



Dear Friends of Community Action,

“Community Action’s effectiveness is measured not only by the services which it directly provides but, more importantly, by the improvements and changes it achieves in the community’s attitudes and practices toward the poor.”

Office of Economic Opportunity, Instruction 6320-1, 1970

Focusing on our mission and mandate allows Community Action to get better at the services, partnerships, and the advocacy it takes to truly move the dial on local poverty.

However, changing a community, like changing lives, is a team sport; there is no single source of credit. Our awards and accomplishments are your awards and accomplishments.

The Community Impact report tells the story of what we did together, celebrates *our* partnerships, and spotlights the exemplary work of our staff and volunteers. Here are a few highlights:

- The expanded commitment to address affordable housing and homelessness, and the new partnerships to provide adult dental care—two of our county’s highest unmet needs.



- The shift in our emergency food delivery system from quantity to nutritional quality (including the 314,064 pounds of local produce distributed by our Skagit Food Bank Distribution Center).
- The federal level advocacy to retain WIC services for Navy families on Whidbey Naval Air Station. Thank you Senator Murray and Congressman Larsen!
- The launch of the Skagit Population Health Trust, a collaborative effort sponsored by the County to create a healthier community for all.

As the demand for our services increases and as our communities call on us more often to partner in creating new human-centered solutions, we need your perspective and support more than ever. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this report and answering any questions you might have. Please contact me at BillH@communityactionskagit.org.

Thanks again for your role in making this critical work happen.

William B. Henkel, Executive Director

Community Action touches the lives of 1 in 5 people in Skagit County

>> Community Action Core Services:

Adult Education
AmeriCorps/VISTA
Basic Food Outreach
Community Resource Center
Dental Care Access
East County Resource Center
Energy Assistance

Family Development Center
Health Coverage Access
Housing Resource Center
Legal Aide Program
Long-Term Care Ombudman
Maternity Support Services
Mental Health Ombuds

Skagit Food Distribution Center
Skagit Volunteer Center
Veterans Assistance
Senior & Disabled Services
Women, Infants and Children
Nutrition Program
WorkFirst Employment Services

What Difference Did We Make?

The people we serve live in a diverse community and share the challenges of poverty. For some, the challenge is situational, brought on by a significant life event, such as a medical emergency, family issue, or loss of a job. This group requires the immediacy of emergency services in order to restore stability.

For others, poverty is long-term, or generational, and they have a longer journey to become equipped to exit poverty. These families are building support networks and learning skills that have not previously been modeled.

Of the 120,365 residents who live in Skagit County, **Community Action served 25,972 in 2015—21.5% of the population.** The majority of our programs serve primarily Skagit County; however, an additional 7,055 were served in Whatcom, Snohomish, Island, and San Juan Counties. In total, we served 33,027 people through our 20 inter-related core services that together help stabilize lives and equip people to exit poverty. At the community level, we work collaboratively to address vital issues such as homeless prevention, affordable housing, access to appropriate health and dental care, and financial coaching.

>> Who we serve in Skagit County:

Community Action served **25,972** Skagit County residents in FY15, **21.5% of the population.**

75% are at 100% or below poverty level.

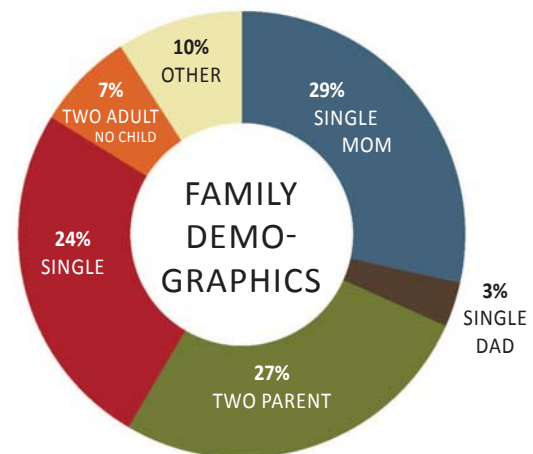
22% are homeless.

33% are uninsured.

25% are social security/pension recipients.

42% are employed.

40.5% are age 17 and under.



Please visit our website and click on "Heart Story Videos" to hear personal impact stories. www.CommunityActionSkagit.org

Thank you for all your assistance in our quest for a better life... Thank you on our behalf and that of others whose lives you have and continue to improve. Thank you for caring.

- Margie O'Harra & Kids, Client

Of individuals 25 years old and under, 47% have not graduated from high school—23% had an 8th grade or less.

*FY15 reflects October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015
Percents reflect individuals in our Client Social Service Tracking database (17,040 individuals).

