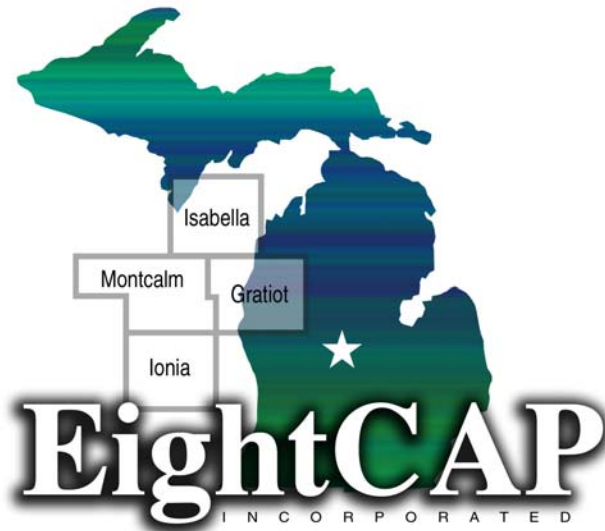


Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See • Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium • Community Services • Court Appointed Special Advocate Program • Early Head Start • Foster Grandparent Program • Head Start • Senior Companion Program • Threshold Academy • Weatherization



A Community Action & Michigan Works! Agency

Wah-Wah-Tay-See • Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium • Community Services • Court Appointed Special Advocate Program • Early Head Start • Foster Grandparent **2008 Annual Report** • Senior Companion Program • Threshold Academy • Weatherization

• Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See • Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium • Community Services • Court Appointed Special Advocate Program • Head Start • Early Head Start • Foster Grandparent Program • Head Start • Senior Companion Program • Threshold Academy •

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## 2007/08 Governing Board

### GRATIOT COUNTY

Larry McGillis - Public  
Rep. of Gratiot County Commissioners

Teresa Devaloz-Cervantes - Consumer  
Rep. of Ithaca Head Start Center

Cindy Wendzel - Private  
Rep. of Gratiot Co. Farm Bureau

### IONIA COUNTY

Don Benjamin - Public  
Rep. of Ionia County Commissioners

Janet Thomas - Private  
Rep. of Lakewood Community Schools

Nancy Haga - Consumer  
Rep. of Consumer Sector

### ISABELLA COUNTY

John Riley, Jr. - Public  
Rep. of Isabella Co. Commissioners

Margaret Heintz - Private  
Rep. of Sacred Heart Parish

Alan Schilling - Consumer  
Mid Michigan Industries

### MONTCALM COUNTY

Tom Lindeman - Public  
Montcalm County Commissioner

Jae Evans - Private  
Rep. of Greenville Community Bank

Jim Sharp - Consumer  
Rep. of The Arc Montcalm

### AT-LARGE

Richard McClintic - Public  
Rep. of Gratiot County Commissioners

James Mullendore - Private  
Mullendore and Thrall

Cindy Inbody - Consumer  
Rep. of Head Start Parent Policy Council

## President's Message



Dear Community Action Supporters:

Welcome to the annual report of EightCAP, a Community Action Agency. Community Action tends to fly under the radar and that is sometimes unfortunate. The EightCAP Community Action Program is a program that works very hard using grant money from federal and state sources as well as private donations to provide a system of safety nets and assistance for low income and elderly residents in four counties including Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, and Montcalm. Over the last 42 years, our mission has absorbed such programs as Head Start; Foster Grandparents; Senior Companions; Weatherization; Community Services; and most recently, Michigan Works!, which has been part of EightCAP for more than two decades. The state of the economy in Michigan, and especially in our area, has naturally led to a big increase in the amount of responsibility that an agency like EightCAP must accept.

Over the year 2008 we watched as America started to face some of the biggest changes it had seen in decades. Instead of a war against a seen enemy, we are involved in a war against global change, which is affecting us and our economy to such a great extent that things like home ownership, paying your bills, and having a normal life are threatened. As you read the contents of this annual report you will start to see that, in spite of how weak things may look, there is a real system of support out there to help families and individuals maintain their lives and to give them time to look for opportunities to improve, to find jobs, to get retrained, to help their children, and to help the senior citizens of our area. From providing help with heating bills and rental assistance to providing an opportunity for a new job, the breath and width of EightCAP services is large.

I hope you enjoy this annual report. If you have questions, feel free to call our office at any time (616/754-9315).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Van Nieuwenhuyzen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Van Nieuwenhuyzen  
President

# Community Services

Community Service programs empower the poor to take control of their own lives and to provide services that may lead to self-sufficiency.

