

CAASTLC

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.



We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors.

President Lyndon B. Johnson



Annual Report 2017

Helping People, Changing Lives

A Special Message

From our President & CEO and Board Chair

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e are pleased to present the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. Fiscal Year End 2017 Annual Report,

CAASTLC's Mission is to End Poverty. To deliver on our Mission, we provide life changing services that help people change lives and transition out of poverty. Through our strategic focus and understanding of the conditions of poverty, our Board of Directors, Community Advisory Council and Staff work together to ensure that we are readily available to serve and assist our St. Louis County customers. Conditions of poverty continue to plague our communities and our country. The troubling effects of socio-economic and health challenges in our society leave many in a broken state. CAASTLC serves to inspire and provide a hand up for our customers by addressing basic needs and building capacity to ensure we are here for those who need us most.

2017 was another exciting year for growth and innovation worth celebrating for CAASTLC. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this annual report because it allows us to reflect on our presence in the community, our partnerships, and our overall community impact.

The testimonials and expressions of gratitude we receive from customers, and shared in this report, are heartwarming. We continue to re-invest in creating innovative and all-embracing programs that respond to real-time needs. We also recognize that yesterday's formulas for success must be revisited and revamped if we are to remain relevant at addressing the changing needs in our community. Please reference our CAASTLC website at www.caastlc.org to learn more about our current programs and service offerings.



Cenia D. Bosman
President & CEO



Rosezetta Eichelberger
Board Chair

In 2018, we will celebrate a milestone in our history – our 50-Year Anniversary. We are excited about our anniversary and feel honored to have had the opportunity to serve our St. Louis County residents over this time period. Today, we serve more than 40,000 people in St. Louis County. We look forward to continuing our Mission and fight to End Poverty in the days and years ahead. Our work continues as we embrace the challenges and opportunities that will allow us to continue to grow our capacity to serve more, help more, and be that beacon of light for those who find themselves facing impoverished conditions. Our legacy continues, as our greatest accomplishments are ahead.

We thank you for your past and continued support. CAASTLC is committed to your trust in us and our work towards "helping people, change lives".

Sincerely,

Cenia D. Bosman
President & CEO

Rosezetta Eichelberger
Board Chair

We continually re-invest in building innovative and comprehensive programs that respond to real-time needs.

Spotlight on Success: Audrey Dodson

Audrey Dodson's story demonstrates the strength and determination of many low-income individuals and families who come to CAASTLC in need of support and resources to succeed in life. Audrey spent most of her formative years in a children's home. Only her faith, tenacity and hope that there were greater possibilities for her future motivated her through a troubled childhood.

Victimized by her stepfather in her early life, she eventually became a ward of the state and a children's home resident. At 17 years old she left the children's home to start life on her own.

Audrey eventually met a man with whom she thought she could make a home and build a future. The couple moved in together and began managing their household expenses. Audrey was working part time at a Naturalizer Shoe Store and going to school. Her boyfriend was between jobs. "My son's father wasn't working, and he was a bit controlling to say the least, but I did push him to get into school," said Audrey. She became pregnant. Sadly, her significant other found the pregnancy and the obligation of becoming a father beyond his scope of devotion.

At the tender age of 22, Audrey came home one day to find herself alone and pregnant, facing a basically empty house. "I was devastated," said Audrey. "I didn't know what I was going to do." Her future looked bleak, no longer able to work because of the pregnancy. She began to struggle to pay bills, to feed and shelter herself and unborn child. Her utilities were disconnected, and her rent was overdue. Audrey found herself on the edge of homelessness. Then a friend suggested that she might find help at the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (CAASTLC). Her friend brought her to CAASTLC to apply for energy assistance.

While at CAASTLC, Audrey found out that she could attend classes on Energy Conservation and that the agency offered a home weatherization program. "I was amazed at how informative the Energy Class was and how much I learned about methods to conserve on my heating bills. I saw results right away. I think everyone needs to take an energy class," said Audrey.

Audrey's friend also introduced her to CAASTLC's case manager, Laieba Gates, and Case Management Coordinator, Chris Boyd. Audrey accepted Ms. Gates' suggestion that Ms. Gates come to her home and take inventory of what her needs were. Audrey says: "Ms. Gates sought me out, made me open up and talk to her to feel comfortable. She had a gift of discernment, she knew something wasn't right and I wanted more, not just what I could get from assistance." Through the caring that CAASTLC's professional staff demonstrated, Audrey was referred to Redevelopment Opportunities for Women for life skill counseling and was able to receive a Section 8 voucher, which subsidized her rent based on her income.

