



**Annual Report**  
**2022/2023**

## Healthy Community Alliance, Inc.

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Ann Battaglia, M.S.

## Academy Place Housing Development Fund Company

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023**

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## From the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

As a rural health network, Healthy Community Alliance (HCA) focuses on building relationships that improve access to care and services for our rural communities. This past year, we were extremely successful in expanding these partnerships across our network and particularly in Wyoming County and Chautauqua County. In collaboration with the Wyoming County Office for the Aging, Caregiver Tech Solutions helped family caregivers of older adults achieve respite through individualized technology and coaching support. In Chautauqua County, our Perinatal Infant Community Health Collaborative home visitors joined up with nontraditional partners to help pregnant individuals and young families access basic needs such as food, transportation, and clothing. To further support collaborative efforts in improving rural health, I am delighted to have been appointed to the Board of the Western New York Rural-AHEC whose mission is to improve rural health care through education. Partnerships are the core of our success and are critical to addressing the underlying health and social care challenges of rural communities.

Another important area of focus this year was on our own organizational capacity building. Tightening internal policies and procedures and building staff capacity was identified as an area of priority in our 2022-2023 Strategic Plan. To further that goal, HCA staff participated in a variety of professional development opportunities offered through organizations including Cornell and the Institute for Nonprofit Practice. These educational opportunities have allowed us to apply best practices in nonprofit management and in fostering health equity and health literacy across our organization and service area.

Looking back on the successes this past year, I would like to say thank you to our staff, our board members, and all our partners for their ongoing commitment and support. Each has made important contributions to advancing the mission of Healthy Community Alliance so that our rural neighbors have the best and healthiest quality of life.

Warmest wishes for a wonderful 2024,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann Battaglia". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Ann Battaglia, Chief Executive Officer

# Collaborating for Community Wellness

Health-related social needs are social and economic needs that individuals experience which affect their ability to maintain their health and wellbeing. Rural residents are more likely to experience some of the contributing social factors and barriers that impact health, such as lower incomes, limited public transportation options, and fewer choices to acquire healthy food. Addressing health-related social needs continues to be a major focus of HCA.

In partnership with the Cattaraugus County Department of the Aging, HCA continues to manage the Gowanda Senior Wellness and Nutrition site at Community Place and has served more than 15,158 nutritious meals this year to older adults in the Gowanda area.

With rules for health insurance eligibility changing after the end of the COVID public health emergency, HCA worked to “Keep New York Covered” through grants from New York State and the Community Services Society of New York. Over the year, HCA’s health insurance navigators assisted 3,228 community members across Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties with recertification and enrollment in affordable health insurance coverage.

As a network provider with the Western New York Integrated Care Collaborative, HCA’s Community Wellness Coordinators delivered nearly 75 sessions of evidence-based coaching services so community members could live more safely at home and better manage their chronic conditions.





HCA, in partnership with the Cattaraugus County Health Department, received a New York State Small Wellness

Grant to conduct outreach to underserved, rural, WIC eligible families and children. Data have shown that these nutrition programs are underutilized, particularly in Cattaraugus County, leaving many women, children, and families at risk of poor nutrition and food insecurity. The partnership between HCA and the county's health department worked to increase awareness of all WIC benefits (food allowance, nutrition education, breastfeeding support, and public health information) and reach more WIC eligible families to promote enrollment into the food program. Over the year, there have been numerous outreach events, advertisements, and social media initiatives to reach eligible families, as well as one-on-one educational opportunities with medical and service providers who are referral sources for the program. Throughout the year, HCA also used trusted messaging to get COVID-19 public health information to all rural corners of Cattaraugus County.

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HCA Director of Programs, Ashley Conti, in partnership with the Cattaraugus County Health Department, participated in Carnival Fun Day in Olean to reach more families for enrollment into WIC benefits.

### What WIC participants have to say:

*“When I first heard about WIC services, I had no idea what to expect. Since I have come on the program, I LOVE everything about it as the WIC ladies helped me with my newborn baby, with referrals for baby items, and breastfeeding help.”*

*“This July, I took in a family member’s baby from birth. I literally had nothing. I was not prepared. I started to get appointments made and one of the phone calls I made was to the WIC office. They did everything they could to help me and gave me referrals to other entities for diapers and clothes. One of the ladies in particular (Molly) checked in with me a lot on how things were going and made sure I had what I needed. It shows that they care. I felt so much support and was so happy I made that call to WIC office!”*

# Collaborating on Maternal and Infant Community Health

HCA facilitates collaboration across sectors to improve systems of care and works with partners to eliminate barriers for rural residents in need of that care. Toward that goal, HCA continued to serve as fiscal sponsor and administered dedicated funding in support of the Strong Starts Chautauqua Coalition initiative to address the growing crisis in the county of prenatal substance exposure. Working diligently together over the past 4 years, the more than 50 partner coalition worked on building and implementing community-wide education, a coordinated system of universal screening of all pregnant individuals' for potential substance misuse during pregnancy, and child developmental and social-emotional screenings for specific effects of prenatal substance exposure on self-regulation and behavior.

