EOP Vision and Mission

EOP envisions a future where all people of our community live with dignity and have the opportunity and ability to live economically productive and satisfying lives. To achieve this vision, EOP provides services that create positive change in individuals, families and our community, and encourages and facilitates participating by all people who can help make our vision a reality.



Opportunity Program, Inc. ANNUAL



STRENGTHENING THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY

2022 - 2023

www.cseop.org

Message from the CEO

By: Andrea J. Ogunwumi, CEO, Economic Opportunity Program, Inc.

Over the last year, our community has nutritional education risen to the challenge of setting our services. The ACCEL sights on what lies ahead rather than Clinic received both living in the past. It is time to make an #IntentionalShift as we greet the new year focused on pivoting our direction and reforming programs with deliberate, and strategic change to drive our desired outcomes.

As a supporter and community partner of the Economic Opportunity Program, Inc. (EOP), your investment is honored and appreciated more than you know. In Food security strategies expanded to giving your time, talent, and resources, programs and services that impact more than 5,000 lives each year. On behalf of all staff, supporters, volunteers, and partners, you make our #IntentionalShift possible as we continue to remain relevant and agile as an organization and as we forge ahead into 2024. We thank you.

As we begin 2024, we will continue to focus on programs and services in 4 Key Strategic Areas: Access to Health Care. Child & Youth Care, Food Security, and Housing Security. Your generous support and contributions made 2022-2023 very impactful.

The ACCEL (Arnot, Chemung County, EOP, and LECOM) Health Screening Clinic has successfully contributed to our community by offering free lead screenings, blood pressure tests, and the 2023 Health Equity **Innovation Award** from Excellus BCBS and the New York State Department of Health grant for its commitment to addressing health disparities and improving health equity in our local community.

include the MEAL (Mindful Eating Active you have empowered us to underwrite Lifestyles) Program, a pilot program that was implemented as a part of our Birth to Five School Readiness Program through a sponsorship from Excellus BCBS, in partnership with Arnot Health, with much community support from Wegmans, Walmart, Weis Markets, Miniers, Tops, and The Samaritan Center. The EOP@ Curbside served more than 42,000 meals (100-175 meals daily) through our drive-thru food distribution events and supported the homeless with food.

> The Anti-Displacement and Weatherization Programs and Libertad-Elmira Veteran and Family Progrm provided supportive services and safety interventions to more than 500 clients to increase housing security and efficiency in both Chemung and Schuyler Counties.

#IntentionalShift

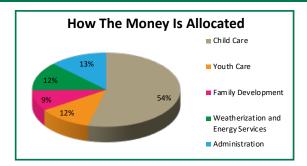


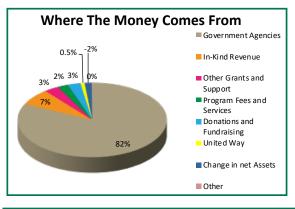
Your continued partnership and support are vital as we continue to focus on making an #IntentionalShift to touch the lives of individuals and families. The work your generosity supports is life-changing and it has allowed us to overcome challenge after challenge without fear. Though we have accomplished so much, our work is not complete.

I wish to extend my gratitude to our board, our trusted advisors, and dedicated staff who guide, support, and inspire us as we seek to address poverty issues impacting childcare, the social determinants of health, housing security, neighborhood issues. and food security to better serve our local community.

Thank you for joining us in pursuing our core values and to counteract the impact of poverty on our community as we serve together to facilitate an #IntentionalShift.

Financial Highlights





Where the Money Goes / "How the Money is Allocated"

Child Care	\$4,483,240	54%
Youth Care	\$975,287	12%
Family Development	\$753,143	9%
Weatherization and		
Energy Services	\$1,049,901	13%
Administration	\$1,050,436	13%
total	\$8,312,007	

Our Funding Sources / "Where The Money Comes From"

Government Agencies	\$7,033,836 84.6%
In-Kind Revenue	\$616,750 7.4%
Other Grants and Support	\$271,229 3.3%
Program Fees and Services	\$200,787 2.4%
Donations and Fundraising	\$238,965 2.9%
United Way	\$75,881 0.9%
Change in net Assets	\$(133,969)-1.6%
Other	\$8,528 0.1%
	\$8,312,007



2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT >>> 4 KEY STRATEGIC AREAS

Access to Healthcare

- ► *(00) Lead and blood pressure screenings
- > 349 B25 Children were given lead capillary or venous blood tests on or before their 2nd birthday
- > 363 Total blood pressure screenings completed at the ACCEL Clinic
- > 90% of EOP, Inc. visitors offered free health screening

Food Security

- ▶ 42.000 meals served at EOP Curbside by CFJP Bistro
- > 100.000 meals served to B25 and COE children and community families
- ▶ 9()() meals served on Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 9 of CFJP Apprentices achieved National ServSafe Certification
- > 230 Snack Pack deliveries

5,000+ people served!