Mount Vernon School District awards Community Action the “Community Leadership Award”

By Dr. Carl Bruner, Mount Vernon School District Superintendent

For the past 36 years, Community Action of Skagit County has been the first stop for residents struggling to meet a variety of needs. Serving as the umbrella for over 20 programs, they have and continue to work with our most vulnerable citizens to help stabilize their lives and achieve self-sufficiency.

In addition to their direct services, they have worked tirelessly and successfully to convene a wide range of representatives from the public, private, and faith-based sectors to enhance their collective understanding of the effects of poverty, examine the root causes of poverty in our community, and to articulate a coordinated strategy to address these causes. Executive Director, Bill Henkel, and his team repeatedly demonstrate how will, persistence, and understanding can break down institutional barriers and lead to powerful and successful partnerships that truly make a difference.

In addition to serving as a vital resource for many of our families, Community Action has partnered with us over the years to:

- Help educate our staff about the effects of poverty in our community.
- Provide ESL classes for parents and families.
- Provide and supervise VISTA and AmeriCorps volunteers to work with struggling readers and, more recently, to help build our network of community-based learning centers.
- Serve as a resource to counselors, administrators, and bilingual liaisons looking to connect families with resources.



From left: Dr. Carl Bruner, Sandi York, Lynn Christofersen, and Bill Henkel.

On behalf of the Mount Vernon School District, it’s my pleasure to recognize Bill Henkel, Executive Director, Lynn Christofersen, our Community Services Director, and Sandi York, Adult Education Program Coordinator.

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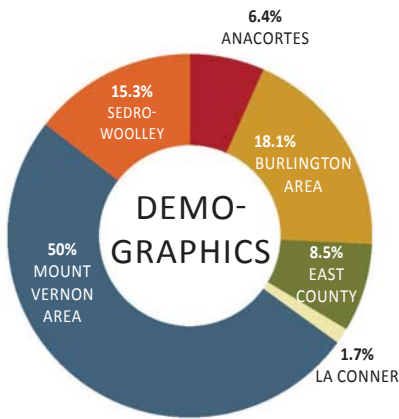
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*Due to job transitions, public hearing regulations, and/or other life transitions, these members are no longer serving on our board.

Our Positive Impact on Skagit County in 2015:

Community Action provides over 20 interrelated core services that together stabilize lives and equip people to exit poverty. In addition, we work collaboratively to strengthen the community to create ongoing pathways to prosperity.

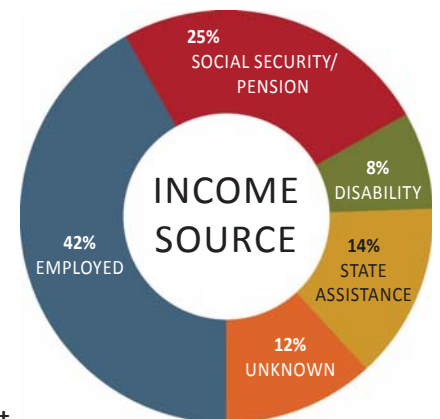


STABILIZING LIVES

- Homeless Prevention & Housing Support (355 households)
- Critical Needs (1,870 individuals)
- Basic Food (245 households)
- Energy and Home Heating (2,112 households)
- Legal Assistance (460 households)
- Community Voice Mail (108 households)
- Senior & Disabled Volunteer Services (222 individuals)
- Also: 12,822 households (42,842 individuals) were served by local food banks—supported by the Skagit Food Distribution Center

EQUIPPING PEOPLE TO EXIT POVERTY

- 93 WorkFirst Employment Program participants gained job training and essential skills coaching.
- 78 young people attended workshops to complete applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which provides work authorization and protection from deportation.
- 5,668 moms, infants, and children received WIC and breastfeeding support promoting healthy food habits.
- 32 of 75 students enrolled in the Adult Education class, obtained skills and competencies required for employment.
- 250 pregnant women received nursing and psych-social services during their pregnancy promoting healthy birth outcomes.
- Service to Employment coached 65 lower-income volunteers how to gain skills and experience and use community service to build their résumés.



STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY

- Coordinated large-scale collaborations, such as Project Homeless Connect.
- Mobilized 4,540 volunteers, donating 166,243 service hours valued at \$4,746,319.
- Established 731 partnering and collaborating relationships with 463 organizations.
- Provided workshops and presentations to 500+ people in churches, businesses, public office and civic groups, to reduce stigma and increase community engagement in poverty solutions.
- Increased disaster preparedness among low-income community members, and strengthened collaborations through Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD).
- Our team of 14 AmeriCorps and VISTA members contributed 19,000 hours of service that built capacity of our partners with 11 agencies and low-income school districts, the equivalent of 9 full-time employees.
- Leaders in community-wide approaches to vital issues, such as homeless prevention, affordable housing, access to appropriate health and dental care, and financial coaching.