Through training and technical assistance, the number of partner sites now doing maternal, family, and/or child screenings exceeds 30 across Chautauqua County. Individuals identified as at-risk are referred for further screening, assessment, and treatment.

HCA is also in its second program year of the five-year PICHC grant. PICHC stands for Perinatal Infant Community Health Collaborative and offers home visiting services to Chautauqua County pregnant and postpartum individuals and their infants in need of healthcare and other supportive services. HCA's community health workers conduct home visits, screenings, referrals, and follow up to ensure these individuals are aware of community services and have knowledge and skills to seek out and receive needed care. HCA works in close partnership with the NYS

Department of Health and other PICHC grantees on best practices to engage those most impacted by social determinants of health and who are residing in underserved areas with limited services, such as our rural communities. Throughout the



*HCA staff provided information on universal screening and critical programs and services during the "Connecting the Dots" networking event at Jamestown Community College this past January.*

year, the PICHC program has also provided families with critical supplies such as diapers, strollers, clothing, car seats and safe sleep systems. To date, HCA has served 90 families in the home visiting program. Additionally, HCA co-chairs with the Chautauqua County Health Department the county's Maternal Infant Community Health Collaborative which consists of a number of partners working to strengthen community capacity to address social determinants of health through community mobilization, collaboration, and engaging those most impacted by maternal health disparities. Quarterly meetings have been held and the Collaborative is focusing on strengthening referral pathways across agencies. This process will ensure birthing individuals, mothers, and infants get referred to the service or enrolled in the program that best meets their immediate and longer-term needs.



At the close of July 2023, HCA's Caregiver Tech Solutions, a program co-designed with family caregivers, exceeded its original goal of serving 80 caregivers of older adults and was awarded a no-cost extension by Exhale, The Family Caregiver Initiative to reach more rural caregivers, bringing the total to 105. The data collected demonstrates that Caregiver Tech Solutions is successful in helping to increase respite among family caregivers. Additionally, the results of the Caregiver

Intensity Index administered before and after each caregiver receives coaching and a technology solution show that the program has a statistically significant impact on reducing the intensity of caregiver burden. Technology solutions are individualized specifically for the caregiver and loved one and have included tablets, smart watches, doorbell cameras, monitors, and electronic medication minders. HCA is working with partners over the coming year to collect more data and to identify a sustainability plan so that the program can reach more rural caregivers.

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*“Thank you so very much for the technology you have given me for my house to take care of my wife. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the support you and your organization have given us. It has been such a blessing and very helpful for us. I will pay your kindness forward.”*

– Family Caregiver

*“The Caregiver Tech Solutions program has been such a blessing in Wyoming County. There is a lack of options for bricks and mortar types of respite and we’ve needed to be creative. It is rewarding when our case managers can work with a caregiver and link them to a respite option they haven’t thought of before.”*

– Deputy Director, Wyoming County  
Office for Aging



Impact HQ is an ongoing collaboration with the Nonprofit Support Group and a network of local nonprofit capacity building organizations committed to strengthening the nonprofit sector. Impact HQ is an online information hub, found at [impact-hq.org](http://impact-hq.org), and is exclusively for nonprofit professionals and organizations serving a 9-county Western New York region. The tools, resources, directories, and other features are tailored to the unique needs of nonprofits in our area. HCA continues to serve as the nonprofit intermediary and fiscal sponsor for the redesign phase of the information hub. The redesign is in direct response to user feedback and will make the online hub more user friendly for local nonprofits so they can more easily access catalogued, searchable, capacity building resources and tools, as well as funding opportunities. The redesigned website is scheduled to relaunch in early 2024.



This year marked the second year of our partnership with Erie 1 BOCES under the 5-year New York State Creating Healthy Schools and Communities Grant. The grant is a multi-sector effort to reduce the risk of obesity in school districts and high-need communities by increasing demand for and access to healthy food and opportunities for physical activity. The focus this year by HCA's Community Wellness Coordinator, Jasmine Filkov, was to engage early childhood centers to better understand what they need and to tailor technical assistance so childcare providers can better incorporate good nutrition and physical activity into their daily programs.

