuals. ACE served 13 individuals.

Behavioral Health Clinics

The Behavioral Health Clinics provide professional evidence based individual, family, and group therapy as well as medication management to more than 2500 clients with behavioral health disorders annually. Services are provided to all ages at 20 locations in the two counties, including 16 schools. We offer treatment in person and using telehealth. 100% of clients who were in treatment for three months or more and responded to the Spring 2022 satisfaction survey reported some improvement in symptoms since beginning treatment; 33% reported very good improvement, and 35% reported major improvement.



ROME CLINIC

768
Adults Served

506
Children Served

UTICA CLINIC

588
Adults Served

826 Children Served

FROM OUR CLIENTS' PERSPECTIVE

The caregivers in our programs work closely with their clients each and every day on their goals, their dreams, their successes and growth. From children, to adults and families, our programs have an impact on all who seek our services. Each individual's success is something to be celebrated, whether it's getting a job, obtaining custody of your children, improving your mental health or a child learning how to walk - our clients make an impact in our lives and our communities.

Kinship Connections: "Now I can call you Mom."

Four years ago, Thomas and Heather made a decision to have their niece, May, and nephew, Chris, come live with them. May and Chris had been living with their grandparents after being removed from their mother's house due to neglect and abuse. Court had become a never ending part of their lives - continuously in and out of court due to their mother filing different violations or new petitions.

May and Chris have become comfortable at Thomas and Heather's home. They have bonded with their two children and when their little girl was very sick this past February, May did not leave her side and helped to care for her. At this time, court has ended, which relieves so much stress for all involved. When May heard the news that the court decided that her and her brother should stay with Thomas and Heather and have limited visits with

their mom, May said to Heather "Does that mean I can call you Mom now?"This is a story that will tear at your heartstrings, however, there are so many positive and happy moments that this intertwined family has shared. Our caregivers give so much to the children in their care and one reward could be to be called "Mom."







FROM OUR CLIENTS' PERSPECTIVE

Assisted Competitive Employment

Client "T" has been a member of our Adult and Recovery Services (ARS) program since July 2013 and was involved in the Assisted Competitive Employment (ACE) program to work on her goals of going back to work sometime in the future. "T" is determined to get back to contributing more to the program and community and is taking the necessary steps to get there. She is currently a volunteer at ARS, volunteers in the community, helps with ARS programming and fundraising, and sits as a long standing member of the advisory board. Her dedication to recovery is clear and will help her achieve her goals of working again. Although "T" has had to take a step back from her goal of employment, she continues to address and advocate for her physical and mental health needs. "T" also networks for connections and programs going on in the community that may be beneficial to our members and program. When asked what "T" loves about The Neighborhood Center, she replied "The Neighborhood Center provides me with a forum to improve my emotional and physical health and to be able to interact with the outside world better."

Outreach and Prevention

An Outreach and Prevention participant was awarded Student of the Year by her middle school this month. She was asked to give a speech detailing her experiences, activities, and overall achievements in the community. She chose to discuss the community service projects she had participated in while attending the Outreach and Prevention program.

Over the years, she has participated in numerous service-learning ventures, including—but not limited to—creating care bags for cancer patients at Slocum Dickson, creating cards of encouragement for local youth facing terminal illness, making holiday decorations/decorating lunch bags for the Hope House, and collecting and distributing donations for shelter pets and communities dealing with devastation. Her acts of service have profoundly impacted her surrounding community and shaped her into a kind and caring young adult who takes the utmost pride in her city. She has gained leadership and decision-making skills and has tremendously improved her self-confidence.

She shared that her school teachers were impressed at how many projects she had participated in and thrilled that the *Outreach and Prevention program was helping her to impact her community*. She is among the oldest youths enrolled, and her opinion on our service learning programming is always valued. She consistently spends time helping to brainstorm ideas on what projects we'd like to complete, and what populations or agencies need our help.