Childcare & Youth Care

- students served by the Center of Excellence(COE) after-school program
- > 83 served by Family Support in General Recreation
- ► 202 children enrolled in the B25 Program
- books provided to enhance literacy to children
- ➤ 1.300 children received gifts at Christmas Magic and Joy Fest

Housing Security

- ▶ 500 clients served by the Anti-Displacement Program
- 62 homes received health and safety measure repairs
- \$9 single-family homes weatherized
- > 20 housing units serving homeless veterans at Libertad-Elmira







Food Security



Housing

Access to Health Care

The ACCEL Clinic (Arnot-Chemung County-EOP-LECOM) partnership received the 2023 Health Equity Innovation Award by Excellus BlueCross **BlueShield** for its commitment to addressing health disparities and improving health equity. This awards program aims to provide financial support to community programs that address racial and ethnic health disparities across *Excellus* BCBS's upstate New York service areas. EOP, Inc. was awarded \$30K in funding through a grant from the *New York State Department of Health* to support the ACCEL Clinic. Additionally, in an effort to support the ACCEL Clinic, the *New York State* **Department of Health** granted \$49K to increase education and outreach on COVID-19, nutrition. lead prevention, mental health, and other social determinants of health strategies.

The ACCEL Clinic offers free lead screenings (in response to Chemung County's historically high lead levels), free blood pressure tests for children and adults, and nutritional education services provided in collaboration with *SNAP-Ed's Fruit & Vegetable Prescription Program.* Since May 2022, the clinic has provided more than 700 health screenings and the expanded funding allows the ACCEL Clinic to reach more of the 11,700 people living in poverty in Chemung County.



















Child Care & Youth Care

Birth to Five School Readiness Program



Program Operations
The 2022-2023 school year
for the Birth to Five School
Readiness program saw
the program return fully to
pre-COVID-19 operations.
During the program year,
masking regulations were
lifted and staggered start
times were eliminated.
During this time period, 28

new teachers and many other staff members were hired. Staff members remain dedicated to providing the highest quality education services while maintaining the health and safety of all staff, parents, and families. Classrooms continued important services such as family-style meal service, transportation, and tooth brushing. The toddler program added new playgrounds at each site! Visitors and volunteers also rejoined the program in a limited capacity. In July of 2023, a summer program re-opened for children at the Ernie Davis Family Center. The program successfully served 10 families as they transitioned from Head Start to Kindergarten.

Professional Development The 2022-2023 school year was a time of change for staff. Professional Development pivoted from virtual to as many hybrid or in-person sessions as possible. By completing development in small groups, staff spent more time in person, and outside presenters were welcomed in. Staff completed professional development on a wide variety of topics, including personal and workplace safety, ACES, traumainformed care, leadership, math and science education, literacy, and wellness.

QualitystarsNY QualitystarsNY is New York's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) for early childhood programs. QualitystarsNY provides

support and resources to improve and sustain high quality across New York State. The rating system is ranked 1 to 5 stars with 5 being the best. The four sites that are



currently participating have a rating of 4 stars. QualitystarsNY's contributions for the year totaled \$34,400 in outdoor and indoor equipment, classroom furniture, classroom supplies, technical assistance, and staff professional development.

Program Information Report (PIR) To complete the **Program Information Report** (PIR) for the 2022-2023 program year, B25 staff tracked and submitted data including cumulative



enrollment numbers, demographic information, and the total number of children and families receiving various program services. Throughout the year, a monthly average of 146 children were enrolled in the program, with annual totals of 204 children, 186 families. and individuals served overall.

The average monthly enrollment decreased by approximately 17% from the past year, primarily due to workforce hiring challenges preventing further classrooms from opening. The discrepancy between the average enrolled and the total number of children served is indicative of challenges that the program continues to face due to COVID-19.

