

# United Neighborhood Centers of Northeastern PA



**2014  
Annual  
Report**



# Letter from the President

**Served over 36,000 hot meals to older adults in four senior centers.**



**Provided 2,000 hours of after-school programming for at risk youth.**



This year has been fulfilling, yet challenging as United Neighborhood Centers has experienced funding cuts that nonprofits just like us across the nation are weathering. While programs that have been around for decades including Project Hope Summer Camp and the SCOLA Learning Center have undergone changes to circumvent the financial gaps, new programs such as heating and rental assistance, as well as the agency's Community Health department are helping those most vulnerable in our region. UNC is now able to help families avoid being cold in the winter months and provide rent assistance that will keep a family in their home during times of hardship. The Community Health programming has taken off since beginning in March and has made an immediate impact on the well-being of our neighbors. Not only have the staff provided important medical screenings such as blood pressure and mammograms, they have created lasting partnerships with health facilities that will sustain the future of this initiative. Lastly, thanks to your generosity to our Capital Campaign last year, UNC was able to raise over \$630,000 to begin construction on the Oppenheim Center for the Arts. This center will open in 2015 and be a state-of-the-art facility for arts education and intergenerational programming. As the new year approaches, UNC will, as always, remain vigilant in continuing to address the unmet needs of those most at-risk in Northeastern Pennsylvania. With the help of donors like yourself, you allow the agency to provide necessary and vital services that make a substantial difference in the lives of many of our neighbors.

Sincerely,  
*Dr. Paul Kaczmarcik*

**Helped 625 families keep their home through counseling and assistance.**





**United Neighborhood Centers' mission is to "work together with neighbors to provide services and create opportunities which empower individuals and build strong interdependent communities."**

- Adult literacy/ESL/family literacy
- Older adults/senior centers
- Youth leadership
- HIV testing and education
- Supportive housing
- Arts education
- Community revitalization
- Community health coordination
- Housing counseling
- Emergency services
- After-school teen centers
- Community organizing
- Food and clothing bank
- Homelessness prevention
- Project Hope summer camp
- Childcare/pre-school services

**Teach English as a Second Language to students from 36 different countries.**

**1,562** the number of hours of advocacy and outreach provided by the Community Health Department



**100** the number of new residents who moved in to South Scranton after UNC's Cedar Ave. redevelopment



**10,914** the number of food baskets provided through Angel's Attic to help alleviate hunger in Lackawanna County



**273** the number of at-risk youth who got to experience the outdoors this summer at Project Hope Camp

# Year in Review

## Oppenheim Center for the Arts announced

After beginning a capital campaign as part of the agency's 90th anniversary in 2013, this year, UNC and its Founders' Committee reached its goal by raising over \$630,000 to renovate the West Side Community Center, located at 1004 Jackson Street in Scranton, into a "state-of-the-art" arts center with the goal of creating a home for intergenerational programming, education, and creativity. Programs to be offered will include dance, theater, photography, creative writing, culinary arts, pottery, poetry, and video production.

The agency broke ground in September 2014, where it was announced that the building will be officially named the Oppenheim Center for the Arts and the theater will be known as the Burns Auditorium after generous donations from the Oppenheim Family Foundation and Elizabeth Burns. All three floors of the facility will be upgraded and the first floor will remain an active older adult center during the daytime hours. Renovations are expected to be complete in early 2015.

State Senator John Blake said of the project, "I'm just delighted to see this next milestone take place because it will be important for the seniors who are served here, and it will be important for the children who create here."



### The Center will include the following upgrades and additions:

- New auditorium
- Pottery room
- Dance studio
- Media arts room
- Fitness/recreation studio
- New HVAC system
- Recording studio
- Painting room
- Upgraded staging and lighting
- Handicap accessible restrooms
- Complete aesthetic renovations





## **Community Health program finds success in first year**

The first year of the implementation of our new Community Health program has been an exciting and eventful journey. Reaching over 4,700 consumers and collaborating with over 25 organizations has allowed the program to bridge the gap to health for low-income individuals and households. The program continues to work together with a large group of partners to focus on ways to improve the health of our community. During the initial year, we have been able to support first-time parents and healthier homes for babies by facilitating needed appointments and/or being the resource to additional information and essential items. Key components to the community health program are advocacy, outreach and follow-up efforts. Collectively, the community health team has dedicated over 3,000 hours towards the key components of this program and as a result has observed an increase in the self-efficacy of consumers served.

Through the community health program, our partnerships and collaborative efforts, we will continue to provide comprehensive health programs and services to those most in need in our community. In 2015 and beyond, the team will continue in the mission to increase the number of people living safe and healthy lives, putting consumers on pathways for educational and employment success, reducing the cost of healthcare in our community, and reducing the number of people living in poverty.



