



Community Action of Orleans & Genesee Employee Newsletter

April 1, 2026

A few words from Renee

Dear Team,

The past several weeks have been incredibly active on the advocacy front, both at the federal and state levels. I want to take a moment to update you on where things stand, why this work matters, and how it directly affects the families we serve here in Orleans and Genesee counties.

Federal Progress: Momentum We Can Celebrate

Over the last month, I spent a week in Washington, D.C., and a few days in Albany, continuing the advocacy work necessary to protect the funding that makes our mission possible. Community Action leaders from across the nation have been working together to ensure that our elected officials understand what we know to be true: **investing in Community Action yields remarkable returns for communities.**

One of our primary goals has been the reauthorization of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which would relieve agencies from the ongoing strain of operating under continual Continuing Resolutions. While there is still a long road ahead, we are beginning to see encouraging signs at the federal level:

- **Modest increases** were made in **CSBG, Head Start, and LIHEAP/Weatherization**, despite these programs initially being listed at **zero** in the President's budget.
- This is a significant win and a testament to the unified voice of Community Action agencies nationwide.

These improvements are promising—but our work is far from finished.

State-Level Threat: Urgent Action Needed to Protect Weatherization

While we are seeing progress federally, a critical state-level issue has emerged that demands immediate attention.

Currently, **10% of the HEAP Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) allocation**, as outlined in Social Services Law §97(5), accounts for **approximately 60% of WAP operating budgets across New York State**. These funds are essential to keeping our Weatherization teams in the field and serving families.

In the proposed New York State Budget, this 10% is slated to be **reallocated toward short-term heating assistance**, diverting it away from the **permanent, cost-saving solutions** that WAP provides.

A few words from Renee continued

This change would have **devastating consequences**:

- Immediate and severe reduction in the number of homes we can serve
- Larger waitlists—already at **200 families** locally
- Increased safety risks for vulnerable households
- Potential layoffs of skilled, dedicated workers
- Long-term increases in energy burdens for families already struggling

As I shared in my recently published *Letter to the Editor* in the **Orleans Hub**, weatherization is far more than insulation and air sealing. Our Weatherization team walks into homes every day and finds hazards no one sees from the outside—missing ceilings, exposed wiring, disconnected smoke detectors, and unsafe heating sources. This work prevents tragedies, reduces energy costs permanently, and ensures that families can live safely and with dignity.

Redirecting these funds away from WAP threatens all of that.

Our Advocacy Efforts

Over the past several weeks, I have:

- Submitted letters and written testimony
- Met with elected officials
- Participated in door-to-door legislative advocacy in Albany with the help of our own Jeff Atwell, Weatherization Manager. 😊
- Submitted *Letters to the Editor*, including one now published in the Orleans Hub
- Shared similar messages with Genesee County news outlets
- Distributed informational flyers.

I wanted you to be aware of these efforts so that if questions arise, you are informed and prepared. Your voice matters!

Thank you for being....*Part of the Solution*

Renée



Fresh from Miles for Smiles No-Tap Tournament

Over \$3,200 Raised for Orleans County Transportation Services

CAOG's first-ever Miles for Smiles Bowling Tournament at Oak Orchard Bowl in Albion was a huge success! Thanks to the support of sponsors, bowlers, volunteers, and community members, **we raised over \$3,200** to support transportation services in Orleans County.

Special thanks to Randy Hanks and Curtis Foss of Oak Orchard Bowl for their outstanding support in hosting the event.

Sponsors & Supporters

Info Advantage • Human Energies • Dunham Family Farms • Breese & Associates, LLC / DBA Subway • Orleans Community Health • Board Member Donation • Community Member Donation

Thank you to everyone who bowled, donated, volunteered, and supported Miles for Smiles!



We are also grateful to our staff, directors, and Board of Directors who volunteered their time selling raffle tickets, running the 50/50 drawing, helping with setup/cleanup, and even forming bowling teams.



A special acknowledgment goes to Melinda D. and Alishia F. for helping bring this fundraiser to life from the ground up.



MEDINA HEAD START LOCATION

On March 11, 2026, Parent Group provided our parents with training in Hands Only CPR, presented by Paul from the Medina Fire Department. Some parents tried their hand at Hands Only CPR on the models that were brought and were engaged and asked many great questions! The video "Two Steps to Stay Alive" is available on the American Heart Association web site and can also be found on YouTube. Parents were encouraged to share this information with other adults.



April



2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Chicken & Gravy over Biscuits Mixes Veg & peaches	2	3 Sloppy Joe Salad Pears	4 Kids Eater Party
5 Grilled Cheese Chips Pickles	6	7	8 Chicken Parm Salad Garlic Bread	9	10 Pulled Pork Potatoes / green beans Applesauce	11
12 Ham & Eggs Hash browns Biscuits / Peaches	13	14	15 Chicken Noodle Soup Sandwich Chips & Mixes Fruit	16	17 Tuna Noodle Casserole Peas & Carrots Cookies / cake	18
19 Meat Loaf Mashed Potatoes Corn / Mixed Fruit	20	21	22 Italian Sausage Peppers / Onions Over rice & Pears	23	24 Baked Ravioli Salad / Garlic Bread Cookie / Cake	25
26 Ham & Turkey Sandwich Salad / chips Pears	27	28	29 Roasted Chicken Potatoes / Carrots Applesauce	30		

STORE HOURS

Sunday/Monday - Closed
 Tuesday: 11a - 4p
 Wednesday: 11a -4p
 Thursday: 11a - 5:30 p
 Friday: 11a - 5:30 p
 Saturday: 10:30a - 3p



ADDRESS

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CONTACT US

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APRIL 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			30% OFF DRESSES 1	15% OFF EGG COLORING KITS 2	15% OFF EASTER BASKETS 3	ALL EASTER 50% OFF 4
CLOSED 5	CLOSED 6	30% OFF PLASTICWARE 7	BOGO GLASSWARE 8	15% OFF SMALL APPLIANCES 9	.25 KIDS CLOTHING 10	50% OFF COLD WEATHER CLOTHING 11
CLOSED 12	CLOSED 13	BOGO BOARD GAMES 14	30% OFF MISCELLANEOUS SECTION 15	30% OFF BABY/KIDS TOYS 16	15% OFF PHOTOS, FRAMES, WALL HANGINGS 17	30% OFF CREAM AND SUGAR BOWLS 18
CLOSED 19	CLOSED 20	50% OFF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT 21	.25 ALL CDS, DVD, CASSETTES 22	\$20 FILL A BAG CLOTHING 23	BOGO ALL PANTS 24	DOLLAR DAYS 25 *STOP IN AND FIND THE BINS MARKED \$1*
CLOSED 26	CLOSED 27	20% OFF BABY EQUIPMENT 28	20% OFF BABY EQUIPMENT 29	20% OFF FURNITURE 30		

DONATION HOURS
 Sunday/Monday - Closed
 Tuesday: Appointment Only
 Wednesday: 11a -3p
 Thursday: 11a - 3p
 Friday: 11a -3p
 Saturday: Appointment Only