Audrey continued to work toward her college degree, and she got a full-time job selling shoes at Macy's. She enrolled in Home Buyer Classes managed by CAASTLC's Housing Counselor, Janice McKinney-Gage. She also enrolled in the Individual Development Account (IDA) program, which helped her save money for a home, and was able to qualify for an American Dream Home Loan through US Bank. Audrey purchased a home in 2009, where she still lives today.

Audrey completed college. She got a job working in the student loan program as a financial rehabilitation specialist. Later, she was employed at Express Scripts as a Medical Asset Counselor assisting individuals in finding more affordable medications. Audrey is currently in the process of setting up her own business as a wedding planner.



Audrey Dodson

“Ms. Gates sought me out, made me open up and talk to her to feel comfortable. She had a gift of discernment, she knew something wasn't right and I wanted more, not just what I could get from assistance.”

A History of CAASTLC



Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. (d/b/a CAASTLC)

is part of a national network of federally funded Community Action Agencies (CAAs), created by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. All Community Action Programs in the network were originally created as part of the "War on Poverty".

The federal Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was replaced by the Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) in 1981. The focus remains to serve as an empowerment service to help those living in poverty become self-sufficient.

CAAs administer various programs on community levels to assist low-income people out of poverty conditions. Nationwide, CAAs help 11.5 million people toward self-sufficiency. CAASTLC is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit corporation that has provided services in St. Louis County for nearly 50 years.

Originally incorporated as the St. Louis Advisory Council in 1968, and renamed Metroplex Inc. in 1969, CAASTLC was founded as a satellite agency of and administered by the Human Development Corporation of Metropolitan St. Louis. In 1978, Metroplex, Inc. became a separate designated entity to provide anti-poverty programs for St. Louis County, excluding Wellston. In 1996, the agency's name was changed to STEP, Inc. and, in 2003, STEP, Inc. became The Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. as part of a national re-branding effort to make CAAs more identifiable to customers.

Services are provided to more than 40,000 low-income people in St. Louis County annually.



The Birth of Community Action

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy's "New Frontier" included support for programs to prevent juvenile delinquency with the focal point, the Presidents' Council on Juvenile Delinquency, chaired by Attorney General Robert Kennedy. Launched in New York City and federally funded in conjunction with funding through the Ford Foundation an initiative called Mobilized for Youth, (MFY) was established. The program was a collaborative effort of local officials, service provider's and neighborhood volunteers who developed a plan to correct the conditions of juvenile delinquency. The plan was implemented with the aid of city council members and the school board. This method was an effective, inexpensive way to solve problems; and it became known as Community Action. MFY is often cited as the first model for **Community Action**.

With the Assassination of President Kennedy in November 1963, President Lyndon Baines Johnson expanded the policy ideas initiated in the Kennedy Administration. In his message to Congress on January 8, 1964, President Johnson said, "Let us carry forward the plans and programs of John F. Kennedy, not because of our sorrow or sympathy, but because they are right... This Administration today, here and now declares an unconditional 'War on Poverty' in America."

The "War on Poverty" was born in February 1964. R. Sargent Shriver led a task force to draft legislation and in August, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, (EOA) was passed, creating a Federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). The Federal OEO led the efforts of the "War on Poverty" and coordinated related programs of all other federal agencies. **Community Action Agencies (CAAs)** were created at a local level to move these services into the communities. Shriver was named OEO Director and served until 1969



