

# Human Development Commission

Community Action Agency



## 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



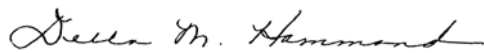
Making a Difference ~ At Home, In the Community, and Around the Globe

Dear Friends:

It is with pleasure that the Human Development Commission (HDC) presents its 2014 Annual Report. During the year, we conducted the triennial Community Assessment which gave us insight into our communities and provided authentic, unbiased information about the needs of those we serve. It also ensured that we, as "Community Action", are truly making every effort to provide opportunities and services to the people and communities we are pledged to serve.

Following completion of the Community Assessment, the HDC Board of Directors and staff embarked upon the Strategic Planning process. As a result, we embraced and adopted four strategic goals: 1) Enhance Customer Services, 2) Strengthen Community Awareness of HDC, 3) Increase Our Organizational Efficiency and Effectiveness, and 4) Secure the Necessary Resources to Achieve Our Mission.

Based on our efforts during 2014, we believe we are better prepared for the many challenges that are sure to face us in the future.



Della M. Hammond, Board Chairperson



Lori K. Offenbecher, Executive Director



Board/Advisory Council/Staff  
Recognition Luncheon

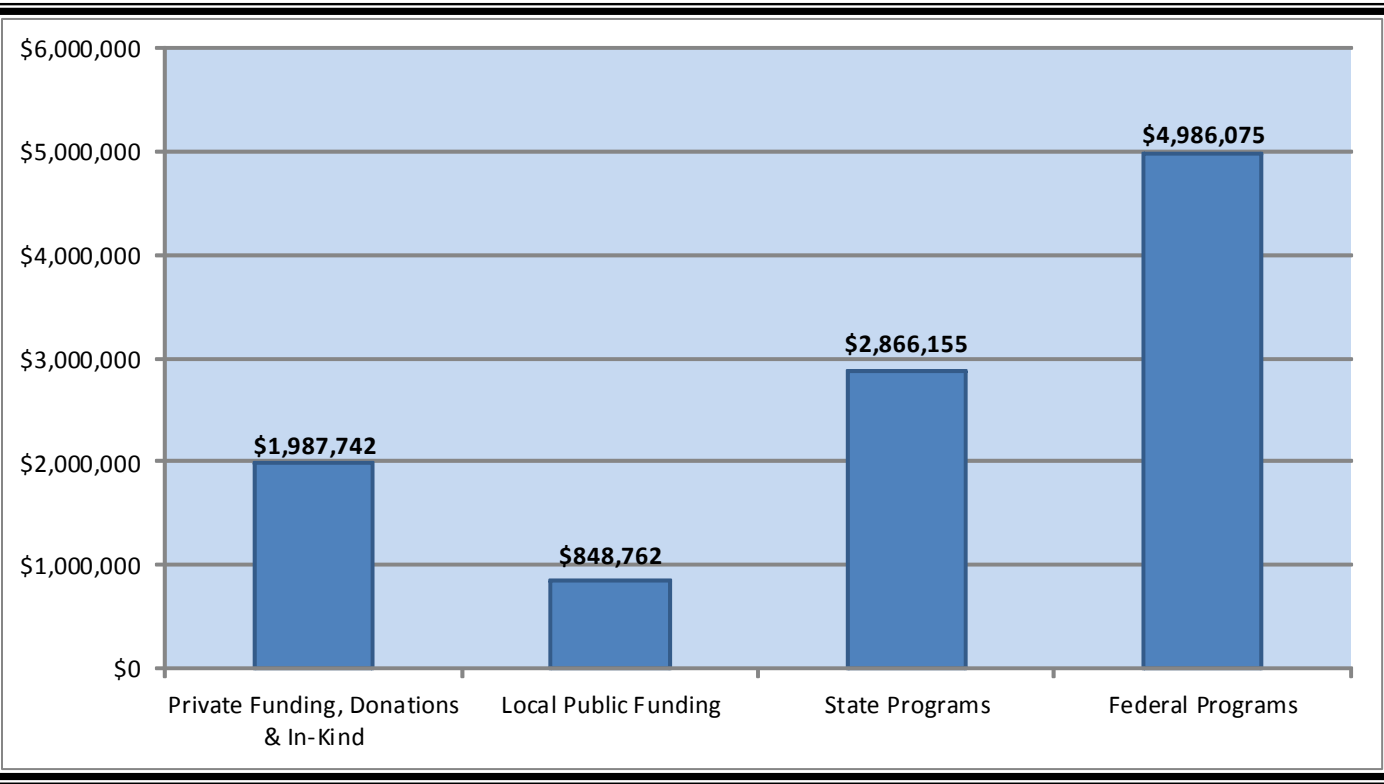


Achievers of the Year  
Natalie and Andy Murphy



Board/Advisory Council/Staff  
Recognition Luncheon

**HDC mobilized \$10,688,734 during the 2014 fiscal year.  
Funding was secured through various sources as illustrated here.**



**Most of HDC's programs can be categorized into nine key budget areas. The chart below illustrates the general areas in which HDC's 2014 budget was allocated.**

SENIOR SERVICES	24%
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	19%
FOOD/EMERGENCY SERVICES	16%
HOUSING ASSISTANCE	12%
TRANSPORTATION	9%
OTHER SERVICES	9%
WEATHERIZATION	6%
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	3%
EMPLOYMENT	2%



*In 2014, HDC also administered the following community-based programs and services:*

- **Caro Thumbody Express**
- **Fiduciary for the Tuscola Emergency Food & Shelter Program**
- **Fiduciary for the Huron County Homeless Coalition**
- **Sanilac County Family Court Mediation**
- **Wear-A-Bouts Resale/Consignment Store**
- **Youth Volunteering Initiative**



Future Farmers of America (FFA)  
Youth Initiative



Future Farmers of America (FFA) Youth Initiative



Martin Luther King Rise & Shine Food Drive  
Laker High School Students

# AT HOME ~ SERVICES PROVIDED

## SENIOR SERVICES

Adult Day Services  
Caregiver Support and Training  
Case Coordination & Support  
