

The last two years have provided opportunities for the Agency to think outside the box and distribute key necessities to the communities that we serve.



Free Produce Distribution

57 Events
98,904 Boxes of Food
2,259,506 lbs. of Food



Hygiene Kits

4,565 Mens, Womens,
Family, Baby, and
Cleaning Kits



Back-to-School Shoes

916 Pairs of Shoes
4,580 Pairs of Socks



Share the Warmth

724 Pairs of Boots
800 Hats
250 Family Meal Kits



About AEOA

The Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) is a private, 501(c)3 nonprofit established as a Community Action Agency for the Northeast Minnesota counties of Cook, Lake, and St. Louis in response to the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act. The Agency provides services through five departments including Employment and Training, Head Start, Housing, Senior and Nutrition Services, and Transit. AEOA has over 57 years as a major provider of self-sufficiency services to low-income and disadvantaged persons in the Agency's service area.

Community Action

Community Action comes from President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty and the advocacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 created the Community Action Network of national and locally focused organizations, like AEOA, that connect millions of children and families to greater opportunity. AEOA is one of over 1,000 Community Action Agencies across the country that work every day to create opportunities and transform the lives of their neighbors, making communities stronger, and helping families thrive.

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves community, and makes America a better place live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

Message from the Executive Director Scott Zahorik

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

When I look back on this last year, I believe our Agency has kept moving forward. We were able to help over 28,000 individuals with services like energy assistance, Head Start, workforce programming, safe and affordable housing, transportation, senior nutrition, and many more.

This year did not come without its own challenges and tribulations; however, we were resilient. We took new opportunities and ran with them; handing out over 2 million pounds of food since the pandemic started, provided over 600 pairs of shoes to kids just in time to start school, and kept over 700 kids' toes warm in the cold winter months with new boots. We embodied the spirit of hope and did what we could to improve our communities, because at the end of the day our job is all about helping people.

Throughout the next pages, you will be able to see some of our accomplishments. We are proud of what we have done over the last year, but know that there is always more work to be done to bridge the gap. However, looking at what we have accomplished over the last year, I am continually humbled by the great people that work here at AEOA, our partners, as well as volunteers, and can honestly say that I am proud to be the Executive Director of this Agency.