Family Development Credential (FDC) Family Development Credential (FDC) Head Start continues to offer the FDC program to outside community agencies as well as EOP staff. All Family Advocates are required to attend this training.

Currently, we have new staff members and four community members from outside agencies participating in the program. FDC entails weekly classes, homework, and meetings with a Portfolio Advisor. Upon completion, participants have a completed portfolio and complete an end-of-the-year test. This is an intensive program that focuses on staff members intently listening to the families and understanding that each family has strengths on which they can build. It acknowledges that parents are the children's first and most important teachers. This past year, we graduated five participants, and the expectation is to graduate six during the coming school year. We continue to get

more requests to continue with the program each year.



Family Engagement The Family and Parent Engagement Advocate facilitates a parenting curriculum titled, "Positive Solutions for Families." This curriculum focuses on helping parents and caregivers build strong bonds with their children. It focuses on parents' goals, relationships, and quality time. The program utilizes positive comments and encouragement as a parenting tool and shares

activities to try at home. This is a seven-week class that runs for an hour and a half each week.

The Family and Parent Engagement Advocate also facilitates another Parent Curriculum titled, "Parenting with Heart." This class is held for ten weeks and runs for two hours each week. This parenting class was created by the T.E.P.E. Training Institute and helps strengthen, support, and educate



parents, which will enable them to build upon individual strengths, identify and deal effectively with problems, and prevent other problems from occurring. Parenting with Heart allows parents to decide what they want to learn. Topics such as child discipline, communication, parenting styles, sibling rivalry, child safety, and so much more are brought to the table and the parents decide on the topic of conversation. Parents have been known to sign up for more than one class.

The Family and Parent Engagement Advocate hosts monthly Parent Gatherings for each site while working with Policy Council committee members. Information with parents is shared through newsletters, flyers, emails, and texts.

The Parent Engagement Advocate also recruits parents to assist/volunteer for the Snack Pack Program, schedules speakers, and sends out flyers for the "Lunch and Learn" workshops. Parents are surveyed twice a year.

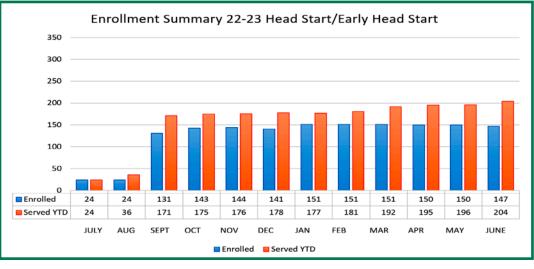


Enrollment The Office of Head Start announced the addition of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a Public Assistance automatic qualifier in the spring of 2022. Eligibility guidelines for SNAP allow for a slightly higher income than

current income guidelines for Head Start. Conclusively, the inclusion of SNAP benefits as public assistance expands the pool of eligible participants in **Head Start** and Early Head Start programs. However, all programs

are required to continue to enroll and serve the most vulnerable in their communities based on their selection criteria. This change enables families to provide less paperwork during the enrollment process and ultimately helps expedite the eligibility verification process. Comparison data between the 21-22 and 22-23 program years show a staggering incline in the use of Public Assistance as an automatic qualifier. Early Head Start went from 22% to 29% and Head Start from 16% to 42%. This is an overall increase across program options of 35% in just one year.





















The Center of Excellence (COE)

The **Center of Excellence (COE) Afterschool Program** operates at three sites: *Diven Elementary, Riverside Elementary, and Ernie Davis Family Center @EOP for Finn Academy Scholars.*

COE served 35 students during the six-week all-day summer program, including offering 3 meals daily. This year, the program expanded to 65 youth daily and offered services after school to 5:30 pm.

COE welcomed community partners throughout the year and summer to give youth many experiences with *Chemung Canal, Rockwell Museum, Science Discovery Center, LECOM, and NASCAR Speediatrics*. COE hosts and provides homework assistance with daily lesson plans. COE's major focus are literacy, behavioral life skills, and enriched field trip experiences in each location.

Ernie Davis Community Center (EDCC)

2022-2023 Highlights

The EDCC Music Consortium continued to grow this year with 15 youths participating in weekly programming as well as performing at several community events throughout the year. These young musicians sang at the Arctic League Telethon, Ferrario Elmira Jazz Festival, Headstart Carnival, Elmira Holiday Parade, and Christmas Magic. These youths showed tremendous progress in their development from the beginning of the year up to their final performance at Christmas Magic.



