

It is the mission of
Community Action
Duluth 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.

we are
community action duluth



gabe

FROM HOMELESSNESS TO CREW LEADER

“Working for the Duluth Stream Corps has been the greatest experience of my life (besides my kids). I was homeless and looking for a place to live when I got the call that I’d been hired. I’ve learned so many things—about the environment, about non-profits, about grant writing and graphic design, about GIS mapping and planning and most importantly about our community—all while developing leadership skills that will help me for years to come. The income has provided a roof over my head, maintained my car and allowed me to pay child support to the people most important in my life. Without this help, I don’t know where I’d be. I’d like to thank Community Action for giving me hope when I needed it the most. This job literally changed my life.”

our programs

IN 2012 COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING OUTCOMES:

STREAM CORPS – *Creating Jobs that Protect Our Streams*

- » Provided 10 jobs to under-and unemployed Duluthians
- » Planted 18,155 native trees and shrubs by Duluth streams to prevent erosion

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – *Initiating Change; Developing Leaders*

- » 34 people completed Getting Ahead leadership classes
- » Big View meetings organized and mobilized 375 people to take action on barriers that keep poverty in place

TAX SITE – *Increasing Refunds for Those Who Need it the Most*

- » 98 volunteers prepared 3208 tax returns returning over \$2 million to the local economy

SEEDS OF SUCCESS – *Creating Jobs, Revitalizing Vacant Lots & Growing Healthy Food*

- » 7 people were employed and grew 6000 pounds of produce in 14 plots throughout Duluth
- » 190 baskets of produce were sold to senior citizens with low income who were utilizing a subsidy to reduce the cost

COST OF MAJOR PROGRAMS FISCAL YEAR 2012

October 1, 2011 - September 30, 2012

Financial Services	\$365,824
Employment Services.....	\$271,719
Green Jobs.....	\$539,288
Community Engagement	\$137,116
Tax Site.....	\$68,210
Management & General.....	\$217,822
Development.....	\$22,908
TOTAL	\$1,622,887

REVENUE FISCAL YEAR 2012

October 1, 2011 - September 30, 2012

Federal Grants.....	\$924,088
State & Local Grants	\$293,557
Foundation Grants.....	\$366,387
Contributions	\$51,921
Other Income	\$22,123
TOTAL.....	\$1,658,076



tesha

FROM TAX SITE CLIENT TO TAX SITE CHAMPION

"\$300 for tax preparation was just too much—I hated paying it. Imagining what I could do for my family with an extra \$300 led me to Community Action's free tax site over seven years ago. Every year, I gratefully watched as a volunteer took time away from their family to help mine. Last year, I took the plunge and completed over 20 hours of training to become what I'd been so grateful for—a volunteer tax preparer! I love being able to do for others what past volunteers did for me!"

Volunteering reignited Tesha's passion for accounting. With support and guidance from a personalized employment coach and a reliable vehicle through our JumpStart car purchase program, she's gone back to school to complete her BA in accounting.

A NEW JOB - A NEW LIFE

Sara didn't know anyone in town but she knew she needed a hand building the skills that could help her find new work and start a new life—a life with her kids away from the domestic violence they'd known all too long. Desperate for a fresh start, Sara was eager to move ahead and quickly completed our Common Cents money management and Getting Ahead leadership classes. With the help of our individualized employment coaching, Sara excelled, enrolling at Lake Superior College and was selected for a paid position in our Seeds of Success urban farming program. Pairing her new-found confidence and work history, Sara found full-time employment just months later with a Duluth hotel where she continues to shine.

sara





ashlee

THE LONG JOURNEY

Alone and uncertain, Ashlee found us. Struggling with homelessness, her initial goals of securing safe housing, maintaining sobriety and re-uniting with her two young children were just the beginning of the long journey ahead. Ashlee was quickly connected with Circles@Work, which pairs caring volunteers with specialized employment coaching, tailored to the needs of single moms. She was also selected for a paid position with our Seeds of Success urban farming program and enrolled in our Getting Ahead leadership development class. With increased confidence, support, work experience and references, Ashlee excelled to tackle one of her largest goals – becoming a full-time student working towards her degree in social work.

Today Ashlee has her own apartment, is sober and re-united with her children, volunteers with us and looks forward to the day she can dedicate herself to giving back the support she's received.