Foster Grandparent Program  
In Home Services (Chore, Homemaking,  
and Personal & Respite Care)  
Minority Outreach/Advocacy  
Retired and Senior Volunteer Program  
Thumb Area Senior News  
Transportation

## HOUSING SERVICES

CDBG Homeowner Rehabilitation & Emergen-  
cy Repair  
Foreclosure Prevention Counseling  
Individual Development Accounts  
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program  
Property Improvement Program  
Transitional and Permanent Supportive Hous-  
ing  
Home Weatherization Assistance Program



Home Weatherization Customer

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

Home Heating Assistance  
Emergency Food Assistance  
Thumb Area Assault Crisis Center  
Walk for Warmth

## EDUCATION

Early Head Start  
Energy Education  
Homebuyer Education

## NUTRITION

Commodity Supplemental Food Program  
Let's Do Lunch  
Spoonfuls of Plenty  
Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Pro-  
gram  
Senior Dining Centers



Murray's Mattresses & Home presenting a check for Home Delivered Meals to staff

# IN THE COMMUNITY

## HURON COUNTY HOMELESS SOLUTIONS

In March 2011, the Huron County Homeless Coalition was homeless and in need of a home. HDC agreed to “adopt” the Homeless Coalition, an ad hoc group responding to the immediate needs of Huron County’s homeless, with the understanding that the coalition would work to become a stand-alone nonprofit organization.

For over three years, HDC and the coalition served Huron County’s homeless and near homeless, working with other providers to link struggling families to affordable housing and resources such as food, health care, and employment. Perhaps you know the stories of people who were helped...

- The elderly couple who had unexpected medical bills, couldn’t pay their property taxes, and were threatened with foreclosure
- The single woman who was laid off, couldn’t pay her rent, and received an eviction notice

HDC served as the coalition’s fiduciary from March 2011 to August 2014. HDC also provided one year of organizational management and technical assistance with the IRS 501 (c)(3) application.

With help from Congresswoman Miller’s office, the coalition received its long-awaited 501 (c)(3) designation from the IRS in May 2014. The coalition emerged with a new name and logo - Huron County Homeless Solutions - and a new board



# AROUND THE GLOBE

## Soldier Blooms

HDC salvaged nearly 1,100 vegetable and flower seed packets when a well-known, big box store closed in January 2014. After designing a Garden Starter project that used almost 400 seed packets to grow fresh vegetable plants for low-income seniors, one troublesome question remained...What to do with the 700 flower seed packets?

