



# 2024

## Annual Report

 **community Action**  
PARTNERSHIP  
NORTHEAST MISSOURI  
Adair • Clark • Knox • Schuyler • Scotland



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# LETTERS FROM LEADERSHIP

## A Note From Traci

Reflecting on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for all we've achieved together in empowering individuals, families, and communities. Here's a snapshot of our progress:

- Helped families secure stable housing
- Expanded early childhood education.
- Connected adults with job training and employment.
- Partnered with local businesses to enhance economic sustainability.
- Increased health access through community partnerships.
- Addressed emerging needs through various community projects.
- Kept families warm and safe by replacing furnaces and preventing carbon monoxide risks through our Weatherization Program.

These successes are thanks to you: our neighbors, volunteers, partners, and donors. Your support makes our work possible.

Looking ahead, we're committed to creating lasting change and strengthening our communities.

Our goals for the coming year are bold, but with your continued support, we know we can achieve them.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we'll continue empowering individuals and families to build stronger, more resilient communities.

With gratitude,




Traci Lawrence  
CAPNEMO Executive Director





# LETTERS FROM LEADERSHIP

## A Note From Jason



During the February Board Meeting, the newly appointed CAPNEMO Board of Directors was officially sworn in by Charles McCann, a respected leader in the Community Action Network known for his work with Head Start and CSBG. As a Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP) Emeritus, Charles has long supported low-income families and mentored future CCAP leaders. Since beginning his career in 1967, he has played a key role in strengthening communities and fighting poverty. He also shared a bit of CAPNEMO history—did you know the central office once operated at the former Kirksville Air Force Base?

We encourage friends and partners to visit [CAPNEMO.ORG](http://CAPNEMO.ORG) to learn more about our rich history and community programs. Whether it's Weatherization, Food, Head Start, Housing, Community Garden, or Skill-Up, there's likely a program that could help someone you know.

Finally, a heartfelt thank-you to the volunteers, staff, and administrators across our five-county region. Your dedication has made the Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri a trusted and respected organization. You are the reason we live our mission: Helping People. Changing Lives. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for all that you do.

With sincere appreciation,



Jason Underwood  
CAPNEMO Board President



## Our Mission

*The Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri's mission is to assist and empower individuals, families, and communities to achieve their greatest potential.*

## Our Promise

*Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.*

## Our Values

- We value each person's unique differences, perspectives, and lived experiences.
- We value opportunity.
- We value economic empowerment and stability.
- We value a healthy community.
- We value accessible and quality education.
- We value a space that fosters integrity, dignity, respect, and transparency throughout our professionalism in and out of the community



# SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS 2024

**2,482**  
households  
assisted through  
CAPNEMO  
services.

**51**  
people participated  
in the Community  
Garden.



**91¢**

of every dollar  
was reinvested  
into our local  
communities.

**70.4%**  
Percentage of  
elderly/disabled  
constituents who utilized  
CAPNEMO's LIHEAP  
Program



**8,291**  
Total number of  
times CAPNEMO  
provided resources  
to constituents.

**152**  
children received  
brand new outfits  
for their first day  
of school.





# MISSION IN MOTION



Scotland County students recently completed the 7-week PhotoVoice Program, building skills in public speaking, advocacy, and conflict resolution. Using digital cameras, they captured their community's strengths and challenges to highlight changes needed for a better future.

Students at Mary Immaculate participated in The Voice, a program where professionals from a variety of careers visit to share insights about their work. The goal is to expose students to diverse career paths and inspire them to start thinking about their own futures and aspirations.





# MISSION IN MOTION



Through a Head Start grant called "Grow More" and a partnership with the local conservation department, a pergola was added to our Jamison St. Community Garden. Signs were also added, and the raised beds were cleaned up. These updates make the garden more inviting and give families and children a better space to learn, grow food, and spend time together.