STELA Robotics:

EDCC has partnered with Corning, Inc. Robotics for the STELA (Science Technology Entrepreneurship Leadership Academy) Program. This program provided engagement with underprivileged youth to participants a "hands-on" ability to create and see just how math, technology, and leadership work together for their future. The youth met twice a week and worked on various projects involving robotics and Legos. EDCC offered more than 35 sessions this year with a special Robotics Camp that was held on July 25-27. The STELA Robotics Program served 9-10 youth participants each session.

Animal Education at SPCA:

EDCC partnered with the *Chemung County SPCA* to offer weekly animal education classes during the summer. Youths participated in a 10-week program to learn about the care and enrichment of dogs and cats. Youths engaged with animals while learning to read body language and development and also assisted with the Pet Food Pantry to see how the process intertwines with the SPCA's daily operations. EDCC had 8-9 youths participate in each weekly session.

Fashion Club/Design:

The Fashion Club followed a structured curriculum where 6-8 youths participate week-to-week by working on their fashion projects and learning the ins and outs of the fashion industry. Youths work on designing and screen-printing their custom designs and logos using a Cricut machine. Students learned how to make distressed items, repurpose clothing, sew fabrics, and sketch their designs for production.

The 3-on-3 Basketball Program:

was introduced after EDCC was awarded a grant from the *Chemung County Youth Bureau*. Youths ages 10-18 were provided with 3-on-3 games during the summer months with each session lasting 5 weeks and involving more than 25 participants. Youth teams were placed in a bracket-style tournament with a total of 9 teams competing.



Christmas Magic:

EDCC continued in its tradition and held the 31st Annual Christmas Magic event at the

Community Center. This event was held with the support of *Corning*

Incorporated-CBEN and the Corning Foundation, which provided the funding needed to give out gifts to families in need. This year we had more than 300 registered families with gifts going out to nearly 1,000 youths ages 0-10. At this event, we also provided 50 free turkeys and fixings to families. This year,

EDCC offered a hybrid event hosting a drive-through toy/food pick-up, along with a *Christmas Village* and walk-in activities for kids and their families in the gym.













Family Support Services

The Family Support Services of Chemung, Schuyler, and Steuben Counties serves households that have family members living at home with developmental disabilities. The program promotes the physical and social well-being, education, and financial stability of individuals who have developmental disabilities as well as assisting families in obtaining support and linkage to other community resources and services. The program is funded by the *Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)* and is currently split into three subsections: General Recreation, Sensory Room, and Parent-Led Autism Playgroups.

General Recreation

General Recreation offers opportunities for socialemotional enrichment through a variety of recreational activities within the community. This is for families and individuals of all ages. **Individuals served in** 2023: 85.

Sensory Room

The Sensory Room is open and available for those who are enrolled in the FSS Program as well as the public supporting focused work, therapy, stimulation, and relaxation.

Parent Run Autism Play Group

The Parent-Led Autism Playgroup component is for individuals ages 3-21 with 3 groups run by a volunteering parent of an existing participant, who facilitates activities with the FSS Manager. Some popular favorites include Harris Hill, Movies, Bowling, Hockey Games, and Adaptive Horse Petting.

Literacy Volunteers

Literacy Volunteers of Chemung and Schuyler Counties is fostering partnerships with adult learners, volunteer tutors, and communities. We empower individuals and families to achieve educational, career, and quality-of-life goals at no cost to participants. During this past year, we strived to enhance the benefits for:

- Youth and adults aged 16 and older. Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and GED Prep
- Individuals aiming for personal and professional growth.
- Individuals eager to enrich their lives through education.

The program is tailored to the participant's unique learning style. Supportive educators are committed to each participant's success. Small group sessions and 1:1 tutoring are available and participants will gain the necessary skills to tackle any educational challenge.

All participants will enjoy enhanced job prospects and career opportunities while learning how to strengthen their relationships through effective communication.

Tutors go through an online tutor training course provided by **Literacy NY**. Together, let's build a stronger community and a brighter future. Volunteer today!

















Food Security

Community Food for Jobs Program (CFJP) and CFJP Bistro

The CFJP Program and Bistro are micro-enterprise projects. The CFJP Training Program served 15 students with 8 completing the class. New students were recruited for the 10-week program and 93% gained employment; and 97% achieved the National *ServSafe* Certification. The program recruits new students for the 8-10 week program and has helped 93% of students gain employment.