CAASTLC Members

Board of Directors

Rosezetta Eichelberger

Chair
04/08-present

Michael Pendergast

Vice Chair
12/13-present

Yolanda Austin

Treasurer
08/10-present

Linda Eikerenkoetter

Secretary
12/14-present

Basil Rudawsky

02/09-present

Louis "Lou" Aboussie

12/15-present

Tyrrell Rodgers

04/16-present

Rose Cason

06/11-present

Clayton Evans

06/18-present

Gloria McQueen

10/13-present

Shira Truitt

02/17-present

Joel Vickery

06/17-present

Sheila Pearson

10/17-present

Community Advisory Council

Wilma Abernathy

Marcus Adams

Delsie Boyd

Geralyn Clifton

Michael Crayton

Selette Crews

Alvin Doss

Sharonica Hardin

Debra Harper-LeBlanc

Michael Kniepman

Kevin Marquitz

Sharon Pace

Jay Rhodes

Ted Rice

CAASTLC, Inc. Staff

Administration

Cenia Bosman
President and CEO

Michael Clark
Project Manager

Human Resources

Susan Moss
Director

Public Relations

Katherine Lucas-Johnson
Director

Contract Compliance

Richard Reinbott
Director

Cedric Jackson

Associate Compliance Officer

Finance

Mark Kurtz
Chief Financial Officer

Pat Bulejski
Service Integration Coordinator

Melissa Stumpf
Payroll / Accounts Payable

Teresa Blankenship
Senior Accountant

Program Administration

Georgie Donahue
Director

Keith Robinson
Associate Director CSBG

Energy Assistance

Karen Wilson
Energy Supervisor

Education Programs

Paul Springer
Case Manager

Employment Services

James Ingram
Employment Specialist

Community Garden / Farm Project

Jake Smith
Farm Manager

Randy Tempel
Farm/Garden Coordinator

Family Development

Chris Boyd
Case Manager Coordinator

Affordable Care Act

Idalia McNulty
ACA Coordinator

Housing & Support Services

George Robnett
Director

Tim Huber
Technical Coordinator, Weatherization

Janice McKinney-Gage
Financial Housing Counselor

The Promise of Community Action:

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.

Statement of Activities

For years ending: 9/30/2015 and 9/30/2016

PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	9/30/2015 Actual	9/30/2016 Actual
Grants	\$8,658,090	\$8,622,688
Donations	43,272	38,563
Investment Income	2,803	3,135
Other	<u>33,922</u>	<u>46,241</u>
Total Public Support and Revenue	<u>8,738,087</u>	<u>8,710,627</u>

EXPENSES

Program Services:		
Weatherization	2,284,387	2,194,636
Energy Assistance	3,723,505	3,673,086
Community Services	1,413,272	1,972,401
Housing/Rental Assistance	471,636	199,840
Other Programs	<u>282,619</u>	<u>68,832</u>
Total Program Services	<u>8,275,719</u>	<u>8,108,795</u>
Supporting Services:		
Management and General	507,061	618,203
Fund-Raising	0	7,530
Total Supporting Services	<u>507,061</u>	<u>625,733</u>
Total Expenses	<u>8,782,480</u>	<u>8,734,528</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>-44,393</u>	<u>-23,901</u>
Fund Balance	<u>\$2,535,846</u>	<u>\$2,512,045</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Program Participation Results



EMPLOYMENT OR WORK SUPPORTS

9,622

PARTICIPANTS WITH LOW INCOMES IN CAASTLC EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES OBTAINED SUPPORTS THAT REDUCED OR ELIMINATED BARRIERS TO INITIAL OR CONTINUOUS EMPLOYMENT, ACQUIRED A JOB, OBTAINED AN INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT INCOME, OR ACHIEVED "LIVING WAGE" EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFITS.

CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

1,989

INFANTS, CHILDREN, YOUTH, PARENTS, AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATED IN DEVELOPMENTAL OR ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS FACILITATED BY CAASTLC AND ACHIEVED PROGRAM GOALS.

ECONOMIC ASSETS ENHANCEMENT AND UTILIZATION

573

HOUSEHOLDS WITH LOW INCOMES ACHIEVED AN INCREASE IN FINANCIAL ASSETS OR FINANCIAL SKILLS AS A RESULT OF CAASTLC ASSISTANCE.

Program Participation Results

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

33,879

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES
WITH LOW INCOMES
RECEIVED EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE FROM
CAASTLC.



COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

4,835

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
AND OPPORTUNITIES
FOR PEOPLE WITH LOW
INCOMES WERE IMPROVED
OR EXPANDED EITHER AS A
RESULT OF CAASTLC
PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES
OR DUE TO ADVOCACY
WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE AGENCIES.

**INDEPENDENT LIVING
FOR LOW INCOME,
VULNERABLE
POPULATIONS**

22,833

**VULNERABLE INDIVIDUALS
WITH LOW INCOMES
RECEIVED SERVICES FROM
CAASTLC AND SECURED
OR MAINTAINED AN
INDEPENDENT LIVING
SITUATION AS A RESULT.**



**COMMUNITY
EMPOWERMENT**

7,467

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS
AND PEOPLE WITH
LOW INCOMES WERE
MOBILIZED TO ENGAGE IN
ACTIVITIES THAT SUPPORT
AND PROMOTE THEIR OWN
WELL-BEING AND THAT
OF THEIR COMMUNITY
AS A DIRECT RESULT OF
CAASTLC INITIATIVES.**



