CAASTLC had an exciting and mission rich 2022 and continues to supply essential services to more than 40,000 of our most vulnerable neighbors in St. Louis County. By putting our strategic plan priorities into operation, we have implemented new and innovative approaches to deliver our services and demonstrate impact in the community.

Ensuring that post-COVID health and safety procedures remain eminent allows us to reach more customers in a safe and effective manner. With the lens of ensuring health and well-being for our customers, we have modified our drive-through food pantry services to include adding fresh produce from our Seeds of Hope Farm in customer packages.

Our security monitored application pickup and drop off process that was implemented during the height of the COVID pandemic has proven to be a convenient and effective way for customers to request services.

CAASTLC Staff is keen on delivering on our mission and vision to ensure that we are an agency that treats everyone with dignity and respect and that barriers created by structural and systemic inequities are being addressed. We value the relationships with our community partners as we work collectively to address this issue. When we work together, we address poverty-rooted circumstances that include safe, affordable housing, energy-efficient housing, employment, leadership skills training, mental health support, education, and accessibility to the many life-changing resources that are needed to survive.

Our 2022 Doors of Opportunity fundraiser, “Blue Suits & Bling,” was the most successful, impact-filled, revenue-generating fundraiser in the history of the organization. Our staff, board, community advisory council and friends of CAASTLC invested their time, talent and treasures to ensure our success. Our agency is vastly becoming more recognized for the phenomenal work that it does each and every day to serve our low-income neighbors across the St. Louis County region. We provide essential services which are necessary to stabilize and enrich vulnerable households, instill hope and create pathways to empowerment. As a member of a national poverty-fighting movement, our work is a commitment demonstrated toward fulfilling President Lyndon B. Johnson’s vision to fight and end the war on poverty.

In 2023, CAASTLC’s journey will enter its 54th year under new leadership. The agency will continue to deliver outstanding results toward its mission and vision in impactful and results-oriented ways. In the words of the renowned Rosa Parks, “Memories of our lives, of our works, and our deeds will continue in others.”

As we enter a new chapter, our outgoing President and CEO, Cenia D. Bosman will pass the baton. The Board of Directors, staff and CAASTLC Community Advisory Council extend a heartfelt Thank You to Mrs. Bosman for her many years of dedicated service leading CAASTLC and serving our community.

Sincerely,

Cenia D. Bosman
President and CEO

Sheila Pearson
Board Chair

CAASTLC
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.
In his State of the Union address to Congress on January 8, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared "an unconditional 'War on Poverty' in America. In August of that year, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (EOA) was passed, creating a Federal Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO). The OEO created Community Action Agencies (CAAs) to empower individuals and families living in poverty.

CAASTLC, Inc. was originally incorporated as Human Development Corporation of Metropolitan St. Louis in 1968. In 2003, Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc. became part of a national rebranding effort to make CAAs more identifiable in their communities.

CAASTLC provides services to more than 40,000 customers per year in St. Louis County. There are currently over 1,000 CAAs nationwide, engaged in a broad range of activities including energy assistance, home weatherization, job training, and leadership classes.

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Commitment to Community
We believe in working together, sharing ideas, bringing change and open communications with our community residents, partners, and stakeholders.

Excellence in Customer Service
We believe in treating our customers, vendors, and employees with the highest degree of dignity, equality, and trust.

Dedication to Staff
We believe in building strong relationships by respecting one another and valuing each other’s needs, time, and contributions.

Integrity
We believe in being honest, trustworthy, respectful, and ethical in our actions.

Stewardship of Resources
We believe in being dedicated to building a better, stronger and more durable agency for future generations, meeting our commitments to stakeholders, developing our people and helping improve our communities.

Core Values
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At CAASTLC, we believe the main ingredients to the success of an agency are transparency and accountability, executed through a clearly defined mission and vision. These are the ingredients that are the foundational base of our team’s focus. We pride ourselves in staying eagle-eye focused on the mission by ensuring our activities are completed with the highest level of stewardship, accountability, and transparency. This is made possible through frequent communication with collaborative teams; fostering an atmosphere of trust with each other, and with the customers we serve; and delivering on our mission every day.