In 2023, more than 42,000 meals (100-175 meals daily) were served through the *EOP@Curbside* Meal Program, which provides free meals to the community Monday-Friday at breakfast and dinner. On *MLK Day* in 2024, more than 900 meals were served to the community. In addition, The CFJP Bistro is open daily and located inside the EDCC for your inhouse dining pleasure, take-out, or catering.

The CFJP Bistro is a site for Summer Youth Employment in partnership with the *Chemung County Youth Bureau* each summer hosting 3 youths. The program continues to recruit new students throughout the year.

Snack Pack

The 2021 Feeding America data states that there are 9,250 people living in Chemung County who suffer from food insecurity. To help address this problem for the children who attend

the Head Start program, each family is provided with a bag of groceries that have ingredients to help them make balanced, nutritional meals. This year, B25 Family Advocates delivered 230 Snack Packs filled with a variety of groceries and recipes that allowed families to make healthy breakfasts, lunches, and dinners.

MEAL



In partnership with *Arnot Health* and through sponsorship from *Excellus BCBS*, the **Mindful Eating Active Lifestyles (MEAL) Pilot Program** was implemented at our Birth to Five School Readiness Program. The pilot was launched at

our EDFC and Libertad locations.

MEAL was designed to teach children about mindful eating and living an active lifestyle in a fun and engaging way. Topics discussed included fruits, vegetables, grains, dairy, physical education/activity, and making healthy food choices. Each lesson also included a snack for the children to enjoy, healthy non-perishable food for the children to take home, and an item to help families continue the conversation at home, such as a fruit and vegetable-themed coloring book.

MEAL hopes to decrease and ultimately prevent rates of childhood obesity while improving the quality of life for the children participating. Community support for MEAL was also received from Wegmans, Walmart, Weis Markets, Miniers, Tops, and The Samaritan Center.













Eveeling 1

MEAL

Mindful Eating, Active Lifestyles

Starting in Spring 2023



Nutrition and physical education program for early childhood education classrooms, sponsored by Excellus

Six engaging sessions in various EOP early childhood education classrooms

PATIENTS FIRST ■ EXCELLENCE ■ COMPASSION ■ TEAMWORK ■ INTEGRITY

Arnot Health















Housing Security

Where need is met, support is offered, and freedom lives.

Libertad-Elmira Veteran and Family Program The Libertad-Elmira Veteran and Family Program

The Libertad-Elmira Veteran and Family Program continues to provide supportive housing for veterans. The Libertad-Elmira apartment complex has 20 units reserved for veterans experiencing homelessness. Veterans who reside at Libertad-Elmira receive supportive care services to continue to decrease homelessness and provide long-term housing for veterans.

Veterans receive financial assistance including help paying their first month's rent and covering their security deposit. Each unit at Libertad-Elmira comes fully furnished with furniture, bedding, toiletries, and food to ensure an easy transition from homelessness to supported independent living.

Case management to collaborate with veterans is available through this program with assistance offered in navigating medical and mental health care along with transportation to local appointments at the Bath VA. Short-term mental health support groups, skill training, and individual counseling sessions are provided to the veterans to promote the development of necessary coping skills. Additional support includes banking and financial literacy sessions, coordination with the *Department*

of Social Services and Veterans Affairs, and in-unit wellness checks.

This year, Veterans at Libertad-Elmira participated in *Christmas Magic*, the *West Point* football game, *Juneteenth*, and the *Ferrario Elmira Jazz Festival*. They also attended wellness clinics and weekly support groups. The program assists veterans with daily

living activities and transportation to local grocery stores. Veterans participate in programs, support, and services offered by EOP, including daily food distribution and emergency financial assistance funding.









Anti-Displacement & Supportive Services

The Anti-Displacement Program, sponsored through the City of Elmira Community Development Program, completed its first full year of service to the community in 2023 serving over 500 clients. Services provided during this time include Section 8 applications, Section 8 annual recertification, housing searches, housing applications, referrals to mental health, HHUNY Adult Care Management, school registrations for non-English speaking families, day bus passes, referrals for local agencies and businesses to meet miscellaneous needs, monetary assistance with rent, security deposits, utility bills, and much more! Staff meet with clients in person-wherever there is a need-to provide comprehensive outreach and dialogue to establish client-directed goals. Program staff partner with local agencies, case managers, therapists, doctor offices, and so many others to assist clients with their immediate needs and link them to available resources. Intensive Case Managers follow clients even after they are in stable housing and provide services such as budgeting assistance, acting as liaisons with landlords and property managers, and filling other gaps to provide support for barriers clients may have encountered in the past.