Thoughts of the nation’s servicemen and women who give selflessly, often without a word of thanks, fueled the creation of *Soldier Blooms*. HDC formed partnerships with North Huron Elementary School and the summer parks & recreation programs in Caro, Cass City, and Sandusky to send thank-you letters and heartfelt drawings by young children and youth to service members in Afghanistan and Kuwait.

Children and youth expressed their appreciation as shown in the photos below. Nearly 300 envelopes containing letters, drawings, and flower seed packets were mailed with this message to our brave heroes:



***To thank you for your service to our country, enclosed is a picture or letter created by a student from [name of school or summer parks & recreation program] along with a flower seed packet. Please enjoy a pretty memento from home when the flowers bloom and accept our sincere wishes for***





## IN THE COMMUNITY

### Local Food Pantries Benefit From Rise & Shine Food Drives

MLK

The MLK National Day of Service laid the groundwork for a unique opportunity to help both young families and older adults struggling with food insecurity in HDC's four-county service area. A quick inventory by local food pantries revealed an abundance of lunch and dinner-type food items such as tuna, soup, spaghetti, and other casserole ingredients. There was, however, a substantial shortage of breakfast foods.

To celebrate the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., students from five "thumb" area schools held MLK Rise & Shine food drives in mid-January. Desired items included pancake mix and syrup, hot and cold cereals, peanut butter and jelly, and other breakfast foods (e.g., granola bars, juice). The in-school food drives at Caro Community Schools, Cass City Public Schools, Deckerville Community Schools, Elkton-Pigeon-Bay-Port Laker Schools, and Sandusky Community Schools collected almost 1,400 breakfast items despite numerous closures due to inclement weather.

The Country Christian Church youth group plus senior corps volunteers from the Foster Grandparent Program and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program held MLK Rise & Shine food drives at six locally owned grocery stores on January 18, 2014. Participating stores included McDonald's Food & Family Center in Bad Axe, Pigeon IGA, Bryan's Market in North Branch, Deckerville Village Market, Jerry's Foodland in Sandusky, and VG's Grocery in Caro. Despite bitterly cold temperature, these food drives collected over 800 breakfast items from selfless shoppers.

Students and seniors paid tribute to Dr. King who once said "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, *'What are you doing for others?'*" Forty youths and 21 adults became Hunger Heroes to "thumb" area residents in need of nourishment. Donations of nearly 2,200 breakfast foods were delivered to nine area food pantries, including the Community of Christ food pantry in Bay Port, Elkton United Methodist Church food pantry, Thrift Store of North Branch, HELP, Inc. in Sandusky, Project Blessing in Deckerville, Revive Ministries in Cass City, and HDC food pantries in Bad Axe, Lapeer, and Caro.

# Human Development Commission 2014 Board of Directors

## HURON COUNTY

Elmer Bussema  
Peggy Koehler  
Ron Wruble, Secretary  
Steve Vaughan

## LAPEER COUNTY

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Della M. Hammond, Chairperson  
Joanne Densmore  
Linda Jarvis  
Lynn Brown

## SANILAC COUNTY

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Grace Temple  
James Ruby  
Justin Faber  
Robert Wood, Treasurer  
Susan Heberling

## TUSCOLA COUNTY

Carl Holmes  
Christopher Taylor, Vice-Chairperson  
Gerald Peterson  
Judge Kim Glaspie  
Matthew Bierlein  
Robert Sugden

# Human Development Commission Office Locations

## TUSCOLA COUNTY (Administrative Offices)

429 Montague Avenue - Caro, MI 48723  
PHONE: (989) 673-4121  
FAX: (989) 673-2031

## HURON COUNTY (Field Office)

150 Nugent Road. - Bad Axe, MI 48413  
PHONE: (989) 269-9502  
FAX: (989) 269-6166

## LAPEER COUNTY (Field Office)

1559 Imlay City Road - Lapeer, MI 48446  
PHONE: (810) 664-7133  
FAX: (810) 664-2649

## SANILAC COUNTY (Field Office)

215 N. Elk Street - Sandusky, MI 48471  
PHONE: (810) 648-4497  
FAX: (810) 648-5422



Visit us on the web at [www.hdc-caro.org](http://www.hdc-caro.org) Or



“Restoring Hope by Helping People and Changing Lives”