

Southeastern Vermont Community Action

Southeastern Vermont Community Action is an anti-poverty, community based, nonprofit organization serving Windham and Windsor counties since 1965.

Our mission is to enable people to cope with and reduce the hardships of poverty; create sustainable self-sufficiency; reduce the causes and move toward the elimination of poverty. SEVCA has a variety of programs and services to meet this end. They include: Head Start, Weatherization, Emergency Home Repair, Housing Stabilization, Emergency Services/Crisis Intervention (i.e., fuel/utility assistance, food, shelter), Parent Education, Micro-Business Development, Individual Development Accounts, Tax Preparation, Training, Working Bridges, and Thrift Stores.

In the community of Chester we have provided the following services during FY2011:

- Weatherization:** 10 homes (26 people) weatherized at a cost of \$87,026
- Emergency Heating Replacements:** 1 repair or replacement at a cost of \$3,051
- Head Start:** 20 families (74 people) received comprehensive child development and family support services valued at \$153,939
- Micro Business Development:** 5 households (9 people) received counseling, technical assistance and support to start, sustain or expand a small business, valued at \$7,316
- Tax Preparation:** 1 household (1 person) received refunds and tax credits totaling \$291
- Thrift Store Vouchers:** 8 households (18 people) received goods and services valued at \$693
- Family Services:** 70 households (175 people) received 302 services (including crisis intervention, financial counseling, nutrition education, referral to and assistance with accessing needed services) valued at \$2,904
- Fuel/Utility Assistance:** 91 households (213 people) received services valued at \$59,992
- Housing & Other Assistance:** 5 household (14 people) received services valued at \$3,322
- Emergency Home Repair:** 5 homes (7 people) received services to address health and safety risks, repair structural problems, and reduce energy waste, valued at \$8,120
- Training:** 5 people received training /certification in "green" technologies, computer skills, business startup, or management skills, valued at \$5,230

Community support, through town funding, helps to build a strong partnership. The combination of federal, state, private and town funds allow us to not only maintain, but increase and improve service.

We thank the residents of Chester for their support.

Stephen Geller
Executive Director