We remain grateful for the opportunity to serve families of St. Louis County and look forward to exponential growth, so that the essential services needed by our area’s most vulnerable populations can be provided.

We remain grateful for the opportunity to serve families of St. Louis County and look forward to exponential growth, so that the essential services needed by our area’s most vulnerable populations can be provided.
The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety. WAP supports 8,500 jobs and provides weatherization services to approximately 35,000 homes every year. Through weatherization improvements and upgrades, households save on average $372 annually, according to a national evaluation. Since 1976, WAP has helped improve the lives of more than 7 million families through weatherization services.

In 2022, CAASTLC provided weatherization tune-ups, and home repair and counseling services to 409 households in St. Louis County. “Having the honor to impact a family’s home by modernizing energy inefficient systems helped families significantly. Stopping dollars from seeping out of windows, doors, vents, and other escape areas leaves the consumer with the ability to focus on other areas of stabilization in their homes and in their lives,” said George Robnett, Director of Weatherization and Housing Support Services.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Ameren Missouri and Spire continue to support CAASTLC’s Weatherization Assistance Program.

“CAASTLC has shown again what a valuable partner they are. Their leadership with this program, has prompted other agencies in our service territory, to step up and use this program also. With the combination of the two programs, CAASTLC was the number one agency we work with when it comes to leveraging our funds.”
— Paul Englert, Spire, Inc.

“CAASTLC’s successful use of all weatherization dollars is considered best practice in the industry. We look forward to working together to maximize aid to our shared customers and clients in 2023.”
— Page Selby, Ameren Missouri

Happy Customers:
“Good Job. You explained very well. God bless you guys. Thank you for being a blessing.”
— Mr. Roy H.

“Dear officers. I am thanking you mucher than muchest! Thank you for lending me a hand. God knows what you are doing. God is blessing you and all of us.”
— Anonymous

Through Weatherization and Support Services, CAASTLC has provided over $4,090,000 in assistance to St. Louis County families, at an average of $10,000 per household. Thank you to all of our strategic partners who help us to leverage our dollars to reach, improve and sustain households.

Weatherization Assistance
Weatherization Tune-Ups • Home Repair
Rental and Mortgage Assistance
Seniors Go Digital

What a delight to be partnered with United Way of Greater St. Louis as a local safety net agency! On November 4, with an allocation from United Way, CAASTLC hosted its inaugural Digital Inclusion/Connect Day in collaboration with Ernst & Young (EY). Ernst & Young employees volunteered their time, talent, and expertise by facilitating a 4-hour technology boot camp, for 10 older adults; many of whom were exposed to computers and computer applications for the first time.

The transfer of knowledge and customer engagement was energetic as the students navigated CAASTLC's recently renovated classroom/technology center. Students were provided with an introduction to the Microsoft Suite and social media networks; navigating PCs and mobile devices; opening and closing files and applications; internet browsing; email usage; and creating, saving and printing documents.

"Helping people learn about technology and allowing them to walk away with their own computer is impressive, and the team from EY is happy to be a part of the empowerment process," said Michael Blunt of EY. The customers were ecstatic and humbled by the gift. Collaborations like this are a reminder of how many older adults do not have access to computer technology – some due to affordability, and some due to lack of awareness of the benefits technology provides in every aspect of life.

CAASTLC is working to change the trajectory of technology disparities by opening more doors of opportunity for St. Louis County families. We remain open to diverse collaborations to help these families tap into and connect in digital spaces.
Our Seeds of Hope Farm in Spanish Lake nurtures a healthy food culture in an area considered a food desert by harvesting fresh, organically grown food that is distributed to low-income families through CAASTLC’s food pantry and community partner food pantries.