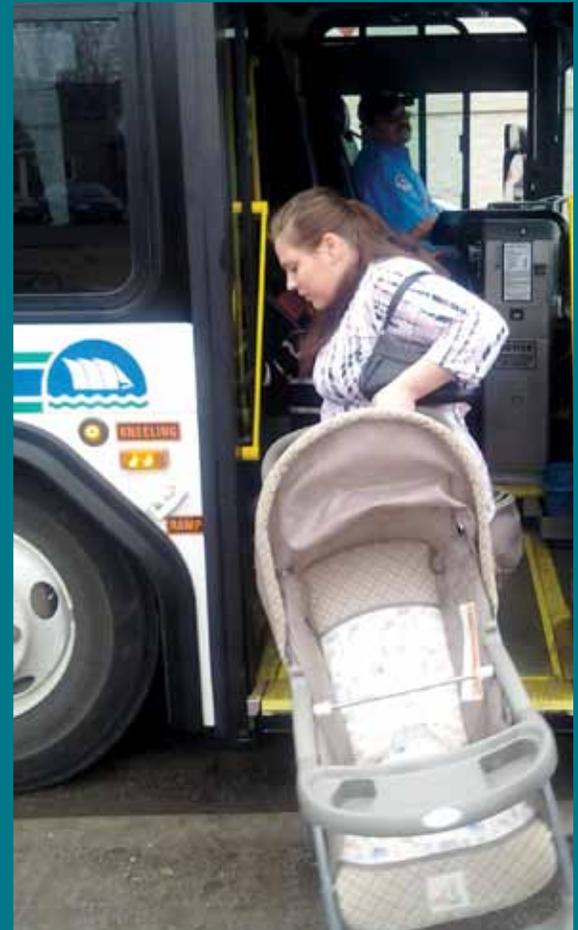
A SMALL CHANGE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Have you ever tried carrying groceries while pushing a stroller and catching a bus only to have to pull that stroller up the bus stairs, make two transfers and ride over forty minutes back home? We have!

Sparked by a concern from people who ride the bus who took our Getting Ahead leadership development class, our Big View forum team took the challenge of accessibility to the next level. Working with DTA administration, the team was able to assist in updating an outdated stroller policy. Today, many busy parents are able to ride in comfort as ramps are lowered and designated stroller areas are cleared. A small change to some, a huge stress relief for many, we're committed to involving those affected in the process of community change!

We'd like to thank the DTA for their continued partnership and responsiveness to community issues.

parents&littleones





Loni

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

"Our prior vehicle was in shambles. With over 250,000 miles, it needed more repairs than I could afford. Having three children, one of which is wheelchair bound, transportation was a great difficulty."

Loni, a single mom, was in desperate need of a reliable van to transport her child with disabilities to medical appointments. Our JumpStart affordable car purchase program not only allowed her the ability to purchase a reliable van but was able to assist Loni in outfitting it with a specialized ramp designed for both ease of travel and safety for her child.

"Having less-than-perfect credit, this opportunity has been a tremendous Godsend and has made things very easy on my family financially."

Due to drastically reduced transportation costs, Loni has been able to move her family from transitional housing to her own apartment and continues to make strides towards a life of prosperity for her children.

THE PATH TO SELF SUFFICIENCY

Struggling to make ends meet on public assistance and wanting to get back in the workforce, Kobreina knew she was ready for a change. Scared and alone, she was dedicated to carving out a better path for her three young children. Kobreina was paired with an employment coach, a caring volunteer, and connected to a supportive network of single moms in similar situations through our Circles@Work program. She completed numerous classes, workshops and on-site training opportunities and in time, landed a full-time job with benefits!

With a steady source of income, Kobreina began working on the daunting task of tackling several years worth of debt. Now eligible for the earned income tax credit and free tax prep at Community Action Duluth, she was able to maximize her refund and today is debt free! She is also the proud new owner of a 2011 Chevrolet HHR made possible with the assistance of our affordable car purchase program.

kobreina



our participants

IN 2012 COMMUNITY ACTION DULUTH EMPOWERED FINANCIAL AND EMPLOYMENT COACHING PARTICIPANTS TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING RESULTS:

125 people increased their credit score by an average of 45 points which can mean the difference between a high interest car loan and an affordable loan

80 people obtained a job with an average wage of \$11.64 per hour

98 people increased their net worth by an average of \$7,434 through increased savings, decreased debt and asset purchases

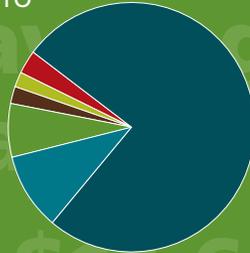
82 people increased their net income by an average of \$565/mo

39 FAIM Participants capitalized small businesses, 7 purchased their first home, 20 paid for college

Total Participant Savings invested = \$50,205

Total FAIM Match Earned = \$148,181

TOTAL INVESTMENT = \$198,386

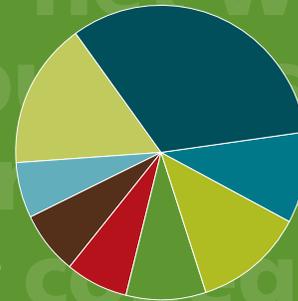


PARTICIPANTS' RACE

White	76%
Black or African American.....	10%
American Indian & Alaska Native	7%
Asian	2%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0%
Other.....	2%
Multi-Race (any 2 or more of the above).....	3%

LEVEL OF PARTICIPANTS' FAMILY INCOME*

Up to 50%
51-75%
76-100%
101-125%
126-150%
151-175%
176-200%
201% & Up



*% of Federal Poverty Guideline

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

"Three years ago we were financially clueless. We spent carelessly, charged too much to our credit cards and had very little in savings. We wanted to buy a house but had no idea where to start. In just two years, we've paid off two car loans, a student loan and our credit cards. On April 26, we officially became first time homebuyers! Because of the help and guidance we received from a Community Action Duluth financial coach, our kids have a backyard to play in, bedrooms to sleep in and a place to grow up and call home."

kourtney&galen



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GEOGRAPHIC AREA & POPULATION SERVED

Community Action Duluth serves people who live in the City of Duluth. The tax site serves people in the Greater Duluth area including residents of Wisconsin.



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