Programs include tax preparation, home heating credits, earned income credits, and homestead property tax credits. Community Services also provides emergency assistance, including homelessness prevention, utility payments, and food supplements for low-income people.

Staff provides information about other resources in the community and works closely with churches and other agencies to assist people in need.

Community Services is the local agent for Michigan ENROLLS, providing education and enrollment assistance for managed health care providers in the community.

## Program Highlights

- Provided assistance to **7,450 low-income persons**.
- Assisted **4,090 families** with emergency services including utility and shelter payments.
- Provided tax return assistance to **1,649 individuals** who received **\$382,479** in refunds or credits.



Two Walk for Warmth events, one in Greenville and the other in Alma, helped to generate more than \$15,000 in donations to help needy families pay their utility bills.

# Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See

Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See, located in Greenville on Baldwin Lake, is a summer camp serving adults and children who have received or are receiving Special Education services, regardless of age or ability to pay.

The Camp is an overnight tent camping experience and offers fishing, boating, swimming, arts/crafts, nature experiences, field trips, and nightly campfires. The Camp offers weekly sessions by age group and is open to any family in the local service area.

Funding is provided by EightCAP, community donations, United Way of Montcalm, Tri-County Electric, We Care for Kids Council, Montcalm/Ionia DHS, and Michigan DHS. Community Partners include Greenville Optimist Club and the City of Greenville.

## Program Highlights

- **270 campers** ages 5 to 69 from Ionia, Kent, and Montcalm counties took part in overnight camping, swimming, boating, arts and crafts, hiking, and recreational activities.
- Many improvements were made to the facilities including new washers and dryers and a gas fireplace (dedicated to Dennis Leach, long-time Camp supporter).
- Campers took day trips to the 4-H Fair and John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids.



# Foster Grandparent/Senior Companion Programs

The Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs engage persons 60 and older, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical community needs - to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers. Foster Grandparent Program volunteers provide supportive, person-to-person services to children with exceptional or special needs in local schools and Head Start Centers. They also provide literacy tutoring during the summer months to children enrolled in the Foster Grandparent Reading Program. A Foster Grandparent serves as a good role model and a listening ear, helps build self esteem with their words of praise, and provides unconditional love.

Senior Companions help homebound clients with chores such as light housekeeping, paying bills, buying groceries, and finding transportation to medical appointments. In institutional settings, such as foster care or convalescent facilities, they assist with activities designed to help patients regain their independence and reduce feelings of loneliness and depression.

## Senior Program Highlights

- **84 Foster Grandparents** provided services to over **500 children** at **42 separate sites** in Ionia, Mecosta, and Montcalm counties. Foster Grandparents logged **81,906** volunteer hours.
- EightCAP celebrated **30 years of sponsorship** of the Foster Grandparent Program and **7 years of sponsorship** for the Senior Companion Program.
- The summer reading project was again successful. Foster Grandparents worked with children at the Greenville Area Community Center, Edmore Library and Howard City library. Over 100 children received reading help during the 4 to 6-week tutoring sessions.
- **35 Senior Companions** provided services to **163 elderly adults** in Adult Day Care Centers, Nursing Homes, Adult Foster Care Homes, and homebound frail elderly clients. Companions logged **31,320 volunteer hours**.



### Rose Dummer Named Volunteer of the Year

Rose Dummer, Belding, received special recognition as EightCAP, Inc.'s Volunteer of the Year. Rose has been a part of the EightCAP, Inc. Senior Volunteer Program since April, 1994, when she began working with preschoolers at the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District through the Foster Grandparent Program. In 1996, she began serving families in their homes. She helped them become better parents and set realistic goals that they could achieve. Then in 2001, Rose transitioned to the Senior Companion Program where she currently services. In addition to her role as Senior Companion, she generously volunteers with Area Special Olympics.

"Wherever Rose serves, in whatever capacity, she has left a lasting impression of care and concern that has brightened many lonely lives and filled their days with happiness," said Rose Jones, Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Program Manager. "Rose is a true inspiration and icon of how the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Program volunteers make a difference in their communities," she added.

# Weatherization

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) is a federally funded, low-income residential energy conservation program. The program provides free home energy conservation services to low-income Michigan homeowners and renters. These services reduce energy use and lower utility bills, making homes more comfortable and utilities more affordable, while helping families become more self-sufficient.

