President’s Message

Thank you to our funders, partners, and staff for another year of supporting change for families and our communities.

In 2016, in addition to serving nearly 10,000 clients, we recognized our 50th anniversary. We reflected on what we learned over those many years and positioned the organization to meet the needs of our community and clients in the future. We updated our agency’s mission and logo to better capture our multi-faceted work. In addition to the 50th, we also marked 25th anniversaries for both CAPS Skills Enhancement Program and Community Assets for People (CAP), CAP’s lending arm. You can find more about those efforts in this report.

We also share stories of client successes and invite you to celebrate those along with us. We are proud to share those stories that demonstrate the need for interconnected solutions to poverty and interpersonal violence. Client successes are the reason we exist.

They are our bottom line.

We remain committed to alleviating poverty and violence. A person may come to us to meet one of their most pressing needs but once their stories are revealed, we know our interconnected services (and those of our partners) are critical to move them toward well-being. We will continue to rely on those who share our mission and vision to create long-term change.

Mary Patoka, President & CEO

2016 Board of Directors

2016 Donors & Investors

Thank you to the businesses, foundations, and individuals whose efforts and generosity made these achievements possible.

Sargent Shriver Award $75,000 - $99,999

The Home Foundation

Voisard Award $50,000 - $74,999

The Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin

One of the world’s largest foundations

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

United Ways/Community Foundations

Sargeant Shriver Award $25,000 - $49,999

The LeRoy Foundation

Voisard Award $20,000 - $24,999

First National Bank of Appleton

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

One of the world’s largest foundations

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

United Ways/Community Foundations

Sargeant Shriver Award $15,000 - $19,999

The LeRoy Foundation

Voisard Award $10,000 - $14,999

First National Bank of Appleton

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

One of the world’s largest foundations

Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

United Ways/Community Foundations

Sargeant Shriver Award $5,000 - $9,999

The LeRoy Foundation

Voisard Award $2,000 - $4,999

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Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

United Ways/Community Foundations

Sargeant Shriver Award $500 - $4,999

The LeRoy Foundation

Voisard Award $250 - $499

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Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

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Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

United Ways/Community Foundations

Sargeant Shriver Award $50 - $199

The LeRoy Foundation

Voisard Award $25 - $49

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Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region

United Ways/Community Foundations

Sargeant Shriver Award $25 - $49

The LeRoy Foundation

Voisard Award $10 - $24

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United Ways/Community Foundations

Sargeant Shriver Award $5 - $9

The LeRoy Foundation

Voisard Award $2 - $4

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United Ways/Community Foundations

Sargeant Shriver Award $1 - $3

The LeRoy Foundation

Voisard Award $0.50 - $1

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2016 Annual Report
25 Years Building Skills

CAP Services’ triennial needs survey of local low-income households in the region’s 900-plus communities shows that people need better jobs – careers, not just jobs – to secure a better future for themselves and their communities. Higher paying, better benefits and more stability.

To help address this need, CAP launched its Skills Enhancement Program in Outagamie County in 1991. Designed by local business and community leaders and public agencies, the program assists working low-income individuals in obtaining the skills needed to compete for higher wage jobs. The program provides financial support for tuition, books, and training-related transportation and child care costs that participants could not otherwise afford.

A hallmark of the program design is its flexibility and worker-focused approach. Participants choose any field of training that provides the skills necessary to compete for better-paying jobs. Staff coach and mentor client progress in reaching their goals. Early successes and increasing demand led to expansion of the program to Portage County in 1997 and to Waupaca and Waushara counties in 2000.

The program was recognized in 2004 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation as a best practice, leading to statewide expansion throughout the community action network.

In 2007, CAP launched the CAP Skills to Career Pathways program in Green Lake County. The program is designed to address the need for skilled workers in the county’s major industries, including manufacturing, agriculture, and energy. So far, more than 600 people have participated in the program, and over 400 have graduated with credentials that can lead to higher-paying jobs.

In 2018, CAP launched the Community College Access Program (CCAP) to provide financial assistance to eligible low-income students in order to complete a two-year degree or certificate program at a community college.

In 2020, CAP served 2,400 individuals in the region through its various workforce development programs, helping them secure better-paying jobs and advance their careers.

In 2021, CAP expanded its workforce development programs to include a new initiative called “Skills for Life,” which provides financial assistance to individuals who are seeking to improve their basic skills in order to qualify for higher-paying jobs.

25 Years Building Assets

In the 1980s, CAP Services recognized that economic distress in the region could be tackled through improving access to personal and business capital. To achieve that goal, regional lending efforts were created to support business creation and growth as well as homeownership opportunities.

CAP created Community Assets for Builders (CAP), its lending arm in 1999 with the mission of providing low-cost capital to households and businesses in the region. Since its inception, CAP has provided over $100 million in low-cost capital to benefit-to-low-income individuals. CAP provides business loans, mortgage loans and consumer auto loans in six central Wisconsin counties: Marquette, Portage, Outagamie, Waupaca, Waushara and Wood counties.

CAP is certified as a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) by the U.S. Treasury. Its portfolio is capitalized by the CDFI Fund, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), foundations and businesses. CAP’s lending programs are designed to support affordable housing and community development initiatives, especially in low-income and underserved communities.

In 2015, CAP and three other partner CDFIs collaborated through Living in Wisconsin to better understand challenges in rural Wisconsin and how to better deliver capital and credit products to meet those needs. The collaboration is supported in part by JPMorgan Chase & Co.’s FYO Neighborhoods initiative.