In December, Christmas Tree Santas spread hope and joy to 150 families with young children in Haverhill. The organization delivered 150 Christmas trees along with stands, lights and decorations to the CAI Fox Center, 75 Elm Street in Haverhill. The CAI Fox Center serves low-income families in the Greater Haverhill and Newburyport Seacoast area with Head Start/Early Head Start preschool programs and the Family Day Care program.

On Saturday, December 7th, CAI staff and volunteers distributed the trees to local families. Children enjoyed food, activities and a visit from Santa at the annual event. CAI President John Cuneo thanks CAI staff, volunteers and Christmas Tree Santas for making this family event possible each year and for bringing joy to the families CAI serves during the holiday season.

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Stay Warm This Winter with Heating Assistance

The CAI Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been available in Massachusetts to low-income households since 1977. Also known as Fuel Assistance, this program helps income-eligible households pay a portion of their heating bills or 30% of their rent (if the heat is included) between November 1 and April 30. You may also be eligible for discounts on your National Grid gas and electric bills.

To find out if your household is eligible please review income guidelines and visit CAI’s website to complete an online prescreening/appointment request. You may also call 978-373-1971 ext. 218. To check your application status or schedule an appointment to apply call 978-374-7660 any time. https://www.communityactioninc.org/programs/fuel-energy

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Holiday Notices

CAI offices will be closed on Monday, January 20th, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and on Monday, February 17th, in observance of Presidents’ Day.

Board of Directors Meeting

Community Action, Inc.’s all-volunteer Board of Directors will hold regular meetings on Wednesday, January 29th and on Wednesday, February 26th, at the CAI Fox Center, 75 Elm Street in Haverhill. Presentations and committee meetings will begin at 6:00 p.m. Board meeting begins no later than 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the general public. Please contact CAI’s AA/EO Mgr. in advance for information on physical accessibility and sign language interpreters, (978) 373-1971.

Christmas Tree Santas Brings Joy to Local Families

CAI Staff assist with distributing 150 trees to local families on December 07 at Annual holiday event. Right: Ornaments donated by Christmas Tree Santas along with trees.

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CAI Drop-in Center Raises Funds for Critical Services to Help the Homeless

CAI staff and board members appreciate the Greater Haverhill community’s very generous support of the agency’s Drop-in Center located at 16 Ashland Street in Haverhill. Through the generosity of local individuals, organizations and businesses, CAI has met 61% of its $10,000 fundraising goal. The $6,000 raised to date will help maintain current levels of service throughout the winter. CAI Drop-in Center Coordinator Pat Dennehy is asking the community to “help us continue to raise funds to meet our goal this winter, by

- Continued on page 3
Family Day Care Hosts Annual Children’s Holiday Party

The CAI Family Day Care (FDC) program hosted its Annual Children's Holiday Party on December 11th at the Haverhill Citizen Center. This annual party welcomes children and their families who receive childcare through the FDC network of licensed family child care educators in the greater Haverhill and Newburyport seacoast area. About eighty children and their families attended and enjoyed food, activities and entertainment by Steve the Music Man.

CAI Family Day Care Director, Kathie Cote, thanks Educators for the care that they provide to local children throughout the year and for their volunteerism. “Many educators support and promote family engagement and community involvement through volunteering their time and efforts during program events such as the FDC Children’s Holiday Party, CAI Early Learning Services STEAM Event and the Holiday Tree Event” said Ms. Cote.

Family Child Care Educators are licensed through the MA Department of Early Education and Care to provide nurturing care and education in their private home setting. Ms. Cote said, “CAI/FDC educators open their homes and their hearts to partner with families in encouraging children to reach their fullest academic and social/emotional potential.” To learn more about CAI Family Day Care visit: https://www.communityactioninc.org/programs/children/daycare

Haverhill Preschool Resource Fair is February 1

Come learn about preschool options for your child on Saturday, February 1st at the Haverhill High School Library, 137 Monument St in Haverhill, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Enjoy refreshments, giveaways, books, children’s activities, vision screenings and more. This is a free family event presented by Haverhill's Early Learning Leadership Team.