### Program Facts:

- 82% of families whose homes were weatherized had household incomes less than 125% of the poverty level.
- 21% of families had at least one household member who was 60 years of age or older.
- 36% of families had one or more children under the age of five, and 54% had children under the age of 18.
- 47% of families had at least one member of the household who was disabled.

### Program Highlights

- **185 homes** were weatherized, exceeding the number of planned units by 78%.
- **37 additional homes** were weatherized because of Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) funds.



### Court Appointed Special Advocates Program (CASA)

The Montcalm CASA program is a volunteer-based program that provides advocacy for abused and neglected children in the juvenile justice system. Trained community volunteers are appointed by the Judge and are responsible for gathering information and working with the child, attorneys, social workers, parents, and others involved with the case. From the information gathered, the CASA volunteer makes recommendations to the court as to what is in the child's best interest. Montcalm CASA's goal is to provide a voice for abused and neglected children in the juvenile justice system by providing advocacy for their needs and ensuring a permanent home.

### Program Highlights

- **23 volunteers** advocated for **29 children**.
- The annual playhouse raffle raised **\$5,400** to support the growth of the Montcalm CASA program and volunteers.



New CASA volunteers sworn in March 12, 2008 included left to right: Bob Brundage, Tom Long, Paula Arntz, Erma Lee, Jean Springsteen and Cheryl Warner.

# 0-5 Head Start & Early Childhood Programs

Head Start is a comprehensive child development program for children 0-5 years who either live in poverty or have a certified special need. With the goal of school readiness and family self-sufficiency, Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Michigan School Readiness Program combine local, state, and federal resources to deliver an array of individually tailored educational and social support services.



Bicycle safety events were held at Greenville I and Greenville II centers.

## Program Highlights

### Early Head Start

- 264 prenatales to three year-olds were served.
- 35% have a disability.

### Head Start

- 833 preschoolers were served in literacy-rich child development centers.
- 21% of children have a disability.



Parent meeting held at Anderson & Girls Pumpkin Patch.

## Parent-Child Initiatives Key in 2007/08

2007 - 2008 ushered in many new parent-child initiatives, focusing on family literacy in the 0-5 Head Start program. Several events throughout the year celebrated the family including parent meetings held at the pumpkin patch, family oriented make-it-take-it sessions at school; featuring family achievements in center newsletters, awarding of parent meeting incentives, and a fun-filled recognition ceremony for hundreds of willinghearted parents. Early Head Start (0-3) and Head Start (3-5) depend on parental and community volunteers to supply that additional "pair of hands," without which many enriching, nurturing, or creative activities could not be carried out.

EightCAP, Inc. branched out into new waters, as Children's Trust Fund (CTF) 0-3 Prevention funding was received directly for Montcalm and Isabella counties and Gratiot County through a community partnership with Gratiot Community Mental Health. Children at risk of child abuse and neglect received supportive home visiting and parent education services, with the goal of strengthening the parent-child bond and increasing positive parenting skills.

Collaboration was a key theme throughout 2007 – 2008, as the Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District began a subcontract with EightCAP to administer the EarlyOn (Part C of IDEA) project for the bi-county area. This project melded very well with the philosophy and methodology of Early Head Start.

The Great Start Readiness Program provided funding to five area school districts to serve additional 4-year-olds who were at risk of school failure. In some cases, Head Start-eligible children not able to be served by the Federal program were enrolled through these subcontracts. Low-income families whose income falls just above the Head Start guidelines were also eligible for GSRP services. As necessary and beneficial, Head Start wrap-around services, including emergency food and shelter, crisis intervention, or assistance with family social services support, were provided to families.

# Threshold Academy

Threshold Academy is a tuition-free public elementary school chartered under the authority of Central Michigan University. It provides door-to-door bus transportation to students residing in the Belding, Carson City, Crystal, Greenville, Howard City, Hubbardston, Ionia, Lakeview, Sheridan, and Stanton areas.

The Academy prides itself on meeting the individual needs of all students, believes that all children are special, and works to provide learning environments accessible to each student, regardless of background or differing abilities. Students learn through a combination of traditional and hands-on learning experiences in kindergarten through sixth grade students.

## Academy Highlights

- Threshold Academy made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) again.
- Current enrollment is **190** students.
- In addition to monthly parent activity nights, Threshold held a large family fun night, was visited by the Safari Trailer and former NFL player, Ty Hallock, who spoke on the importance of education.
- Implemented peer-to-peer mentoring program where older students offer academic and social help to younger students.
- A school-wide discipline plan was created to foster consistency and cut down on office referrals.
- The entire school population participated in a mile walk in the fall called "Walk Across Texas" and in the spring called "Walk to the Mackinac Bridge."