OUR DONORS

\$10,000+

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\$9,999 - \$1,000

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Please visit our website for full list of donors (351).

All efforts are made to accurately compile a list of our supporters. If you feel an error has been made, please contact our office.

Businesses and Organizations

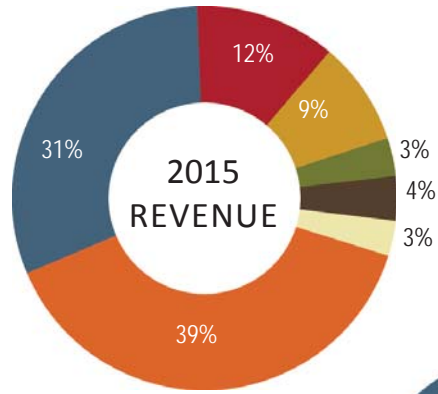
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OUR FINANCIALS

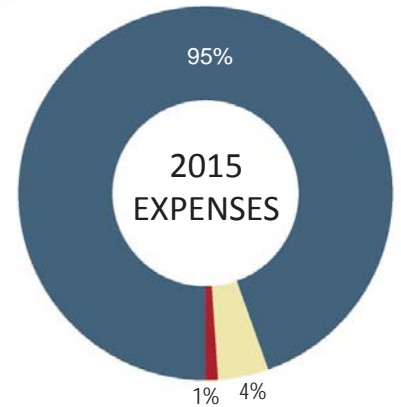
Income:

■ Federal	\$3,103,274
■ State	\$1,191,928
■ Local	\$877,438
■ Foundations/Corporations	\$324,522
■ Private Donations/Fundraising...	\$376,667
■ Other Revenue	\$299,567
■ In-kind	\$3,905,741
Total Revenue	\$10,079,137



Expenses:

■ Program Services	\$9,683,012
■ Administration & General	\$450,269
■ Fundraising	\$97,752
Total Expenses	\$10,231,033



Numbers may change when official audit is released.

INVESTMENTS/ENDOWMENTS

Mr. & Mrs. Mark Oliver Fund	\$135,783
Providing Poverty Solutions in Skagit County	\$16,521
Mountain of Hope Fund	\$37,849
<u>Lester and Bunny Holte</u>	<u>\$727,521</u>
Total	\$917,674

- Senior Services of Snohomish County
- Seven Sisters, Inc.
- Shand-Perkins & Associates PLLC
- Shellgive
- Skagit Bank-Burlington
- Skagit Bank-W MV Branch
- Skagit County Prosecutor
- Skagit County Sheriff's Office
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- Skagit River Brewing Company
- Skagit Valley College
- Skagit Valley Food Co-op*
- Skagit Valley Hospital*
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- Train Wreck, Inc
- United Steelworkers Local 12-591*
- United Way of Skagit County
- US Bank*
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- Windermere Real Estate-Skagit

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- Amazon Smiles Foundation
- Bank Of America Charitable Foundation
- Employees Community Fund of Boeing
- General Mills Foundation
- Jerry H. Walton Foundation
- Medina Foundation
- Opus Community Foundation
- Puget Sound Energy Foundation
- RSF Social Finance
- Silicon Valley Comm Foundation
- Skagit Community Foundation
- US Bank Foundation

Faith Based Organizations

- Bethany Covenant Church
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Fir-Conway Lutheran Church
- First Christian Church
- First Evangelical Lutheran Church
- First United Methodist Church
- Skagit Unitarian Fellowship
- Westminster Presbyterian Church

Tribes

- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Upper Skagit Tribe



*Community Action considers these businesses and organizations to be major contributors to our mission—donating over \$1,000 in 2015. Thank you!



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Mount Vernon Main Office

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360.416.7585 • 360.416.7599 fax
www.communityactionskagit.org

Skagit Volunteer Center

2221 Riverside Drive • Mount Vernon, WA 98273
360.588.5731 • www.skagitvolunteercenter.org

William J. Shuler Family Development Center

720 North 4th Street • Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Skagit Food Distribution Center

220 Michael Street • Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

East County Resource Center

45770 Main Street • Concrete, WA 98237
360.853.8767

NAS-Whidbey Island (WIC, MSS)

260 W. Pioneer Way • Oak Harbor, WA 98278
360.257.8049 (WIC) • 360.257.8050 (MSS)

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