



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Mission Statement

Our mission is to promote a goal of self-sufficiency by broadening the minds of children, revitalizing communities, and assisting families and children in need through the provision of services and to coordinate available federal, state, local and private resources.



A Message from **Adrian Fassett** Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends,

In any given year, it takes a lot of commitment for Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. to fulfill our mission of promoting self-sufficiency among more than 100,000 Suffolk County residents living below the poverty line.

But this past year, confronted with pressures inflicted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we faced new and extraordinary difficulties. Indeed, 2020 became a “survival year” for us.

Our staff, for example, suddenly had to work from home. Fortunately, we had preemptively upgraded our network and invested in laptop computers, enhancing our remote capabilities.

Team members kept performing their duties in a seamless manner – ensuring that clients benefited from a consistent delivery of services.

All year, we made sure clients remained largely unaffected by the changes – and that we could meet the increased need triggered by the pandemic itself. In short, anyone who needed help got help.

Regrettably, EOC’s Sensationally Sweet candy store in the Village of Patchogue became one of 200,000 American businesses that would fall victim to the pandemic.

But our childcare center, Way to Grow in East Patchogue, stayed open through the worst of the pandemic in support of the families of our essential workers. EOC also provided Suffolk residents with \$2.5 million in rental assistance and other emergency support.

We worked with the Veterans Administration (VA) to ensure housing for homeless veterans through our Supportive Services for Veteran Families initiative. The VA allotted an additional \$2 million to place homeless veterans in hotels instead of shelters, where COVID transmission rates were high.

I’m proud to continue to serve as president of the National Community Action Foundation, where we advocate on behalf of America’s Community Action Agencies. Locally, I continue to serve on the county’s Campaign Finance Board, as well as the boards of the Community Development Corporation of Long Island, the Health & Welfare Council of Long Island, the Patchogue Business Improvement District, and the Suffolk County Workforce Investment Board.

Finally, I commend the dedication of our volunteers and staff members. Your services make a vital difference for the people of Suffolk County.

Sincerely,

Adrian Fassett
Chief Executive Officer

LEADERS CONFERENCE

The efforts of our student Leaders of the Future (LOTF) Club members throughout the 2019-2020 school year led up to a June 4, 2020 Leaders Conference. LOTF students spent the year engaging in social and emotional learning activities, community events, donation drives, and various leadership opportunities at school and in their respective communities. The culmination of a year’s worth of student leadership efforts resulted in a full day of online conference activities to celebrate students’ achievements. Closing out the conference was our award ceremony to distinguish student leaders who excelled in their demonstration of leadership and empathy during the school year.

A FUN FALL CBI PROGRAM

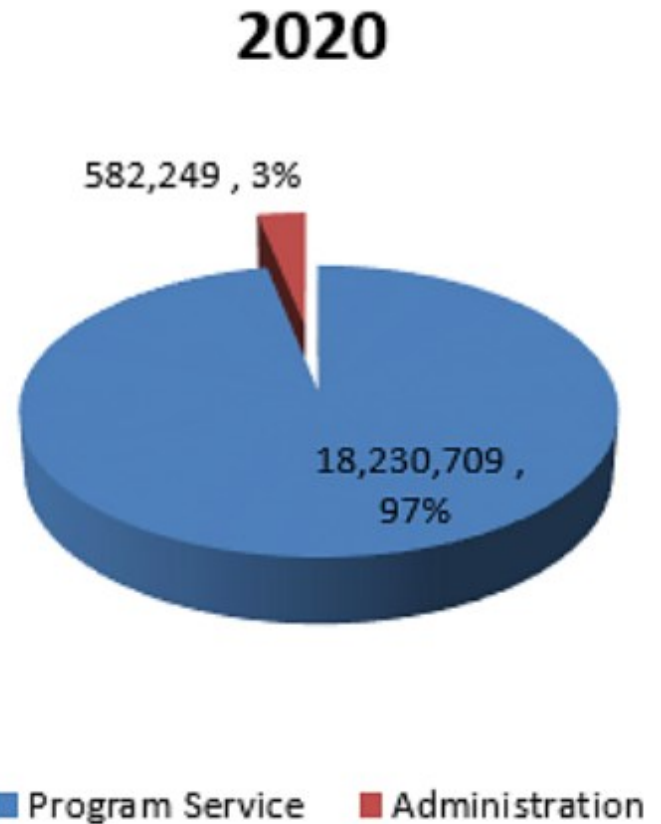
We were able to employ four youth workers during the 2020 fall Community Based Initiative (CBI) program. Each weekday, the program consisted of specific Zoom activities. “Mindfulness Mondays” alternated between yoga and meditation, and presentations on the variety of ways to be more mindful, such as breathing exercises and ways to ground yourself and be more present. On “Trivia Tuesdays” students logged on to play a different game each week, such as an escape room, Kahoot, and others. On “Wellness Wednesdays” we discussed health and wellness through presentations on how stress affects our bodies, healthy eating habits, and why self-care is important. Wednesdays also included producing a podcast from start to finish. On “Throwback Thursdays” students would often play a variety of Jeopardy games. On “Fun Fridays” students would showcase their arts and crafts projects, have discussions, watch movies, and play music. The fall CBI program was able to provide 30 students with an outlet to learn and connect with others during the pandemic.