## Threshold Academy Welcomes New Principal



Victoria Simon was appointed Principal of Threshold Academy before the 2008-09 school year. Simon replaces Mary Boots, Principal at the school for the past 10 years, who resigned because of health reasons. Ms. Simon

began her tenure as principal of Threshold Academy at the end of May 2008, but her love for education was cultivated much earlier. Simon, who lives in Ionia with her husband and four school-aged daughters, received her Bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education, English, and Psychology at Michigan State University (MSU); and later her Master's degree in Educational Administration from MSU.



Five Threshold Academy students, a few parents and an aide took part in an annual Michigan tradition, a five-mile walk across the Mackinac Bridge this past Labor Day. The students earned the trip "up north" by being the top walkers in the Mileage Walkers Program at Threshold Academy, Orleans.

## Threshold Academy Board

- Connie Borton
- Thomas Pridgeon
- Betty Knapp
- John Kroneck
- Cora Farrish

# Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium

The *Central Area Michigan Works! Consortium* (CAMWC), provides workforce development services in Gratiot, Ionia, Isabella, and Montcalm counties. CAMWC is a local government consortium, funded by state and federal grants, and is designated as a Michigan Works! Agency to provide public employment services for job seekers and employers. Community oversight for CAMWC programs is provided by the local CAMWC Board, composed of local elected officials, and the Workforce Investment Board, composed of private business representatives and other community leaders. The Boards set overall policies and goals for workforce development services.

Michigan Works! Service Centers throughout the state offer job referral, training, and employment services to the job seeker and employer. Numerous federal and state-funded programs exist to prepare people for jobs and careers so employers have the skilled workers they need to be competitive in the global economy. The CAMWC Michigan Works! centers are located in Alma, Ionia, Mt. Pleasant, and Greenville.

## Central Area Training Alliance

The CAMWC Central Area Training Alliance offers small class-size business training opportunities to both large and small employers beyond the targeted group that has been the focus of the current Incumbent Worker Training program.

The Training Alliance is envisioned to be an organized consortium of businesses that exist to help each other remain competitive in their marketplace by developing the right skills and abilities for an employer's most important asset, their employees.

CAMWC is working through the early development of the Training Alliance and has scheduled 1020 training seats through our training partners Montcalm Community College, Mid Michigan Community College, Gratiot Isabella RESD and the Ionia ISD.

Training sequences that have been developed in our pilot phase are: Office Productivity, Leadership Skills, Manufacturing Technology, and Strategic Planning.

## 2008...Year of Significant Milestones

Over the past year, Michigan Works! staff has worked very hard at delivering quality service to employers and job seekers. The numbers are certainly representative of the current economic challenges. More people were served last year by our workforce development system than in any time since the tracking of these numbers.

- Total **2008 funding** was **\$11.5 million**, representing a **16% reduction**.
- **560,632 visits** were made to our four service centers, representing a **47% increase** over the previous year.
- **7,303 job seekers** were served through the Wagner-Peyser program – a **6% increase**.
- **319 incumbent workers** representing **16 businesses** received services through the Incumbent Worker Program – an increase in both categories.
- WIA Adult program served **604 individuals**, a whopping **89% increase**.
- WIA Dislocated Worker program served **1,589 individuals**, an **increase of 7%**.
- WIA Youth program saw a **36% increase** with **478 youth** served.
- **1,933 individuals** were enrolled in Trade.
- **2,357 individuals** were served in the Welfare-funded programs – accounting for the only decrease in the number served with **139 fewer participants**.