We kicked off the season with a Farm Open House event that engaged the community, recruited participants and volunteers, and collected surveys to guide future farm programming. Attendees enjoyed guided tours and learned about the farm’s CSA membership program and STEM on the Farm program which serves local elementary students and summer campers with interactive and educational experiences. The 25 attendees were able to walk away with seedlings to start their own garden.

Through a partnership with Washington University, we were proud to host Samantha Strich, a Ph.D. student in Occupational Therapy to perform her capstone experience. Her presence on the farm was indeed a pleasure. We offered our first in-person cooking class post pandemic and look forward to growing this program to teach more families about taking farm fresh food to the table.
Nearly ten percent (10%) of St. Louis County households are at or below the federal poverty level. By CAASTLC understanding that people in poverty experience anxiety when they need mortgage assistance, rental assistance, home repairs, utility assistance, food, employment, and other essential services, and due to the creative energy exerted by Board member Clayton Evans, the idea for a mobile outreach office was born.

The Mobile Outreach Office is fully equipped, including computers and internet service in a comfortably designed and situated office space! We now have the ability to assist customers applying for services, and to assist those who are in need of training closer to where they reside in various remote locations.

We are overjoyed that we can alleviate some of the anxiety our customers face by bringing the outreach vision to reality. We now have the ability to remove accessibility barriers by taking essential services and resources to the community. Our Case Management team can now assist more residents in completing applications for over 22 programs and services, instilling hope for a better tomorrow.

“We are not put on this earth for ourselves, but are placed here for each other. If you are there always for others, then in time of need, someone will be there for you.” — Jeff Warner

We Warm Heads, Hands, and Hearts

The wintry holiday season of 2022 was one that chilled your bones. Just think of what beautiful heads without hats and fingers without gloves would have had to endure in these cold, damp and blistery winter winds.

“That was not a pretty sight for me”, said Sherri Robins, Public Relations Director. “While in morning drivetime, seeing the school buses enroute, I saw elementary and middle school children on bus stops, in the school yard, and walking against the hawk, sad because they were so cold! It was then that my favorite number 111 popped into my head; and I exclaimed, ‘That’s it, 111 pairs of hats and gloves it will be!’ Then a small but strong voice said, ‘NO, you will gather 1111 sets!’ Eyes rolling, I thought, ‘Really??’ This is when #Project1111 was incorporated as the 2022 theme.”

We are grateful to report that the care of loving and generous donors made #Project1111 a huge success. We received a combined gift large enough to provide over 3,000 children with hats and gloves!

Recipient of the hats and gloves included students at Jennings Junior High, Ritenour Elementary and Hancock Middle School; as well as children at various sites, including Target, Aldi, Schnucks, Doughnut Cupboard, Starbucks, and Quick Trip.

Warmest thanks to #Project1111 teams at Equifax Workforce Solutions, IMEG Corp., St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, First Baptist Church of St. John, The League of Jewish Women, Refuge and Restoration Church, Afro World Hair & Fashions, and members of the CAASTLC community. Because of partners like you, children shall forever have warm heads, hands, and hearts! High five!

“We Ritenour School District has been fortunate to partner with CAASTLC for initiatives like “We Warm Heads, Hands, and Hearts,” where students were given hats and gloves. Over the years the resources that are available to our Ritenour Community have been very helpful. Other districts could benefit from the resources that were made available to our families. We are looking forward to working more with CAASTLC in the near future.”

— Dr. Chris Kilbride, Superintendent, Ritenour School District

#Project1111
We are pleased to announce that CAASTLC’s 2022 Doors of Opportunity: “Blue Suits & Bling” was a banner year!

On October 13, 2022, friends and supporters painted the scene with “Blue Suits & Bling” to complement the 7th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala. Honorary Chairs Michael and Gail Holmes, and Co-Chairs Clayton Evans and Linda Eikerinkkoetter led the charge for the annual fundraiser. The sold-out crowd was graced again with KMOX Radio News Anchor Carol Daniel, who helped guide an evening where CAASTLC shared why community support is needed, requested and appreciated. The unwavering support of sponsors, auction donors, volunteers, staff and friends of CAASTLC met the charge.