*This child at Main St. Munchkins Daycare approves of the healthier snack offering of a frozen fruit pop.*



## Community Place, LLC

Community Place, a subsidiary of HCA, is pleased to include The Chautauqua Center, Inc., (TCC) into the family of service providers located at Community Place. TCC merged with Tri-County Family Medicine Associates this year expanding their reach and capabilities to better serve rural patients across our region. This strengthens the future of high quality of care and access to the latest treatments and technology in rural medicine. We look forward to a long partnership with TCC!



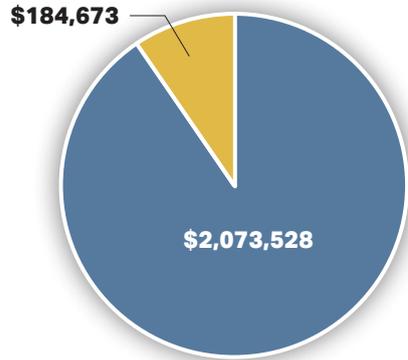
Community Place also houses HCA's administrative offices, individual and youth counseling services, Cattaraugus County Senior Wellness and Nutrition Site, Country Store food pantry, and Total Senior Care Daybreak Adult Day Services. Community Place hosts many community activities including Village of Gowanda Youth Recreation, local cheerleading and wrestling practice, and adult card clubs and recreation.

## Academy Place Apartments, LP

Academy Place Apartments, at 1 School St. in Gowanda, consists of 32 apartments through the HUD Section 202 Affordable Housing and New York State Tax Credit programs for seniors, age 62 and older, who meet federally mandated household income guidelines. Healthy Community Alliance partners with People, Inc. for the management of Academy Place Apartments. This year, People Inc. has added a service coordinator to their staff who visits Academy Place Apartments weekly and connects Academy Place tenants with supportive services that help them remain independent in their apartment for as long as possible.

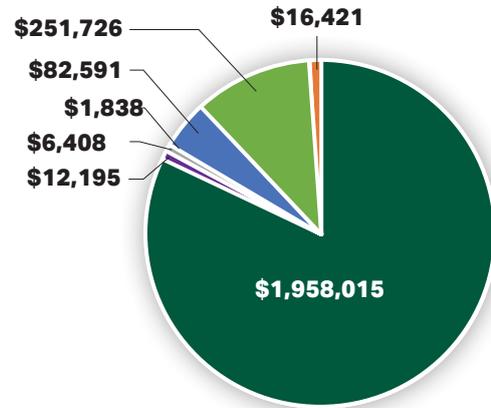


# Financials



### Expenses:

Program Expenses	\$ 2,073,528
General and Administrative	\$ 184,673



### Revenues:

Grant Support	\$1,958,015
Fee for Service	\$ 12,195
Interest	\$ 6,408
Contributions	\$ 1,838
Rental Income	\$ 82,591
Management Services	\$ 251,726
Reimbursed Expenses	\$ 16,421

*\*From audited consolidated financial statements for year ending July 31, 2023*

## Our Team

**Ann Battaglia**, *Chief Executive Officer*

**Jennifer Foringer**, *Director of Finance*

**Ashley Conti**, *Director of Programs*

**Bert Miller**, *Building and Maintenance Supervisor*

**Mallory Eddy**, *Program Assistant*

**Brooke Nigro**, *Strong Starts Resource Manager*

**Justin Foster**, *Communications and Website Manager*

**Susan Guziec**, *Program Supervisor*

**Jasmine Filkov**, *Community Wellness Coordinator*

**Brittney Olszewski**, *Community Wellness Coordinator*

**Lynda Chudy**, *Health Insurance Navigator*

**Ashley Randolph**, *Health Insurance Navigator*

**Daniel Runfola**, *Health Insurance Navigator*

**Rachel Povhe**, *Health Insurance Navigator*

**Maria Ramos**, *Community Health Worker*

**Ashley Sweatman**, *Community Health Worker*

## Management Services

**Molly Higgins**,  
*WIC Nutrition Assistant*

**Desiree Sanderson**,  
*Kitchen Manager*

**Anne Parks**,  
*HIICAP Coordinator*

**Jean Smrek**,  
*HIICAP Counselor*

## New York State Public Health Fellows

**Jackie Borges**,  
*Community Wellness Coordinator*

**Sarah Cuillo**,  
*Data Integration Specialist*

## Our Mission

The mission of Healthy Community Alliance is to improve quality of life in rural communities through broad-based, inclusive partnerships that support wellness and prevention.