Andrea and Karen spent a day at Hy-Vee collecting donations of cake mix and frosting to create birthday cake kits for children celebrating their special day. Thanks to the incredible generosity of shoppers, they were able to gather enough supplies to bring joy to many families and help make birthdays a little sweeter, more memorable, and filled with love.



# MISSION IN MOTION

Pictured here are children receiving their new school outfits for the first day of school, made possible through CAPNEMO's First Day Fresh Start program. Thanks to generous donations from local businesses and community members, over 150 children were able to start the school year with confidence and a fresh start.



Pictured here are two more graduates from Novinger School who participated in the PhotoVoice program, where they developed valuable skills in identifying community needs, advocating for positive change, and setting meaningful, future-focused goals to help them achieve their aspirations.





# MISSION IN MOTION

CAPNEMO staff attended the NEMO Connect event, a community gathering where local organizations joined forces to provide resources and support to individuals and families in need. Throughout the day, CAPNEMO distributed hand warmers, snacks, and other helpful items, while also sharing information about available services and programs to support community well-being.



Students in Scotland County celebrated their graduation from the Steps-to-Success program, where they gained valuable skills in communication, leadership, goal setting, and personal development.



# MISSION IN MOTION



CAPNEMO proudly hosted its 2nd Annual Winter Clothing Drive, made possible by generous donations from local businesses and community members. Residents across all five counties were invited to pick up warm winter clothing, helping ensure individuals and families stayed safe and comfortable during the colder months.

Community members joined in the fun at CAPNEMO's Community Holiday Partner event, where exciting prizes were up for grabs. Lucky winners took home items like a kitchen set, a high-quality knife set, and even a brand-new laptop, adding a little extra cheer to the holiday season.





# VOICES & VICTORIES

Carol Yearns has made remarkable progress during her time with us.

Most importantly, Carol is no longer experiencing homelessness. CAPNEMO was able to help her transition into permanent housing. Her journey is a powerful reminder of the impact of our work and the resilience of those we serve.

Pictured to the right is Carol cooking in her new home!



Rachel pictured with her sons.

Rachel Bacigalupi came from Reno, Nevada, seeking a fresh start for herself and her two sons. With CAPNEMO's support, she overcame poverty and addiction, secured stable housing, and built a better future.

Her home became a place of healing, where she watched her sons graduate and participated in family counseling during COVID. ONce tapped in generational poverty, Rachel rewrote her story through hard work and CAPNEMO's support.

*"I was desperate and couldn't see a light at the end of the tunnel. CAPNEMO changed my life. This program works for those willing to work for it - and I am proof!"*



# VOICES & VICTORIES

*“Steps-to-Success gave me confidence and helped me realize that only I have the power to shape my future.”*

**- Eleena**  
**Sophomore, Age 16**



*“When I first started Steps to Success, I wasn’t sure what to expect. Through STS with CAPNEMO, I’ve grown more confident, independent, and better at removing myself from negative situations. I’ve also learned to respect myself and my peers.*

*Before STS, I was unsure about my career path. Now, I’ve decided to pursue Nursing. I know it will be challenging, but I’m committed to setting goals and reaching them. I want a life with less financial struggle, where I can provide for myself, live comfortably, and save for the future.*

*Through STS, I bonded with other girls in the program and even made a lasting friendship. I’m grateful for STS and hope it continues in our schools. Angie was so kind, always listened without judgment, and reminded us we are worthy.”*

**- Gena**  
**Sophomore, Age 16**





# HEAD START HIGHLIGHTS 2024

314

children received  
early childhood  
education and care  
through our Head  
Start program.



29

of our enrolled  
children had a  
disability.

91%

of Early Head Start  
children had  
up-to-date  
immunizations.



95%

of Head Start  
children had  
up-to-date  
immunizations.

151

Head Start  
children received  
oral preventive  
care.

42

children were  
on subsidy.

52

Early Head Start  
children received  
oral preventive  
care.