# Financial Information

## EIGHTCAP, INC.

<u>PROGRAMS</u>	<u>FUNDS</u>
Camp Wah-Wah-Tay-See	\$69,994
Commodities (Value of commodities distributed)	102,133
Community Services Block Grant	609,004
Community Services Block Grant - Discretionary (Migrant)	15,000
Community Services Block Grant - Discretionary (Tax Prep.)	13,000
Community Services Emergency Fund	4,766
Court Appointed Special Advocate	36,169
Early Head Start	1,217,369
Early Head Start – Children’s Trust Fund	191,779
Foster Grandparents - Corporation for National Service	198,678
Foster Grandparents - Office of Services to the Aging	245,980
Head Start	4,645,692
Head Start - Child Care Food Program	275,659
Head Start - Early On	148,532
Head Start - Evening Child Care	25,295
Head Start - Parent Fund	15,819
Head Start - Proud Fathers/Proud Parents	25,755
Head Start - School Readiness	540,600
Ionia County Friends of Jesus Fund	9,274
MDHS Emergency Needs	16,000
Michigan Enrolls Project	14,609
Montcalm County Food Drive	33,985
Montcalm County Love in Action	11,679
MPSC/MCAAA CAA Energy Assistance Program	130,493
MSHDA Emergency Shelter Grant	25,400
Senior Companion Program – Corporation for National Service	85,920
Senior Companion Program - Medicaid Waiver Program	1,579
Senior Companion Program - Office of Services to the Aging	96,560
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families	62,024
The Emergency Food Assistance Program	39,923
United Way – EFSP	76,010
Walk for Warmth	9,444
Weatherization	437,153
Weatherization – LIHEAP	93,100
Weatherization - Reynolds Township	25,000
Weatherization and Client Education – MPSC	329,532

## Funding Sources

- Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan
- Capital Area Community Services, Inc.
- Central Michigan University
- Children’s Trust Fund
- Corporation for National & Community Service
- Donations from Area Businesses & Individuals
- Gratiot County Community Mental Health Services
- Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District
- Greenville Area Community Foundation
- Ionia Area Council Church Women United
- Ionia County Intermediate School District
- Isabella County Ministerial Association
- Mecosta Region 3 Department of Human Services
- Michigan Community Action Agency Association
- Michigan Department of Community Health
- Michigan Department of Education
- Michigan Department of Human Services
- Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth
- Michigan Office of Services to the Aging
- Michigan State Housing Development Authority
- Montcalm Community College
- Montcalm County Juvenile Court
- Montcalm County We Care for Kids Council
- Reynolds Township
- Shepherd Public Schools
- The Stanley and Blanche Ash Foundation
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
- United Way of Ionia County
- United Way of Isabella County
- United Way of Montcalm County

## CENTRAL AREA MICHIGAN WORKS! CONSORTIUM

(EightCAP, Inc. is the administrative entity)

<u>PROGRAMS</u>	<u>FUNDS</u>
Food Stamp Employment and Training Program	\$79,649
Food Stamp Employment and Training Program (supportive services)	2,466
Jobs, Education and Training - GF/GP	336,713
Jobs, Education and Training - GF/GP Expansion	136,799
Jobs, Education and Training - GF/GP No Worker Left Behind	32,169
Jobs, Education and Training - TANF	1,441,316
Jobs, Education and Training - TANF No Worker Left Behind	28,632
Jobs, Education and Training - TANF Supportive Services	114,000
No Worker Left Behind - GF/GP	188,052
Trade Act	1,732,677
Wagner Peyser	434,557
Wagner Peyser - No Worker Left Behind	64,567
WIA Adult	1,849,300
WIA Dislocated Worker	2,253,817
WIA Dislocated Worker - No Worker Left Behind	195,269
WIA Incumbent Worker	116,875
WIA Local Administration	619,321
WIA Rapid Response – 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Workforce	46,531
WIA Statewide Activities – Capacity Building	24,000
WIA Statewide Activities – Jobs, Education and Training	110,258
WIA Statewide Activities – No Worker Left Behind	140,994
WIA Statewide Activities – One Stop Operation	96,085
WIA Statewide Activities - Youth	17,352
WIA Youth	1,492,810
Work Incentive Grant	24,011

## THRESHOLD ACADEMY (EightCAP, Inc. is the management company)

At Risk Funds	\$76,411
Food Service	111,434
Local Revenue	974
Service Provider Self Review	4,000
Special Education	127,470
State Aid	1,363,501
Title I, Part A: Improving Basic Programs	109,321
Title II, Part A: Teacher/Principal Training & Recruiting	9,808
Title V, Part A: Innovative Programs	2,947
Title VI, Part B: Rural and Low-Income Grant	3,502

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$ 23,266,497**

**Thank you for  
your support!**

**CAA** – Community Action Agency

**MCAAA** – Michigan Community Action Agency Association

**MDHS** – Michigan Department of Human Services

**MPSC** – Michigan Public Service Commission

**MSHDA** – Michigan State Housing Development Authority

**FEMA** – Federal Emergency Management Agency

**LIHEAP** – Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

**GF/GP** – General Fund/General Purpose

**WIA** – Workforce Investment Act

**TANF** – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

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**Threshold Academy**  
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TTY:711 / Fax (616) 754-9310 / [www.eightcap.org](http://www.eightcap.org)

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