

Our People



Jerry Cleveland, Circles of Support volunteer, a man who will always speak up on behalf of people living in poverty



Youth Energy Efficiency Outreach, working with WLSSD



Carmen, JumpStart participant, with daughter Kiemari, in their 2007 Hyundai Sonata



Amy, FAIM homebuyer, in front of her new home



Vannie Hayden, Circles of Support volunteer since February 2006, a true community advocate



Seeds of Success gardeners, Soph and Erin, harvesting greens for sale at the local Farmer's Market



Doc Powless, Circles of Support—Community Engagement volunteer since April 2009, a man who will "get it done!"



Ginga, FAIM homebuyer, with her new set of keys



Gail Gilliland, retired principal of Churchill Elementary in Cloquet, volunteers her time during the 2009 tax season



Our 2010 "Pucks Against Poverty" kickoff. The goal of this initiative is to engage more than 5,000 people in community service learning, art projects, community dialogues, and neighborhood outreach to raise awareness about issues and barriers faced by working poor Duluthians.

For more information about any of our programs, please contact us or visit our website.

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engaging our community to end poverty.



Our mission is to use innovative strategies that mobilize low-income people and the broader community to build assets that prevent poverty, create equality, and strengthen our social fabric.

Our Programs

Increasing Income



Bridge to Employment: Provides intense, culturally appropriate employment advocacy and job development for African American parents who are currently on the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

HOPE: Assists families who are committed to making changes in their lives, confronting the barriers associated with isolation, and getting out of poverty.

Circles@Work: A workforce development collaborative designed to increase employment and income for single mothers through job skills training and group support meetings.

Going Green



Green Duluth Energy Canvass: Energy outreach canvass in partnership with the Duluth Energy Efficiency Program (DEEP).

Seeds of Success: An urban agriculture project to provide employment, job training skills, and healthy organic produce to people with low incomes.

Duluth Streams Corps: A project to provide employment while improving streams that flow into Lake Superior.

Building Assets



Tax Preparation: Free tax preparation and fast refunds at two sites. More than 92 volunteers at our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites prepared tax returns for 1,518 households in 2010. Additional services, such as savings accounts, benefits screening, express refund loans, child care, credit report access, and credit counseling, also are offered.

JumpStart Duluth Vehicle Purchase Program:

Assists qualifying families and individuals in the purchase of reliable, affordable, low-mileage, energy-efficient vehicles by offering low-interest loans, down payment assistance, and case management support.

Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota

(FAIM): Provides a 3:1 matched savings account for working people with low incomes to buy a house, go to college, or start or expand a business.

Home Repair Matched Savings Accounts: A project that assists homeowners with low incomes in repairing and improving their homes.

Common Cents: The Money Class: A 12-hour financial education course offered throughout the calendar year. Graduates can receive one-on-one credit and housing counseling to review their tri-merged credit report with scores.

Duluth Saves: Open to all Duluthians, this program offers participants support and guidance to save, from opening a first savings account to financial counseling, financial seminars and classes, a newsletter with helpful tips, and other assistance.

Engaging the Community



Circles of Support: A multifaceted approach of Matched Circles and Community Engagement to help families move out of poverty by bringing people together across social, economic, and cultural divides.

Getting Ahead: A Circles of Support component that offers an intensive 10-week, 20-session course that empowers participants to understand the issues of poverty while working to overcome the barriers of 'Getting Ahead.'

RAW (Race Awareness Workshop): Workshops to examine the impact of systemic racism in our community.

As a result of our strategic plan, Community Action Duluth is focusing on embedding Anti-Racism work, Public Policy Advocacy, and Community Engagement in all of our work.