ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ACTION

As a non-profit, multi-service agency, RCA provides a wide range of services that are unduplicated elsewhere in the county. Many of our services meet immediate, critical needs, while others are designed to provide families with the tools and resources to achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency. Our efforts are conducted through outreach and program offices in Derry, Exeter, Portsmouth, Raymond, Salem and Seabrook, as well as intake, clinic and distribution sites in over half of the county's thirty-seven communities. The services provided by Community Action during July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007 included:

49 households received the Fuel Assistance Programs, services that provide grants of up to $975 for low-income households to assist with energy-related expenses through the Fuel Assistance Program (some households also receive furnace cleaning, budget and energy counseling, and elderly support services), and grants of up to $300 for fuel and utility emergencies for households not eligible for the Fuel Assistance Program through the Neighbor Helping Neighbor and the Senior Energy Assistance Service.

34 households received electric Assistance: Provides a discount ranging from 5% to 70% on monthly electric bills to low-income households.

4 households were enrolled in Workforce Development, which is the "umbrella" for a variety of programs designed to foster long-term self-reliance: Disadvantaged Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs; Job Club, Families at Work, and COMPASS Youth. Each component helps clients determine goals and develop strategies to overcome barriers to employment.

14 child care referrals were arranged through the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, which maintains an inventory of all available child care options, provides child care referrals to employees of participating companies and to the general public, and expands the supply of quality child care by recruiting, training and assisting new child care providers, including the training of TANF participants.

52 individuals received help through Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or Commodity Supplemental Food Programs: WIC provides supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, breast-feeding support and health care screening/referrals to pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, and children up to the age of five; provides monthly allotments of commodity foods and nutrition education materials to senior citizens, postpartum women, and 5-year-old children.

43 individuals received help with Literacy Services: Provide high quality books and other literacy services to low-income pre-school children and their families through the library-based Gift of Reading book distribution, the Gift of Reading Storytime at WIC clinics, the Reading is Fundamental program and the Tales to Go traveling literacy and arts van, as well as adult education services through the Portsmouth Adult Basic Education Program.

1 child was enrolled in Head Start, a comprehensive early childhood development program that provides education, health, nutrition, disability, and family support services to low-income pre-school children and their families.

2 household received services through the Homeless Outreach Intervention Program, which conducts outreach in areas frequented by the unsheltered homeless and assists the homeless with identifying shelter needs, arranging emergency transportation to shelters, and assisting shelter providers in arranging alternative shelter.

187 individual food allotments were provided through the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which distributes USDA surplus food to participating homeless shelters and emergency food pantries.
9 household food allotments were provided through the Emergency Food Pantry, Four emergency food pantries, located in our Seacoast, Raymond and Salem Outreach Centers, provides emergency food allotments to households facing severe economic hardship in areas in which other locally-based emergency food pantries are under-stocked or unavailable.

179 households received Outreach Center Services: Includes a wide range of services provided by Outreach Center personnel, including information and referral, client advocacy, direct client assistance, crisis intervention services and the coordination of community-based services.

1 household received Disaster Recovery Service: Case Management services to households affected by the May 2006 and April 2007 floods. Services include referral to and collaboration with community resources, client advocacy and support, and financial assistance.

Since the services we provide greatly relieve the towns we serve of the full financial burden of providing for the needs of their low-income residents, we ask every community we serve to make a financial contribution to our agency based upon the level of service we provide to its residents. We can be reached at the Salem, NH office at (603) 893-9172. We extend our appreciation to you for your continued support.

Respectfully,
Lauraine Hutchinson
Outreach Center Director