She actively participates in school activities, sports, and community service projects outside of Outreach and Prevention. She gets fairly busy during some months but always returns to check-in with her peers and group leader. This compassionate, kind-hearted soul will continue to create significant change within her community.

2023: A PREVIEW OF WHAT'S TO COME

As we approach our 118th year, we reflect on our rooted history, growth, and success. We will continue to deepen our roots in our community, strengthen our community, and expand our services. We are excited to introduce two new services that will be offered in 2023!

OASAS Outpatient Clinic

The future looks bright for The Neighborhood Center as we expand by offering an OASAS Outpatient Clinic at 628 Mary Street in Utica. Based on the needs of the community, The Neighborhood Center submitted an application to New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) in the Spring of 2022 to become an OASAS Outpatient Clinic. The Neighborhood Center does not currently provide substance abuse/addiction support. This new clinic will allow for a wider array of support and services to help those who are looking to overcome any issues associated with drug or alcohol use. The Outpatient Clinic will be located in the same building at the Behavior Health Clinic, allowing clients easy access to Behavioral Health clinicians as well as substance use personnel.



A small team of professionals and paraprofessionals will staff the clinic under the oversight of a medical director. The team will include a director, psychiatric nurse practitioner, nurses, case manager, credentialed alcoholism and substance abuse counselors, certified recovery peer advocates, and front office support. The clinic will provide counseling, approved medications for people with substance abuse, care management, individual and group therapy, drug screens, and most importantly, peer support for outreach, engagement, and connecting with community supports.

The need for an outpatient clinic is great, and the enthusiasm of the staff to begin this initiative is even greater. An outpatient clinic is just a stepping stone and will open doors to the ability to provide inpatient support in the future. We are excited to obtain final approval from NYS to begin this new service in 2023!



2023: A PREVIEW OF WHAT'S TO COME



Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)

In September 2022, The Neighborhood Center was thrilled to be awarded a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) grant to create a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC). This was an extremely competitive process, competing with agencies all over the United States for a limited number of awards. Members from the Behavioral Health Division worked together to submit our proposal to transition our existing Behavioral Health Clinic to a specially-designated clinic that will provide comprehensive care for our clients. The premise of a CCBHC is to include mental health care services, substance use disorder services and primary care screening services, all under one clinic. The team was very proud to be awarded this federal grant. They have been hard at work building the infrastructure to support this comprehensive model of care and put us on the path for certification. The Neighborhood Center is developing partnerships that will be instrumental in the continuity of care, and expects to increase people receiving at least one CCBHC service by approximately 1,900 people throughout the life of the grant.

While The Neighborhood Center has provided behavioral health clinical services for years, this integrated treatment program offers so much more. The program is developed to serve anyone who requests care regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence, or age, including appropriate care for children and youth. As a CCBHC, The Neighborhood Center must provide an array of services; many of which are already being provided, and some additional services. Required services of the CCBHC currently provided and The Neighborhood Center include

Crisis Behavioral Health Services, Treatment Planning, Screening, Assessment & Diagnosis, Outpatient Mental Health Services, Case Management, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services and Peer Support Services. What will be unique for the Agency, is the addition of Outpatient Primary Care Screening, Substance Use Services & Monitoring and Community-Based Mental Health Care for veterans. We are well on our way to providing these additional services and should be in full compliance by Fall 2023.

The CCBHC will allow clients to receive behavioral health support from multiple providers, no longer needing to piece together their total plan for services. Targeted Case Management will help people navigate all systems clients are involved in; behavioral health care, physical health care, social services and any other services needed, ensuring a more complete system of care. This model breaks down silos of service and will result in system change; a win-win for the clients to receive the most seamless, comprehensive care to improve their quality of life.

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND:

Our Ongoing Commitment to the Community

Beyond Daycare: Discover How Our Programs Foster Growth and Development for Children in our Community

Early childhood education yields many long-term benefits for children. By providing an enriching early childhood education to children ages six weeks to 5 years, The Neighborhood Center licensed child care center prepares children to be life-long learners.