### **The following programs were provided to Lackawanna County in the first year of the Community Health initiative:**

- Children's Mobile Dentist
- Diabetes Prevention Program for older adults
- Cardiovascular Disease Awareness Program for older adults
- Influenza and Pneumococcal Vaccination Clinic
- Mobile Mammograms
- Behavioral Health Assessment Program for homeless populations
- Chronic Disease Self-Management Program — Certified Peer Health Educators who manage chronic conditions themselves, facilitated workshops to help consumers or caregivers with chronic conditions, learn how to manage and improve their own health.

# Elm Street team in South Side completes five year state designation; continuing resident engagement



The Elm Street Revitalization Program of UNC successfully ended its designated five year partnership with the PA Department of Community & Economic Development in June of 2014 after being selected for the program in 2009. Fortunately, the important work rebuilding the South Scranton neighborhood will continue thanks to a renewal grant from the Wells Fargo Regional Foundation.

Since the inception of the program, UNC has worked with partners to provide tangible, successful results. Criminal activity in South Side has significantly decreased due to increased involvement, presence and task force efforts by the police and implementation of a neighborhood watch. South Scranton went from a total of 2176 arrests in 2009 to a total of 1784 in 2013. Additionally, enforcement efforts of both the police and District Attorney's Office, combined with community clean-ups and the installation of permanent trash cans and street lights from UNC, have led to a large decline in blight, garbage and graffiti.



The reductions in crime, combined with the beautification initiatives of South Side, have simultaneously ignited a rebirth in community and economic development. Through a façade improvement grant program led by UNC, 50 residential homes and business owners have received up to \$5000 match funds, for a total of over \$300,000 invested, to enhance the exterior elements of their properties. Additionally, UNC completed a real estate vision for Cedar Avenue, one of the busiest commercial and residential corridors in South Side that is providing new homeownership and rental housing for community residents in conjunction with providing opportunities for new small business start-ups. Economic development is also on the rise in South Scranton. Since 2009, over 10 businesses have been established or relocated to the neighborhood, including a substantial increase in Latino and immigrant-owned companies.



Over the next two years, the Elm Street team will focus its efforts on physical improvements, recruiting and educating small business owners to the corridor, creating a multicultural destination and continuing resident engagement activities such as the Ethnic Carol Sing and the Farmers' Market.



## **Citizenship education helps students achieve the American Dream**

English as a Second Language (ESL) students have been a growing part of the student population at the SCOLA Learning Center, serving individuals hailing from 36 different countries across the globe including Russia, Afghanistan, Dominican Republic, and China. The SCOLA Learning Center provides specialized classes in citizenship test preparation which has grown in size since offices moved to South Scranton. These classes are designed to help students preparing for citizenship and focus on vocabulary, speaking and writing skills, and civic knowledge required on the citizenship test. An average of 50 ESL students take part in this specialized class each year, which has helped over 30 immigrants become United States citizens since its inception in 2011. The agency hosts an International Dinner each year to celebrate their achievements. Many of the new citizens have become involved members of their communities, some of which have even opened their own small businesses including a restaurant and an event planning store. The overall goal of the citizenship program is to provide tools of empowerment for non-English speaking adults that will increase their chances for successful integration into American society.

## **Senior performance allows members to showcase talents**

UNC hosted its 2nd Annual Lackawanna County's "Seniors Got Talent" during May in honor of Older Adults month. Amateur older adult acts- ranging from musicians, singers, dancers, comedians and more- competed against each other for a first, second and third place prize. Lackawanna County Recorder of Deeds Evie Rafalko McNulty emceed the event for the second year in a row. Four guest judges included the The Poets' Pat Loungo, Reverend Bill Carter, Dave Kuharchik, and Judge Terrence Nealon. The event was a huge success with over 300 people in attendance.





## ***New community programs support heating and rental assistance***

Over the course of the past year, United Neighborhood Centers' Community Services department has begun implementing two new programs that are helping those most in need in Lackawanna County. First, the agency was selected to administer the United Way's Gift of Warmth program for this winter season. Through this program, and a partnership with PPL Electric, UNC is able to provide emergency heating assistance. Second, UNC received a grant through the Lackawanna County Homeless Assistance Program to provide both case management to those at-risk of becoming homeless and rental assistance to individuals experiencing a short-term hardship that allows them to stay in their home. The agency has helped almost 1,200 individuals through this program since January 2014.