The entertaining and inspiring evening included smooth Jazz by the Bosman Twins; an online auction with spectacular donated gifts; and an awards ceremony that recognized the actionable work being done by members of our community.

CAASTLC bestowed the “Volunteer of the Year Award” upon Susan Warren, Owner of Sou-Lou and Susi Q’s for working to create a better and safer community through teamwork, collaboration, dedication and commitment.

Stanley Prince’s testament of courage brought the room to tears as he received the “Emerging Role Model Award” in honor of his commitment to transform numerous obstacles on life’s path into opportunities. Dr. Daniel Isom II, Director of Public Safety for the City of St. Louis, received honorable recognition as he was presented with the “Journey Award”, in appreciation of his dedication to making every step in life’s journey a step toward a better community.

The evening culminated with words of wisdom from Keynote Speaker Dr. Adam Green, a longtime collaborator of the Sargent Shriver Peace Institute. Green, an Associate Professor in the departments of History and of Race, Diaspora and Indigeneity for the University of Chicago, spoke of the need for all to better understand their roles in advocating and caring for those facing the devastating reality of poverty.

Because of the 100% participation of our Board of Directors, outstanding support of our donors; the unyielding support of our staff and the attendance of our friends, the 7th Annual Doors of Opportunity “Blue Suits and Bling” enjoyed a record year!

Stay tuned for your opportunity to open more doors in 2023.
Thank You

Honorary Chairs
Michael & Gail Holmes

Co-Chairs
Clayton Evans
Linda Eikenberry

Planners
Cenia Bosman
Niki Brones
Mike Clark
Mark Kurtz
Sheri Robbins
Danielle Tarant
Minnetta Watkins

Volunteers
Maria Harper
Patricia Oliver
Alva L. Blue-Muhammad
Judie Sams
Evelyn Weather
Deborah White

Time & Talent Supporters
Carol Daniel
Dr. Adam Green
Michael & Gail Holmes
Victor Little
Hank Thompson
The Bosman Twins
Cerutti Graphic Design

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LG Nails
Malik Ahmed
Mark Kurtz
Nieman Marcus
PRP Wine International
Roy Anderson
Sophia’s Jewelry Studio
St. Louis Blues
St. Louis Cardinals
The Melting Pot
The Sheldon
WCS Catering LLC

Sincere gratitude is extended to our many friends of Community Action Agency of St. Louis County who worked so diligently with us to make the 7th Annual Doors of Opportunity Gala: “Blue Suits & Bling” our record year.

Save the Date – 12 October 2023

Visit us online at www.caastlc.org or in person at:
Main Office
2709 Woodson Rd
Overland, MO 63114
314-863-0015

North County Office
268 North Oaks Plaza
Northwoods, MO 63121
314-863-0015

Service Hours
Monday through Friday
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

“Blue Suits & Bling”

Sincere and Huggy Heart thank you to all supporters of CAASTLC, Inc. and to the many donors of Doors of Opportunity 2022.

“At BJC HealthCare, we are committed to improving the health and well-being of the people and communities we serve and to eliminate health disparities in under-resourced communities to give all people the opportunity for a healthy, productive life. Collaboration is critical in addressing community health and well-being and we are proud to support the Community Action Agency of St. Louis in their work to stabilize and enrich vulnerable households by instilling hope and creating pathways to empowerment. Together, we can support those most in need and uplift our community.”

The Community Action Agency of St. Louis County is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, EIN 67-0587577 registered in the State of Missouri. It is not affiliated with any other Community Action Agency. Any donations made to the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, please contact the Community Action Agency of St. Louis County at 314-863-0015.
Helping People, Changing Lives

Mission
The mission of CAASTLC is to stabilize and enrich vulnerable households by instilling hope and creating pathways to empowerment. We are committed to helping the families and communities of St. Louis County transition from poverty to self-sufficiency for present and future generations.

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

Communities where everyone is treated with dignity and respect and the barriers of structural and systematic inequities have been removed