Positive relationships with multiple adults promotes young children's social and emotional development, providing the additional support parents need. This consistency of staffing is vital to our children's neural development, many of our staff members have 15+ years in the classrooms.

Our child care staff members receive over 30 hours of professional development training every two years. This training hones in on best practice standards currently in the early childhood field; a field that is constantly changing. As the world returns to normal operations post-COVID pandemic, children born during the global pandemic face new challenges that the early childhood industry is evolving to meet. Our child care staff are trained in behavior management techniques that focus on behavior as a form of communication, versus solely disciplining children to conform to rules.

The universal creative curriculum ensures that children are ready for the next steps in their educational career, while providing opportunities for unstructured play, process art, music and movement. In addition to providing a safe and fun learning environment, children receive:

- Daily gross motor exercise in either our private gymnasium or at one of our three playgrounds
- Daily fine motor activities such as printing, art, coloring, and sensory activities
- Nutritious meals for breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack
- Exposure to phonemic awareness and beginning reader literacy activities
- Wrap around care for our Universal Pre-K program
- Opportunities to socialize and create lifelong friendships.



When children outgrow our child care program and enter school, our school-age child care program provides the necessary before and after school care that working parents need. The school-age child care program provides the support children need to excel in school and in life:

- Staff members that are able to help with homework and studying
- Life skills and volunteer work
- Curriculum developed to expand on the school day during after school time
- Activities developed to understand science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics
- Field trips to child-friendly venues that some children do not have access to
- Connecting students and families to outside services as necessary to make sure all of the children in care feel healthy, safe, and loved.

We are grateful to the parents, foster parents, and guardians that have entrusted us with their children. It is our goal to provide quality programs that our clients can afford. Our child care services rely heavily on donations from our community partners, patrons, and fundraisers.



GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND:

Our Ongoing Commitment to the Community

"What's In A Name?" Discover How MCAT Provides More Than Just Crisis Support

As the name suggests, Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) provides hope to adults and children during crises throughout six counties: (Oneida, Herkimer, Otsego, Delaware, Chenango, and Schoharie) 24/7/365. MCAT has become well known as the go to source when a person is in need of immediate mental health support, and recently, MCAT has partnered with the regional 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Over the years, MCAT has become so much more than an acute response to crisis.

MCAT does not stop after an initial encounter with a person in crisis. Crisis Counselors reach out to clients with scheduled wellness calls to provide any needed additional support during a difficult time, or Peer Advocates, persons with lived experience specific to mental health and/or substance use are available to speak with clients, with their own unique experiences to be a positive social support. MCAT also handles Alert Requests. If a person knows of another person who is at risk of being in crisis, an ALERT allows MCAT to have background or context information as a proactive measure, should MCAT need to interact with the client in the future.

Crisis Case Management is also another support offered by MCAT. Often a client has immediate needs related to their crisis. The Crisis Case Manager can assist clients in Oneida and Herkimer counties with obtaining basic needs such as food, shelter or clothing. Further, MCAT has a Community Mental Health/Bridge Script program to assist with medications. If a client is in need of an established medication to avoid a lapse, a bridge script can be provided, and if needed, nurses are available in Oneida County to meet with clients and administer MCAT medications in the moment to avoid unnecessary visits to the emergency department.

Did you know that MCAT is also embedded within local law enforcement entities? The partnerships between The Neighborhood Center and the Utica Police Department, Oneida County Sheriff Department and Herkimer Police Department allow The Neighborhood Center crisis counselors and peer advocates to respond to crises in real time with law enforcement, and conduct proactive outreach to community members in need of mental health support. These partnerships have proven successful and can help alleviate a stressful situation much more efficiently.

MCAT has grown exponentially over the years and is not slowing down anytime soon. The team has and continues to respond to the mental health and/ or substance use needs in our community. Watch for exciting news on our newest endeavor in 2023, assisting veterans, service members, and their families with suicide prevention and linkage to necessary supports to ensure positive mental health outcomes.