The Community Action, Inc. Head Start/Early Head Start, Family Day Care, Family and Community Connection and Northern Essex WIC programs will be on site to share information about their preschool/early literacy programs and other services for families with young children.

Playgroups & Early Literacy Activities

Please join the CAI Family & Community Connection (FCC) program for activities, playgroups and access to resources for children 0-8 yrs. old. Most programs are held at FCC, 346 Broadway in Haverhill, unless otherwise noted. Questions, call (978) 914-7893.

- Babies & Babble (0-3 yrs) - Tuesdays @ 9:30am
- Busy Bees (3-6 yrs) - Wednesdays @ 9:30am
- Music Creations - Various local libraries (see online schedule)
- Learn & Move - Thursdays @ 1pm at the Perley School in Georgetown.

Kindergarten Ready (3-5 yrs) - Thursdays @10am at FCC and on Fridays at Moody School in Haverhill @ 9:30am

FCC also provides programs at local libraries. Please visit our website for complete schedule. https://www.communityactioninc.org/programs/children/family-community-connection

CAI Serves 148 Families with Help from Haverhill Gazette Santa Fund

Community Action, Inc. is grateful to partner with the Haverhill Gazette Santa Fund program each year to distribute vouchers for food and gifts to low-income families living in Haverhill. This past holiday season, 148 families were assisted by Gazette Santa. CAI would like share a few notes from local families who wished to express their gratitude:

“Thank you so much for your help. I really appreciate it. I recently got laid off and didn’t know how I was going to have presents for my kids. You have truly helped me in a big way.”

“I just wanted to say thank you from me and my son for being able to help us at a difficult time. We appreciate it more than words can describe!”

“Christmas is a hard time of year for me and my family. Being a single mom there’s not much money for gifts. I am so thankful to this opportunity to receive help from your program.”

CAI Community Services staff Robert Gould and Ana Kim and CAI receptionist Iris Navaez helped coordinate the distribution of the food and gift vouchers for the 148 households. They would like to thank the Gazette Santa Fund for the opportunity to help low-income families have a brighter and more enjoyable holiday season.
Free Programs Available at the Community Action Inc. Adult Learning Center

The Community Action Inc. (CAI) Adult Learning Center, 3 Washington Square, Haverhill is offering free courses to help Greater Haverhill residents learn English, obtain a high school equivalency diploma or identify new career pathways.

The courses are open to area residents over the age of 16 who are not currently attending school. There are no income requirements.

Timothy Ruggere, the director of the CAI Education and Training program, said there are openings in the classes that help students prepare and pass the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET). HiSET prep classes are offered Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 am to noon. Students are required to take an entry placement exam. The number of class days is determined by the student’s testing results.

Mr. Ruggere said the CAI Adult Learning Center also offers English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes for area residents who want to learn English to help them better communicate with their families, doctors, employers etc., help them prepare for the citizenship exam and prepare for college or job training.

The ESOL classes are offered two to three days per week from 9 am to noon. Students are required to take an entrance exam to determine class placement. There are currently seats available.

The learning center also offers a Career Pathways program to help participants who are looking for more than a minimum wage job, said Mr. Ruggere. The program helps refresh reading, writing, math and communication skills and helps prepare individuals for college or a job training program.

“We hope to create more opportunities for our adult learners that reach far beyond the classroom. We want our adult learners to take the skills and confidence they learned in the classroom to improve their employment, educational and career opportunities,” said Mr. Ruggere. The ESOL and HiSet classes provide a great opportunity for all residents who want to improve their lives. And best of all it is free.”

For information on HiSET prep, ESOL or Career Pathways please call the CAI Adult Learning Center at 978-373-1971 or visit the center located at 3 Washington Square, Haverhill.

Adult Learning Center Registration

The CAI Adult Learning Center will hold registration sessions for ESOL and High School Equivalency Preparation Classes in January and February.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Waitlist Registration
• Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 10 am
• Wednesday, February 12, 2020, 10 am

High School Equivalency (HiSET/GED) Preparation Registration
• Tuesday, January 14, 2020, 10 am
• Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 10 am

Registration sessions are held at CAI, 3 Washington Sq., 3rd Floor in Haverhill. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until noon. You will receive more information, a placement test and an interview. Questions? Please call: Shannon O’Connell, (978) 373-1971 ext. 216 or Ana Quiroz Kim ext. 244.