SNUG SUCCESSES

There continues to be dozens of success stories in our SNUG program. Examples include an unemployed gang member who is now gainfully employed as a forklift operator; a shooting victim who is now working in sanitation and is active in his children’s lives; a formerly incarcerated person who is now working in the food service industry; and, a former gang member who was able to avoid jail time and is instead doing community service. These examples, and more, came about because of the dedicated, hard working Outreach Workers in our SNUG program.

FINANCIALS

		2019	2020
Assets	Current	4,211,912	4,573,677
	Non Current	132,945	112,162
	Total Assets	4,344,857	4,685,839
Liabilities	Current Liabilities	1,843,544	1,333,921
Net Assets	Non Current	-	-
	Total Liabilities	1,843,544	1,333,921
	Net Assets	2,501,313	3,351,918
Revenues	Total Revenues	17,667,685	19,663,563
Expenses	Personnel & Fringe	11,381,675	11,424,774
	Non Personnel	6,090,912	7,388,184
	Total Expenses	17,472,587	18,812,958
	Excess of Revenue	195,098	850,605
	Net Assets 1/1	2,306,215	2,501,313
	Net Assets 12/31	2,501,313	3,351,918
Expenditures	Program Service	16,618,390	18,230,709
	Administration	854,197	582,249
	Total Expenses	17,472,587	18,812,958



OUR PROGRAMS

- Chronic Health Care Coordination
- Community Based Initiative
- Community Credible Messenger Program
- Emergency Assistance Program
- Family Development Programs
- HIV/AIDS/HIV(-) Services
- Housing Programs
- HUD COC Rapid Rehousing Program
- Montauk Child Care
- Services for People with Developmental Disabilities
- SNUG Violence Prevention
- Suffolk Family Court Children's Nursery
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
- Way to Grow Child Care Center
- Wyandanch Weed and Seed
- Youth and Adolescent Services

ON THE WEB

www.EOC-Suffolk.com
www.TheWayToGrow.com
www.MontaukChildCare.org



2020 BY THE NUMBERS

5,293 Number of families served.

3,305 Number of families served living at or below the poverty level.

1,211 Number of children under 18 served.

1,031 Number of disabled individuals served.

728 Number of people served who have attended college.

653 Number of single-parent households served.

852 Number of families assisted by the food pantry.

194 Number of families served that were homeless.

31 Number of pregnant and parenting adolescents served.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON

SONDRA PALMER RANDALL

Public Appointed
Assemblyman Fred Thiele

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

FREDERICK COMBS

Community Elected
Executive Committee

TREASURER

JEROME LINDER

Private Sector
Chairperson, Audit/Finance
Committee

SECRETARY

MARK T. GAGEN, CLU, ChFC

Community Elected
Executive Committee

MEMBERS

DANIEL COPPOLA

Private Sector
Fundraising Committee

LIZBETH CARRILLO

Public Appointed
Mayor Paul Pontieri

ANNE STEWART

Community Elected
Fundraising Committee

DONNA PEDONE

Private Sector

MONICA STEWARD

Publicly Appointed
Suffolk County Legislator
Jason Richberg

CHARLES RANDALL

Ex-Officio



2020 Highlights



Clockwise from top left: Wyandanch SNUG Program outreach workers live in the community where they work and have had similar experiences as the high-risk youth they aim to help; Essential workers and first responders were eligible for tuition scholarships at our Way to Grow Child Care/Learning Center in East Patchogue; Our food pantry and delivery services provided much-needed meals to more than 3,000 families; Former State Senator Monica Martinez joined youth workers from our Central Islip Leaders of the Future program to help distribute food to the community; Therese Salerno is our newest HUD Certified Housing Counselor. She is among a select group who have passed the extremely rigorous HUD Housing Counseling Certification Exam, allowing her to continue to provide a variety of housing counseling services to Long Islanders.

2020 AGENCY HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ Because of the pandemic, EOC of Suffolk program staff adapted to provide services remotely and virtually to allow for continuity of services. Afterschool programming went remote or closed. Annual events such as the 5K for Fighters, went virtual.
- ⇒ When COVID-19 was surging, EOC of Suffolk created a food delivery program with federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding that served needy families in Suffolk County. The program provided canned food items, fresh produce, milk, eggs, bread, and vegetables. From June through December 2020, we were able to deliver food to 3,358 households.
- ⇒ Through funding from the federal Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) program, EOC of Suffolk provided financial assistance to eligible county residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The funding originates from the CARES Act. The program provides financial assistance for individuals and families who experienced a sudden loss of income due to COVID-19. Financial assistance includes: mortgage arrears, rental arrears, first month's rent, broker's fee, security deposit, utility arrears, and other expenses. Eligible applicants cannot exceed 200% of federal poverty limits.
- ⇒ Because of the pandemic, there was not a Butch Dellecave Award ceremony. However, eight high school seniors were named finalists: Kristen Shanahan, Sachem; Isabelle Smith, East Moriches; Caitlin Dellecave, Patchogue-Medford; Ailish Kelly, Bayport-Blue Point; Ty-Shon Pannell, Central Islip; Ryan Micheli, Sachem; James Butler, Middle Country; and, Hunter Hughes, Middle Country. We offer our congratulations to all.