# HEAD START IN ACTION



After a fun library field trip, Head Start children enjoyed games, books, and a special “Pancakes with Pals” breakfast with family and friends.



During the warmer months, Jamison St. children began learning about nutrition and gardening through hands-on experiences in the Jamison St. Community Garden.



Children and center staff participated in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade in their local communities.

# HEAD START IN ACTION



Early in the year, Head Start staff and parents visited the Missouri State Capitol for Child Advocacy Day, sharing how Head Start positively impacts Northeast Missouri.



A Kahoka Head Start student proudly displays his apple coil during the *Missouri Crunch Off*, where centers celebrate healthy eating through fun, hands-on activities - this time featuring apples!



Pictured above: Through a local partnership, children receive dental cleanings via mobile health care units. This partnership also provides immunizations and other essential health services across all five counties.





# STORIES OF IMPACT



*“When I started just five months ago, Elayna was almost completely nonverbal. Today, she’s speaking many more words and making incredible progress. With the support of her IEP and the dedication of our team, she’s come so far in such a short time. Watching her grow has been truly inspiring.”*

**– Tonya Irvin**  
**Kahoka Head Start Center Supervisor**



*“This year, I was finally able to find a full-time job and earn my CNA which was something I couldn’t do before because I didn’t have reliable child care. For the first time since having my child, I didn’t need help paying my winter bills. I didn’t have to worry about the gas being shut off. Edina Head Start gave me peace of mind, knowing my child is safe, cared for, and learning. I’m so thankful for this program. My next goal is to get off SNAP and provide for my family on my own. I finally feel like I’m on the right path.”*

**– Edina Head Start Parent**



# STORIES OF IMPACT

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Ashley Sparks Dreamed of owning her own business while raising young children, but limited childcare made it difficult to work and save. With support from the Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri, she enrolled her children in the Head Start program, giving her the stability to pursue her goals. Through hard work and determination, Ashley saved enough to launch Rejuvenate Spa, where she now offers massage therapy and more to her community. Her journey is a testament to the power of the entrepreneurship, resilience, and the impact of accessible childcare in creating success.

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After years of struggle, B's dad found hope through his son's final year at Memphis Head Start. With support from staff, he opened up, sought help, and took big steps like landing a job and working toward a stable home for his family. He credits his son and Memphis Head Start for helping him believe in a better future.





# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



Head Start Director, Jenn Vaughn was presented the Grow More Grant Award during the NHSA National Conference.



Kraft Heinz generously donated diapers, along with Play-Doh and tissues, to support families in need. These items help provide comfort and care to local households with young children.



MO-SECA recognizes Deneice Moore, Crystal Bass, and community partner, Andrea Orwig for their dedication and training completion as an educator.



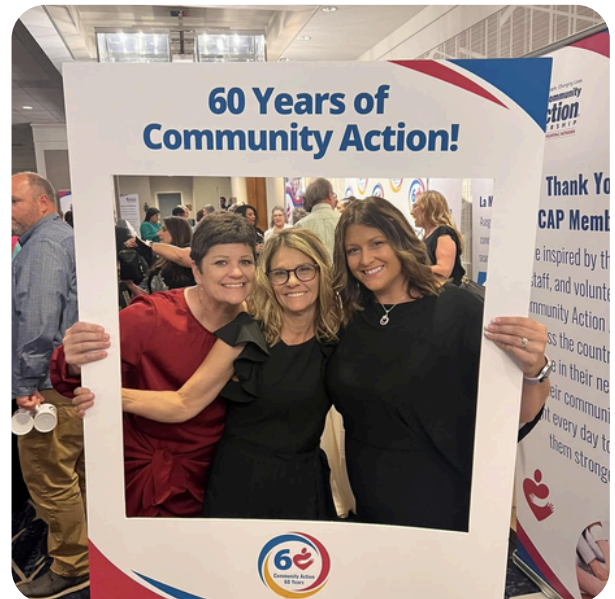
# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



Head Start holds an open house to welcome in the new school year.