Drop-in Center Continues to Raise Funds - Continued From Page 1

Sharing or donating to the Drop-in Center campaign. Any donation no matter how small will be greatly appreciated”.

For 31 years, CAI has operated the Drop-in Center, welcoming people who live on the streets, in emergency overnight shelter and in overcrowded, unsafe living environments - the forgotten individuals in our community who are in need of the most help. The center provides a day shelter, meals, clothing, medical and mental health services, financial and budgeting support, housing, counseling, and many other services. CAI again thanks the many community members who have made contributions.

CAI Helps Mother of Four Earn U.S. Citizenship

CAI congratulates Aluel Majak Ngueny on her hard work and dedication to achieve her goal of becoming a U.S. Citizen this past fall. Ms. Ngueny has participated in several CAI programs including English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes and HiSET preparation classes at the CAI Adult Learning Center in Haverhill. Her children have also attended the CAI Head Start and Early Head Start preschool programs.

Online Donations
Scan Code Above or Visit: https://donate.communityactioninc.org/campaign/Drop-in-Center-Urgently-Needs-Your-Help/c250645

Donations can be Mailed To:
Attn: Drop-in Center Campaign
Community Action, Inc.
3 Washington Square
Haverhill, MA 01830

CAI Head Start and Early Head Start preschool programs.
Leeward Charitable Foundation Donates $20,000 to Support Community Action Energy Programs

Community Action, Inc. (CAI) received a $20,000 donation from the Leeward Charitable Foundation in December to support energy programs for clients in need. Leeward has supported CAI for seven years and recognizes the urgent needs of community members who cannot afford high heating bills during the long winter months. The Leeward Charitable Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) corporation operating charitable thrift stores in several New England communities.

The mission of Leeward is to recycle, reuse and renew for charity. Through the generous donations of the community, the Leeward Charitable Foundation turns unwanted and surplus clothing, furniture and household items into funds for worthy local charities.

John Cuneo, President/CEO of Community Action said, “Community Action is honored to be one of the organizations supported by Leeward Charitable Foundation. The generous donation will help us reach, serve and assist many low income residents in the area who simply cannot afford the high heating costs.”

To learn more about Leeward Light Charitable Foundation, visit: www.leewardfoundation.org.

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Newsletter Writers & Editors: Richard Lynch & Katrina Heisler

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CAI Main Office
(Administration, Adult Learning Center, Community Services, Energy Programs, Northern Essex WIC)
3 Washington Sq, Haverhill, MA 01830
(978) 373-1971 - Main
(978) 374-2191 – WIC

CAI Drop-in Center
(Day shelter for homeless, meals, referrals)
16 Ashland St., Haverhill, MA 01830
(978) 241-9621

CAI Family & Community Connection
(Playgroups, activities for families w/children 0-8 yrs)
346 Broadway, Haverhill, MA 01832
(978) 914-7893

CAI Fox Center
(Head Start/EHS, Family Day Care)
75 Elm St., Haverhill, MA 01830
(978) 372-5052

CAI Goldman Center
(Early Head Start)
230 Hilldale Ave., Haverhill, MA 01832
(978) 241-4261

CAI Amesbury Center
(Food Pantry, Clothing Bank, Referrals)
44 Friend St., Amesbury, MA, 01913
978-388-2570

CAI Seacoast Center
(Head Start)
447 Merrimac St., Newburyport, MA, 01950
(978) 499-8357

Our Programs serve the following Massachusetts cities and towns: Amesbury, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury, and West Newbury. Some CAI programs also serve: Beverly, Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Ipswich, Lawrence, Manchester, Rockport, Topsfield and Wenham.

Our Mission: Community Action, Inc. provides resources and opportunities for individuals, families and communities to overcome poverty. CAI envisions strong, thriving communities free of poverty. We build hope and offer assistance with respect and understanding.