## **Project Hope continues in 44th year despite cuts**

United Neighborhood Centers ended another great summer at Camp St. Andrew in Tunkhannock as Project Hope celebrated its 44th year. Unfortunately, the program has experienced severe funding cuts over the past few years causing the agency to have to cut back the weeks of camp from five to four and limit the amount of children served for the first time in the camp's history. Despite a lack of income, the agency is proud that almost 300 children were still able to experience the outdoors and be kids in a safe, fun environment. All of the young participants were also provided with nutritious meals, education from Scranton School District teachers, and plenty of physical activity including swimming and archery. UNC is dedicated to sustaining Project Hope and is working hard to close the funding gaps for Summer 2015.



## **Green Ridge Childcare receives high status**

The Green Ridge Childcare Center, located at 1917 Boulevard Ave. in Scranton, was recently given a Star 4 certification status by the PA Department of Education. This is the highest attainable level in the Keystone Stars evaluation program and exemplifies best practices in childcare. Keystone Stars is a program that utilizes research-based best practices to promote quality early learning environments and positive child outcomes. The standards address staff qualifications and professional development, the early learning program, partnerships with family and community, and leadership and management.



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McGowan Charitable Fund  
Mohegan Sun at Pocono  
Downs  
Northeast PA Healthcare  
Foundation  
PA Council on the Arts  
PA Dept. of Aging

PA Dept. of Community and  
Economic Development  
PA Dept. of Education  
PA Dept. of Health  
PA Dept. of Public Welfare  
PA Housing Finance Agency  
Peoples Security Bank  
PNC Bank  
PP&L Electric  
The Oppenheim Family  
Foundation  
Overlook Estate Foundation  
Scranton Area Foundation  
Scranton Office of Economic and  
Community Development  
Scranton School District  
Shamrock Communications

Temple Hesed  
TJX Foundation  
United Neighborhood Centers  
of America  
United Way of Lackawanna  
County  
US Dept. of Education  
US Dept. of Housing and  
Urban Development  
Wegman's  
Weis Markets  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
Wells Fargo Regional  
Foundation  
Willary Foundation  
WNEP-TV  
Women's Sports Foundation



# Board of Directors

**President: Dr. Paul Kaczmarcik**  
**First Vice President: Thaddeus Kenny**  
**Second Vice President: Rose Broderick**  
**Secretary: Ruth Gerrity**  
**Asst. Secretary: Kathy Price**  
**Treasurer: Elizabeth Burns**

John Bogdanovicz  
Barbara Bossi, RN  
Dominick Carachilo  
Steve Casey  
Ida Castro  
Dr. Peter Cupple  
Sr. Margaret Gannon  
Dr. Daniel Ginsberg  
Atty. Andrew Hailstone  
Amy Hlavaty Belcher  
Dr. Jennifer Joyce  
Charlotte Kearney  
Ken Knelly

Bobby Lynett  
Bernard McGurl  
Judge Terrence Nealon  
Ken Okreplikie  
Jane Oppenheim  
John Palumbo  
Kevin Rogers  
Gail Scaramuzzo  
Lou Shapiro  
Debbie Trickel  
Gail Waters  
Michael Hanley, CEO  
Lisa Durkin, COO

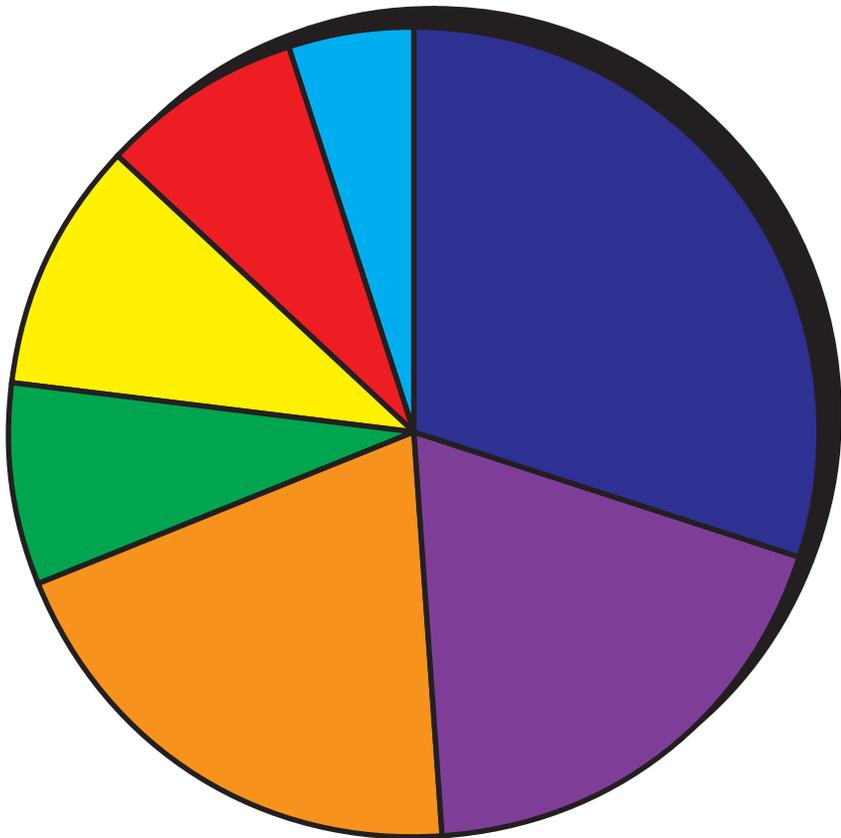
## United Neighborhood Community Development Corporation Board of Directors