Rep Danny Busick visited with children, staff, and families during a visit with the Pfeiffer Early Head Start center.



CAPNEMO attends the National Community Action Annual Conference.



# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW



CAPNEMO hosts a Community Leadership Seminar where numerous community leaders came to hear Kansas City Chief's announcer, Mitch Holthus speak on what it means to be a leader.

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CAPNEMO hosts its annual fundraiser at the NEMO Fairgrounds where guests try to solve a murder mystery put on by Curtain Call Theatre.

# A SHARED COMMITMENT



CAPNEMO, through its Community Partnership Funds, proudly supported local youth by donating to the Kirkville School Market and Care Closet, which provide essential items to students in need, as well as the St. Paul Backpack Ministry, which provides necessities to children placed into foster care.



Car-Mart donated fans that ensured our clients remained safe and comfortable during the hot summer months.



Pantry for Adair County provided food kits to support constituents in need and ensure access to food during difficult times.



# A SHARED COMMITMENT

Pictured below are some of the local businesses that generously contributed to the 2024 First Day, Fresh Start program. Thanks to the incredible support from these businesses and community members, CAPNEMO successfully raised \$5,400 to help students start the school year strong!



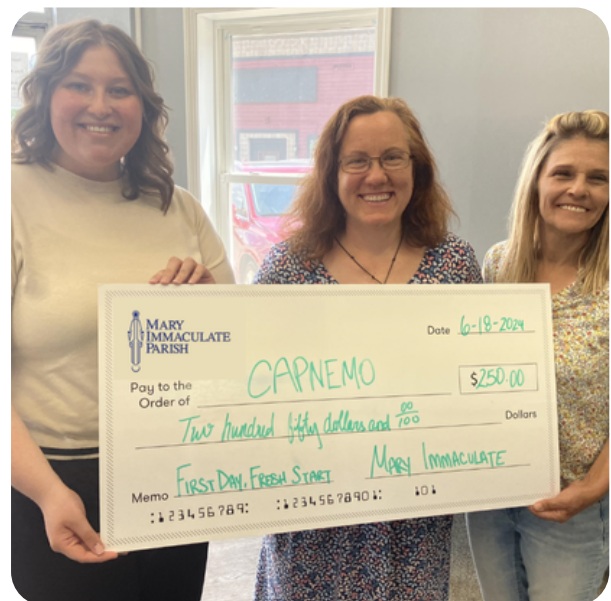
Shoes From The Heart



Knox Co. Dental



Cleaver Dermatology



Mary Immaculate Parish



# A SHARED COMMITMENT



Rotary Club of Kirksville donated Houseless Kits (chapstick, body wipes, tissues) to the CSBG Department to hand out to constituents in need.



The Bank Midwest Toy Drive collected toys generously donated by customers and employees, bringing joy to local children during the holidays.



Nightshade Body Piercing and Tattoo hosted a holiday toy drive, offering a free tattoo to individuals who donated a gift valued at \$25 or more. This creative initiative helped provide toys to those in need during the holiday season. All toys were then donated to CAPNEMO for distribution to families in the community.





# A SHARED COMMITMENT



The Mary Immaculate Youth Group donated hats, scarves, and gloves to CAPNEMO to help keep community members warm during the winter.



Thanks to generous community donations, CAPNEMO shared excess toys with FosterAdopt, where they were distributed to children and foster families.



Car-Mart held a toy drive to support CAPNEMO, helping bring holiday cheer to local children and families.



Menards also hosted a toy drive and donated to CAPNEMO, contributing to efforts to support local families during the holiday season.

# A SHARED COMMITMENT

A heartfelt thank you to all of our generous donors and sponsors for supporting our annual fundraiser! Your contributions made it a true success!



A special shoutout to *Curtain Call Theatre Company* for partnering with CAPNEMO to present a thrilling murder mystery dinner show!