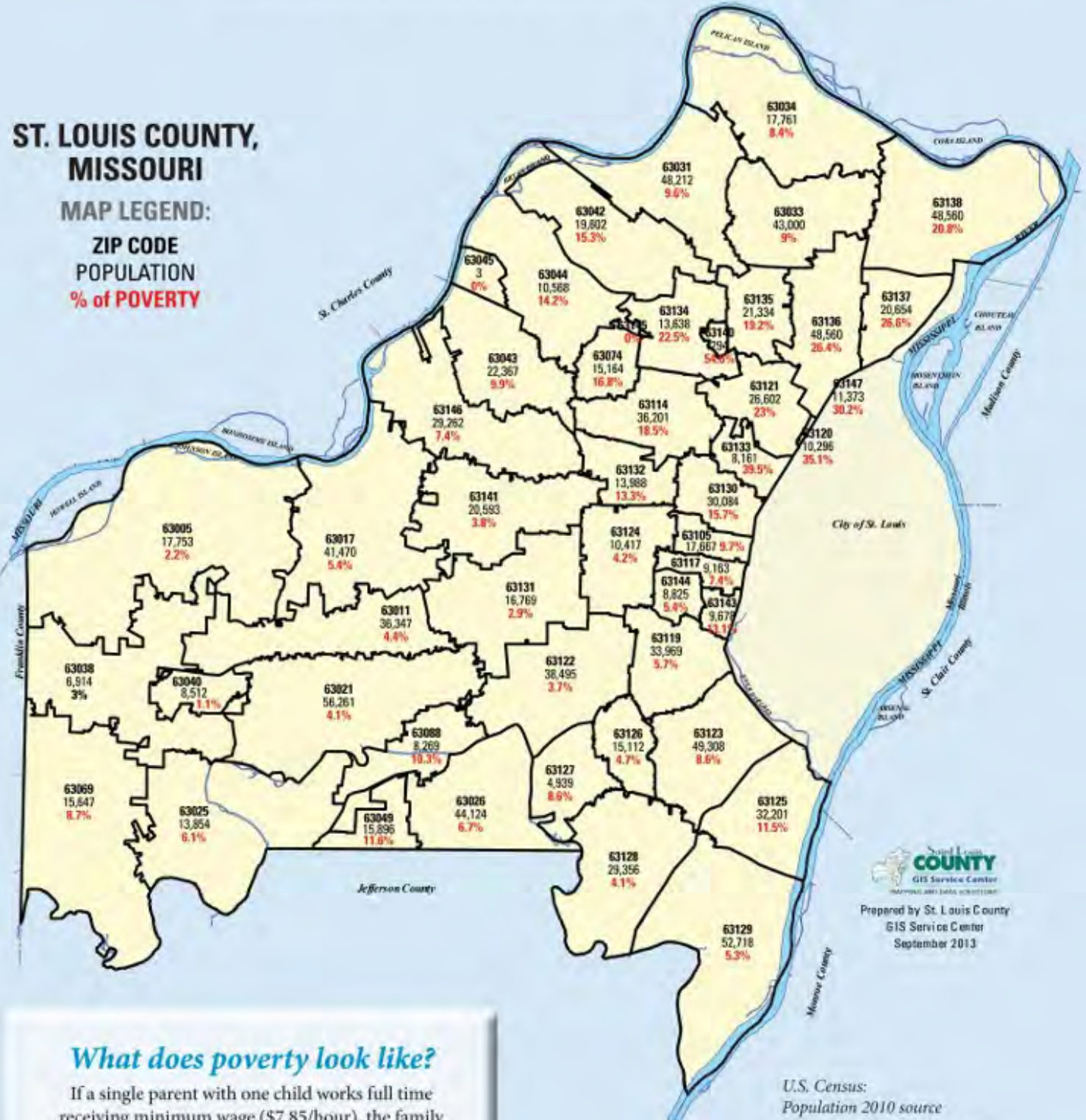
Poverty Rates in St. Louis County by Zip Code

The latest 2014 U.S. Census Bureau statistics show that 9.6% of St. Louis County citizens live in poverty, about 95,000 people. In 2010 two communities, Spanish Lake and Wellston, were designated as areas of 'extreme poverty,' something that did not exist in St. Louis County in 2000.

ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MISSOURI

MAP LEGEND:

ZIP CODE
POPULATION
% of POVERTY



What does poverty look like?

If a single parent with one child works full time receiving minimum wage (\$7.85/hour), the family would earn \$16,328 annually and remain under the poverty line (\$16,460 for a family of two).

U.S. Census:
Population 2010 source
Poverty rate 2012-2016 source



Prepared by St. Louis County
GIS Service Center
September 2013

Program Success Stories



Weatherization Changing Lives by Creating Healthy Homes

Yane Lautric immigrated to the USA from France several years ago. She moved to a large stately frame home in Overland.