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



A HUGE thank you to our community partners, staff and those who donated toys, clothes, food or made a monetary donation to make the holidays bright for those in our community. With your help, we were able to provide 917 children and adults the Christmas they deserve.

Thank you to community members who purchased supplies from our Amazon Wish List to clear the list! The kids were absolutely ecstatic that so many of their wishes are being granted!



After a two year hiatus due to COVID, The Neighborhood Center was a recipient of donations from Kinney Drugs' trade show. Supplies are distributed to our dedicated employees and programs.

New Hartford Presbyterian Church generously donated school supplies. This yearly donation ensures all of our School Age Children are prepared to start the school year!

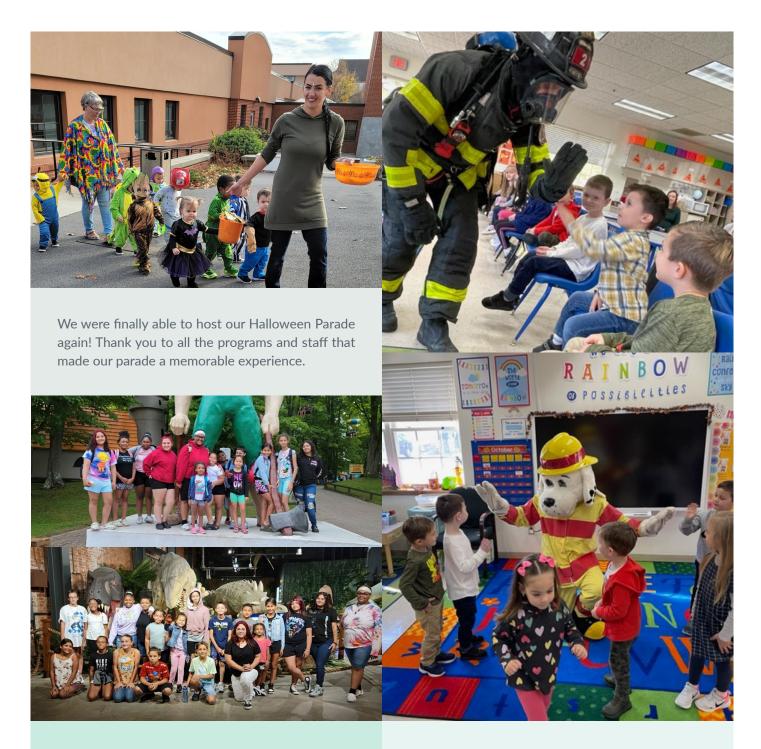
AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



We were finally able to welcome back our preschool families for our annual Preschool Thanksgiving feast! It was so heartwarming to see such a wonderful turnout! The Utica Police Department visited our UPK program at Conkling Elementary School to discuss their roles as Community Helpers. The kids met K9 "Varick"!



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



School-age childcare and Outreach & Prevention enjoy their time with "Camp on the Go" and had a blast at the Museum of Science and Technology and Enchanted Forest Water Safari

The Universal Pre-K Children met members of the Utica Fire Department and learned about fire safety and awareness!

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD





In the summer our school age and childcare classrooms enjoy sunny days in our sprinkler on site!

EVENTS

After a brief hiatus due to COVID, we were finally able to host our events in person again in 2022! A special thank you to all of our guests, sponsors, those who donated and our volunteers! Our events are a great success thanks to your generous support.







Gala Di Mistero

Gala Di Mistero, "Le Cirque des Reves" was held on Saturday, June 18th at Teugega Country Club in Rome. Guests enjoyed their evening under the big top with performances by CirqOvation, musical guests Our Common Roots, magician Shaun Robison and more! All proceeds from our Gala go directly to support our child care programs.



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Patron Partners:

Cusworth Overhead Door & Window Co Inc

Ice Sculpture & Shrimp Cocktail Station:

Abdoo Security & Automation







EVENTS

Auction & Dinner

Our 20th annual Auction & Dinner was held on Friday, November 18th at Hart's Hill Inn. Guests enjoyed mingling while bidding on over 100 baskets and enjoyed the excitement of our live auction! Thank you to all who donated items for baskets. All proceeds from the auction go directly to our programs.