Conservation Department  
Landowner Community  
Assistance Program removes two dead ash trees for CAPNEMO rental lawns. Two new trees planted and donated to city of kirksville at North park



Alpha Sigma Gamma donated non-perishable food items for CAPNEMO to hand out to those that are needing food.



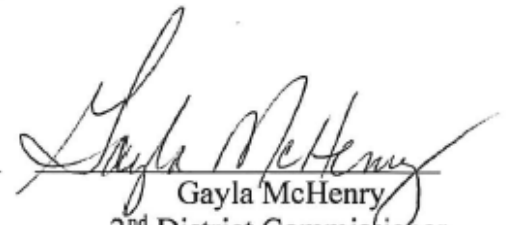
# A SHARED COMMITMENT

*"We are proud to express our strong support for the Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri (CAPNEMO) and the critical work they do to uplift hardworking constituents in our communities. CAPNEMO provides essential resources, strengthens economic stability, and fosters long-term success for individuals and families throughout rural Northeast Missouri."*

**- The Adair County Commission of Missouri**

  
Mark Shahan  
Presiding Commissioner

  
William King  
1<sup>st</sup> District Commissioner

  
Gayla McHenry  
2<sup>nd</sup> District Commissioner

*"I am amazed at the many heartwarming stories and the fantastic accomplishments that the group has achieved for the better of the residents of the five counties that they serve. Through the 'Power of Purpose,' CAPNEMO will thrive to continue with a productive future and just like the Kansas City Chiefs, it takes each and every employee from the custodians up to the Executive Director to accomplish great things."*

**- Mitch Holthus**  
**The Voice of the Kansas City Chiefs**



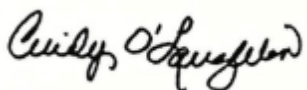
# A SHARED COMMITMENT



*"In a 100% rural community, where it can be nearly impossible to identify early childhood care, this center has filled a community gap. We happily support Head Start funding, Head Start staff, and their continued work in Knox County."*

**- Lori Moots-Clair**  
**Director**  
**Knox County Health Department**

*"The Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri (CAPNEMO) assists individuals and families in their efforts to achieve financial security, access essential resources, and build brighter futures. I am proud to support CAPNEMO's continued efforts to strengthen Northeast Missouri."*



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cindy O'Laughlin".

**- Cindy O'Laughlin**  
**Missouri State Senator District 18**





# A SHARED COMMITMENT

*“As a Board Member of CAPNEMO, I’ve seen firsthand the meaningful difference this organization makes. From energy assistance to housing support, their practical solutions are vital to the strength and stability of our rural communities.”*



**- Tim Harper**  
**Clark County Eastern District Commissioner**  
**Board Member, The Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri**

## Schuyler County Commission

*“CAPNEMO's programs are indispensable. They offer critical support, from energy assistance to weatherization services, ensuring our most vulnerable populations can live with dignity and security.”*



**- Drew Bruner**  
**Schuyler County Southern District Commissioner**  
**Board Member, The Community Action Partnership of Northeast Missouri**

# OUR REVENUES

## **Nonfederal Match**

**HS: \$492,526.74**

**EHS: \$242,021.83**

**Total: \$735,548.57**

**Federal Grants: \$5,249,027.69**

**State Grants: \$480,185.00**

**Local: \$146,513.62**

**Donated: \$11,836.53**

**Private: \$101,004.99**

**Other Programs: \$252,073.22**

**Education: \$3,785,179.34**

**Housing (WX/Rentals): \$516,765.19**

**ECIP: \$626,708.08**

**Health and Nutrition: \$516,913.05**

**CSBG: \$352,919.82**



# STAY CONNECTED WITH CAPNEMO

**We're here for you and we'd love to stay in touch!  
Scan the QR code or use the info below to connect  
with us, learn more, or get involved:**




**Join our monthly  
newsletter:**



**Visit our website:**  
[www.capnemo.org](http://www.capnemo.org)



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 CAPNEMO

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