Community Action Partnership of Strafford County is a 501(c)(3) private non-profit organization. We work with community, state and federal partners to assist more than 16,000 people each year, and the majority of program participants have extremely low incomes (below 75 percent of the federal poverty threshold). Our mission is to educate, advocate and assist people in Strafford County to help meet their basic needs and promote self-sufficiency.

2014 Highlights include:

- Our agency provided more than $2.7 million in federal fuel assistance to 3,898 households in Strafford County during the 2013-2014 heating season. A total of 412 households in Farmington received $285,928 in fuel assistance.
- Over the past year, 312 households received a discount on their electric bill through agency's Electrical Assistance Program at a value of $143,520. The average benefit was $447.
- A total of 39 Farmington families with children ages 0-5 were served through our Head Start and Early Head Start programs at a value of $430,485.
- We assisted 2,791 people in Farmington with emergency food at a value of $243,999, and our senior transportation bus provided 280 safe, accessible rides to Farmington residents at a value of $4,964.

CAP operates emergency food pantries in Dover, Farmington and Milton and a Summer Meals Program. This past summer, for example, we provided more than 21,000 free breakfasts and lunches to children ages 18 and under at sites around the county.

Without the services provided by our agency, many local residents would be without a means to provide for their basic needs, including food, education, child care, utilities assistance, job training and employment services, transportation, emergency shelter, homeless prevention and housing services and referrals to other agencies. In addition to our administrative office located in Dover, CAP maintains its outreach capacity by operating offices in Farmington and Dover and Head Start Centers in Dover, Farmington, Milton, Rochester and Somersworth.

The Community Action Partnership of Strafford County has 166 employees and an $8.6 million operating budget. We receive federal, state and local funding as well as United Way grants, foundation and charitable grants, fees for service, private business and individual donations.

This year, we will commemorate our 50th anniversary. Community Action was formed out of President Johnson's War on Poverty, and the basic tenant of providing a hand up to those in need still rings true today. Our approach, however, must resonate with the realities of today's economic and funding landscape so we are investing in technology to improve efficiency, fiscal management and customer service. We are also developing ways to bundle our services together to help families meet a wide-range of needs in a simpler, one-stop process. In these ways, CAP can help, and we will continue to engage, inspire and serve the people of Strafford County for the next 50 years.

Betsey Andrews Parker
Executive Director