Kevin Rogers, President  
Steve Casey, Vice President  
Dr. Peter Cupple,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Jim Alperin  
Rose Broderick  
Elizabeth Burns  
Lisa Ketcha-Tracewski  
Ruthe McDonald  
Bernard McGurl  
Andrea Wharton



# Financial Summary 2013-14

## Revenue

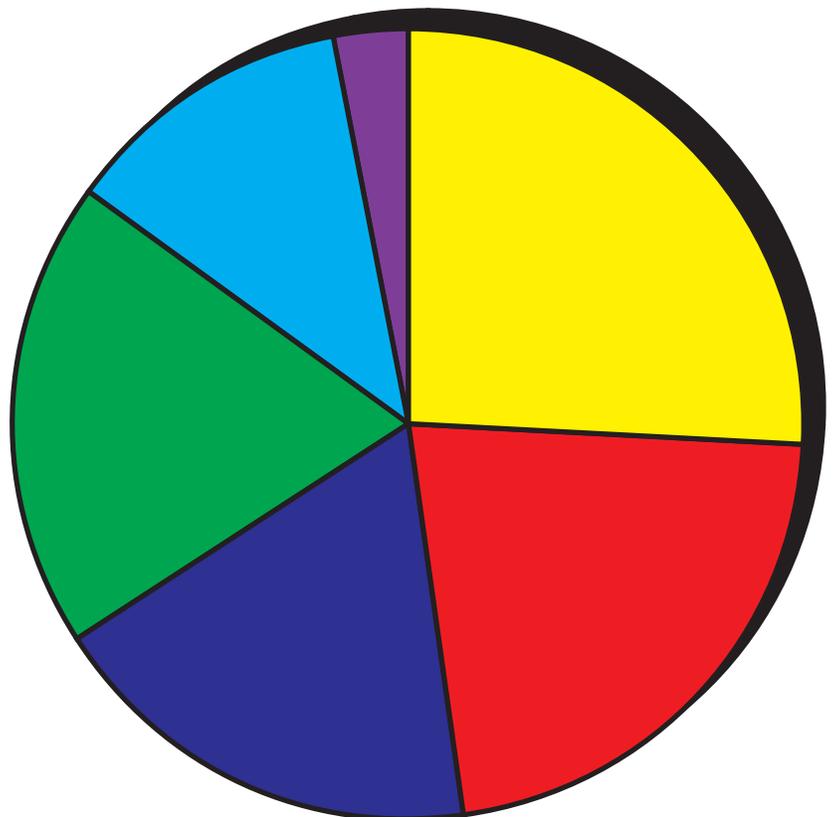


- County funds- 30%
- Donations- 19%
- Federal grants- 20%
- Foundations- 8%
- Fees- 10%
- United Way- 8%
- City funds- 5%

**Total: \$4,709,658.00**

## Expenses

- Housing- 26%
- Childcare- 22%
- Youth- 18%
- Community services- 19%
- Aging- 12%
- SCOLA Learning Center- 3%



**Total: \$4,516,783.00**

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Non-profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Scranton, PA  
Permit No. 328

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**You're  
invited to these  
great events in  
2015...**

“Party” Mardi Gras Celebration Fundraiser (Angel’s Attic):

**February 6**

Seniors’ Got Talent (Active Adult Programs):

**May 21**

“Kicks for Kids” Kickball Tournament (Project Hope):

**Summer TBA**

Table to Farm Wellness Dinner (Community Health):

**Summer TBA**

“Grandma’s Kitchen” Takeout Dinner (Active Adult Programs):

**September 13**

11th Annual Chocoholic Frolic (Adult Literacy):

**October 18**

**United Neighborhood  
Centers of Northeastern  
Pennsylvania**

425 Alder St.  
Scranton, PA 18505  
570-346-0759  
[www.uncnepa.org](http://www.uncnepa.org)