As a result of the Anti-Displacement Program's 2022-2023 efforts, 25 unhoused persons/families obtained a Section 8 housing voucher and the Anti-Displacement Program also assisted with finding suitable housing for these voucher holders.

The program looks forward to 2024 and adding opportunities for community members such as free budgeting classes to educate and support positive decision-making related to income and spending. In addition to our partnership with the *City of Elmira Community Development Program,* Anti-Displacement partners with *Chemung County* to expand services to other community members.

Energy Services Bureau

During the July 2022-June 2023 program year, the

Energy Services Bureau weatherized 49 single-family homes in Chemung and Schuyler counties. These homes received attic/sidewall

insulation, air sealing and draft reduction, heating system efficiency tests, and upgrades, such as clean and tunes, heating system repair, or heating system replacements. Energy Services weatherized 13 manufactured/mobile homes. Most of these homes received mobile home window and door replacements, air sealing, bottom board repairs and insulation, heating system efficiency tests, and upgrades similar to single-family homes. We installed 10 highefficiency heating systems as upgrades based on the inefficient performance of the existing heating systems. All 62 homes received health and safety measures, including carbon monoxide testing, gas leak detection and repairs, smoke and CO detectors, and mechanical ventilation installations and/or repairs. We installed 11 domestic hot water heaters due to health and safety issues.

During this time, we also received additional funding under the American Rescue Plan Act. This was a pilot program designed to perform electrification and building repairs for electrification projects for high fuel cost customers. Electrification involves installing heat pumps as the primary heat source of high fuel cost customers whose primary heat source is oil, liquid propane, and electric heat. Seven buildings in our service area were identified. Each home received building repairs, insulation, air sealing, and air source heat pumps.









Work Wellness Committee

The Work Wellness Committee not only hosted extra fun days like, Crazy Hair Day or Wear Green for EOP Pride Day, but also had success trying out new ideas and activities. A scavenger hunt took place in the fall with pictures from around our community. A door-

decorating contest in honor of *Black History Month* was a blast for the staff and the children. There were volunteer opportunities for school-aged children and staff to work together for clean-up days in honor of *Volunteer Week* and *Earth Day!* We were excited to give out several prizes, like gas cards, and healthy internal catering opportunities throughout the year. A food cupboard in the break room is up and running for employees and perhaps one of the most exciting things was the purchase of the espresso machine! The Work Wellness Committee used the espresso machine to spread a little cheer on some of those extra special days in our work community. We look forward to adding more health-related activities in the future.











































































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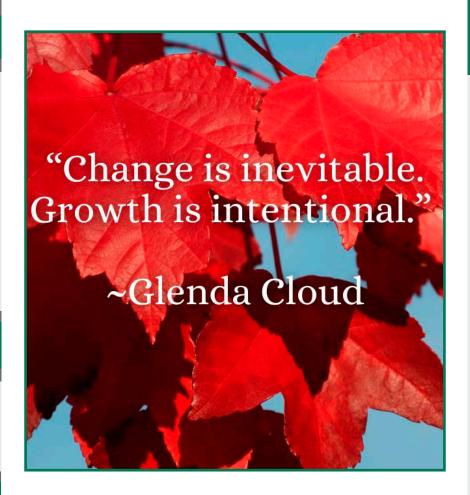
With sincere appreciation, we acknowledge all those who financially supported EOP. Space only allows this list, but we thank everyone for your gifts.

\$18,000-\$50,000

Elmira/Corning Community Foundation
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Five Star Bank
Hilfiger Family Foundation
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EOP Values...

People living with dignity

Families and communities as the foundation for individual stability and growth

Diversity and the unique contributions of each individual

Active community participation and involvement by government, community leaders, donors, human service providers and others in enabling people to enjoy economic stability and growth

A living wage for all individuals and families to promote financial stability

Excellence in services that create positive change in individuals and families

Effective and efficient use of all human, material and financial resources

Integrity in allocating our resources and providing services

Collaborative partnerships in the community

Competent, caring staff to deliver quality services that honor people's rights to confidentiality

Recognition of staff and volunteers as our most valuable resource in carrying out the mission of EOP

Human resource development and support as a primary means for ensuring personal and professional growth