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Fruit, Cheese & Veggie Sponsor: McQuade & Bannigan

Entryway Sponsor: Hidden Valley Golf Club, Inc.

Wine Fountain: JAY-K Lumber

Dessert Table: Bremer's Wine & Liquors









George M. Penree III Memorial Golf Tournament

The second annual George M. Penree III Memorial Golf Tournament was held on Wednesday, June 22nd at Stonebridge Golf & Country Club to benefit the North Utica Senior Citizens Center in George's memory. George was passionate about the Center and served as president of the Board for 16 years. George loved golf, this tournament is a tribute to a remarkable man. A huge thank you to all of our sponsors and golfers for making this event possible.



DONOR REPORTS



A big thank you to our friends and benefactors in 2022!

A generous community helps make our mission possible each and every day. Financial gifts from donors across the region go directly towards our programming, providing a better future for our community. We are extremely grateful for your support.

In Kind Donations 2022

Amicable Masonic Lodge #664

Amy Mielnicki Arianna DeLoach

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Barker Brook Golf Club Be. Life. Art. Magic

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EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Our dedicated employees' efforts every day don't go unnoticed. Our employees go above and beyond for those we serve and their peers. The Employee of the Month Award recognizes the excellence provided by employees of The Neighborhood Center. The purpose of this award is to recognize those employees who show exemplary individual achievement, contribution and performance in their jobs and other related duties beyond their own offices and to acknowledge those whose efforts have inspired and supported the performance and achievement of others.

Congratulations to our 2022 Employees of the Month!

January - Arinna DeLoach, Group Work

February - Olivia Shauger, Utica Clinic

March - Heather Reynolds, Utica Clinic

April - Karen Kohl, Childcare

May - Beth Dupres, Mohawk Valley Perinatal Network

June - Samantha Keener, Adult Recovery Services, Utica

July - Andy Soroka, Facility Services

August - April Sayshan, Childcare

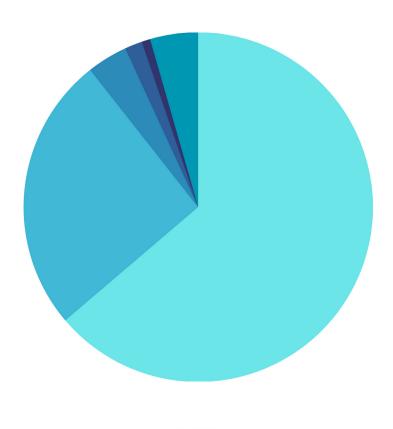
September - Selena Drinicic, Childcare

October - Wilson Wells, MCAT

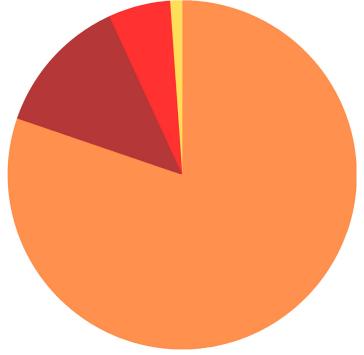
November - Jill Ludemann, Human Resources

December - Kimber Messineo, *Utica Clinic*

FISCAL REPORT







EXPENDITURES: Program Expenditures 80.24% Administration Expenditures............ 12.89% Salaries Fringe Benefits Supplies Travel and Conferences Equipment Maintenance . . Miscellaneous Professional Fees and Consultants Legal and Auditing Occupancy Utilities Telecommunications Building Repairs and Maintenance Insurance Interest Depreciation and Amortization Personal Service Contracts 5.75% Independent Contractors..... 1.12% TOTAL EXPENDITURES 100.00%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

We cannot express our gratitude enough to the dedicated and committed volunteers that serve on the Center's **Board of Directors** and our Foundation Board, **The Marie. A. Russo Neighborhood Center Institute.**

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