At 78 years old, Ms. Lautric lives alone. She continues to renovate and decorate her home. At her home, everywhere you turn you can see the fruits of her labor from hand crafted cabinets, wood cravings, and elegantly refinished furnishings to the beautiful window treatments done just so.

As beautiful as her surroundings appeared, the indoor environment still left a lot to be desired. "Until CAASTLC's Weatherization staff stepped in to help, my furnace was sick, and my house was so cold, especially my bedroom upstairs. I had to sleep downstairs in the winter. I would go to sleep at night and the furnace would be heating, but soon banging, bumping noises would start and then a whining screech. The furnace would completely shut down. My pipes would freeze, and I couldn't even bathe. My heating bill got so high I couldn't pay it," said Yane.

Yane tried to improve her situation. She tried to insulate her walls. She began using a space heater, which was hazardous since the dwelling had wiring issues. Her heating bill continued to rise. One day, a neighbor brought Yane to CAASTLC, Inc. to apply for energy assistance. She saw some literature at the front desk about free home weatherization assistance. After completing an application for both energy assistance and weatherization, and completing an intake interview with CAASTLC Weatherization Intake CSR, Kaye Hartwig, CAASTLC's Weatherization Auditors were at her home two weeks later to assess her needs.

After another two weeks, contractors came to her home. They insulated the attic, walls, and floor in her laundry room, and a half bath. Her furnace and hazardous wiring were replaced with a new furnace and new properly installed wiring. Her walls, floor, and ceiling were insulated in a downstairs room that was always so cold she couldn't use it. Air-sealing and insulation led to a significant reduction in heat leakage to the outside. Yane said; "After the Weatherization team left, there was no more noisy furnace trouble or cold sleepless nights. I love being in my home now. I want to live in my home forever and never leave. It's so nice and comfortable, and a happy place to live. Thanks to CAASTLC and the Weatherization team!"

I love being in my home now. I want to live in my home forever and never leave... Thanks to CAASTLC and the Weatherization team!

Yane

The benefits of the CSA and cooking classes and social events like Family Fun on the Farm provide an opportunity for families to cook together while also having quality family time.

Laquette



Seeds of Hope Farm Changing Lives with Community Supported Agriculture

The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) concept was initiated by CAASTLC, Inc. at the Seeds of Hope Farm in 2012 to create a healthy food culture for all members of our community. Low-income families, especially, are often priced out of healthy, fresh fruits and vegetables and forced to stretch their food dollar by buying cheaper processed foods. The result is a pervasive form of malnutrition that frequently manifests in individuals as obesity, hypertension, diabetes and other ailments. Seeds of Hope's CSA memberships connect low-income families with fresh, nutritious, organically grown produce. We grow more than vegetables; we grow community and relationships!

Laquette Collins is a 2-year CSA member and a single mother of three. Laquette first came to CAASTLC for energy assistance. She has faced the daily battle of providing for her family and finding a life path that could lead her to reasonable work goals, a livable wage, and stable income. She has on occasion relied on CAASTLC's food pantry. Keeping nutritious food in her home for her children and helping them develop life-long healthy nutritional habits has been paramount for her.

Laquette states, "The benefits of the CSA and cooking classes and social events like Family Fun on the Farm provide an opportunity for families to cook together, while also having quality family time. We get to meet new people and learn about foods we don't usually buy and eat. The CSA and cooking classes have been beneficial to me, my family, and my friends, because it helps

the kids learn to cook and eat healthily. All of the children go home excited and eager to show their parents what they have learned."

Laquette has recently been employed as an Ambassador for the Double Up-Double Bucks Food Program, giving presentations in her community about the importance of healthy eating and a healthy life style.

CAASTLC

Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.

2709 Woodson Rd.
Overland, MO 63114



Our Vision

*Healthy families thriving in their community
free from poverty and social exclusion*

*A wide range of opportunities and accessibility
to education, healthcare, careers, and safe,
affordable, energy efficient housing*

*Inclusive communities that sustain economic
opportunities and business growth*

*Natural resources protected and
sustained for the future*



Visit us online at www.caastlc.org
or in person at:

Overland Office
2709 Woodson Road
Overland, MO 63114
314-863-0015

Service Hours:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Tuesday and Thursday
8:00 AM - 7:30 PM



Our Mission

*The mission of CAASTLC, Inc.
is to end poverty. We are committed
to helping the families and communities
of St. Louis County prevent the
conditions of poverty for present
and future generations.*



Helping people. Changing lives.