

# THIS JUST INDIRECT

Volume 58 / January/February Issue



## W2S ARE AVAILIABLE!

Good news, everyone!  
Your W-2s are ready and waiting for you online in your PayChex portal. No waiting for the mail, no paper clutter—just quick, easy access whenever you need it.

Log into your PayChex app today, download your form, and check that off your to-do list. Tax season just got a little smoother!

[www.login.flex.paychex.com](http://www.login.flex.paychex.com)

## JANELLE'S JOTS AND THOUGHTS

Happy New Year!

A new year often hits us with many mixed emotions. That being said, it is always an opportunity to reset, refresh, and re-energize yourself for a new year ahead. And this year, we have something to celebrate: Finger Lakes Community Action (Wayne CAP) turns 60! Yes, you read that correctly; we have been providing vital services in our community for 60 years now. As we embrace this milestone as an agency, please take a few moments and reflect on how much of an impact YOU make in our community. We would not be celebrating 60 years if it were not for our gifted and dedicated staff.

- Janelle



---

*"Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering 'it will be happier'."* - Alfred Lord Tennyson

---

## ANNUAL PIT COUNT

FLCA will be hosting the 2026 Point in Time (PIT) Count for Wayne County. It will be held on Wednesday, January 28 and based out of the Success Center's food pantry on 7188 Ridge Rd. in Sodus. Meet up time will be 7pm for a brief training and preparations. The event will conclude around midnight or when all teams have checked back in.

The PIT count is a crucial tool to capture a snapshot of people experiencing homelessness in Wayne County and is an essential tool for HUD.

For more questions or to sign up as a volunteer, please contact [rob.weaver@waynecap.org](mailto:rob.weaver@waynecap.org).

## **BIG WIN FOR FLCA!**

We're excited to share that Finger Lakes Community Action and the Housing Program Area has been approved for \$5 million in funding through New York State's All-Electric Multifamily Program (AMP), following a competitive statewide application process. Services administered through FLCA will touch 25 counties in Western New York.

This funding will help support the development of all-electric, energy-efficient affordable housing—strengthening our communities while reducing environmental impact. Over the coming weeks, we'll be working with New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) to finalize agreements, review program guidelines, and kick off the project timeline.

We're proud of this milestone and grateful for the opportunity to continue building healthier, more sustainable housing for the Finger Lakes region.

## **BUT ALSO SOME SETBACKS...**

Wayne County Community Schools was notified on December 12, 2025, that its \$6 million Full-Service Community Schools federal grant will not be renewed, affecting more than 18 schools and partners that provide vital support to students and families. The decision was not performance-based, as the district has exceeded requirements and earned national recognition, and it is pressing for a merit-based review while exploring solutions. Community members are urged to stay engaged and advocate as next steps unfold.

More information at: <https://www.waynecountycommunityschools.org/fscs-funding-update>

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

- January 19 – Agency closed (MLK)
- January 21 – 22 - Agency Leadership Retreat
- January 28 – Annual PIT count!
  
- February 16 – Agency Closed (Presidents day)
- February 17 – Head Start Program Area closed

## **NEW FACES – DEC:**



Stacey Webber – Healthy Families



Hayley Still – ACE



Stephen Gardner - ACE

**JAN & FEB BIRTHDAYS:**

Jennifer Johnson	01/02	Lisa Ryan	01/14
Nicole Stors	01/11	Makaila Wirth	01/16
Nicole Zimmerman	01/12	Lori Lancaster	01/17
Eric Rosales	01/13	Rebecca Gates	01/19
Kathleen Davenport	01/14	Susan Kuck	01/19
Christian Burgos	01/14	Michelle Graves	01/20
Lisa Ryan	01/14	Ryan Robbins	01/21

Donna Robbins	02/05	Stephanie Deboerdere	02/12
Gregory Peck	02/06	Mark LaFever II	02/17
Jaiuan Ortiz	02/06	Ronald Gill	02/21
Juan Alfaro	02/06	Carolyn Wetherby	02/24
Emily Lorenzen	02/12	Tammy Fisher	02/25
Lynn Lucca	02/12	Cortney Simmons	02/25

**JAN & FEB CAP-AVERSARIES:**

Andrew Englert	1/1/23	Andrew Crowther	1/9/25
Tycal Johnson	1/1/24	Michael Moran	1/10/24
Kemberly Terhune	1/2/24	Alexander Church	1/11/24
Shawnte Hollis	1/3/06	Kaitlyn Long	1/11/22
Ronald Gill	1/6/20	Collin Degraff	1/19/23
Rachel Rivera	1/6/21	Valgeen Verplank	1/26/22
Jennifer Butterbaugh	1/9/20	Rhea Hayes	1/29/25
Charlene Gill	1/7/25	Rosanna Roberson	1/30/18

Catherine Wilson	2/1/23	Emily Hoven	2/20/20	6 years!
Michelle Graves	2/2/22	Leeann Payne	2/23/23	
June Muto	2/6/24	Pam Precourt	2/26/19	7 years!
Ryan Robbins	2/12/16	Faith Sharkey	2/26/25	
Scott Molisani	2/12/19	Rob Weaver	2/27/17	9 years!
Stacey DeGroff	2/18/00	Odin Patanzo	2/28/24	
Ykeem Overstreet	2/19/25			

## SPOTLIGHT EMPLOYEE:



### MELISSA KERSTEN

Program Coordinator  
Active People, Healthy Wayne

#### ABOUT MELISSA:

I will be celebrating 3 years with the agency in April 2026. My favorite hobbies are those I can enjoy with my family. We love camping and exploring local campgrounds. I enjoy riding my bicycle with my kids and going on little adventures around town. When the weather is nice, I love spending time outside with my dogs, cats, and children, playing in our yard. I've been teaching

myself basic sewing and embroidery skills. I also enjoy baking and cooking from scratch. My older children and I have even started doing DoorDash deliveries to spend one-on-one time together. We have a good time listening to music, hanging out, and talking, making it enjoyable even though we are actually working.

I began working for DDSO at 16 in the Youth Opportunity Program. As an adult, I built a 17-year career with DDSO, dedicating my heart and soul to caring for people with various needs. I loved my previous career, but a crisis my family went through in 2022 made me re-evaluate my life and lead me to a new career path with this agency. I have a large, blended family. My husband, Robert, and I co-parent 8 children ranging from ages 3 to 26 years old. People often comment on the large size of our home, and I reply that we fill every inch of it. We are a busy household, with many of our children still living with us along with our young grandchild. We also have 3 dogs named Prince, Cupid, and Mario, and 4 cats named Diamond, Pepper, Foxy, and Pickles. We are a large but fun-loving household, and we do our best to embrace the chaos and enjoy each day we are given. I serve as a volunteer board member for Glow Up Girl and I am charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Eastern Wayne, also serving them as a volunteer board member.

If I could have one superpower, it would be to bring healing to others. Witnessing people endure pain or tragedy has always left me feeling helpless. It's incredibly difficult to watch someone suffer and not be able to offer much assistance. The ability to heal people's minds, bodies, and broken hearts would truly be the best superpower imaginable.

Choosing a favorite song is never easy, given the plethora of incredible music out there. However, "Coat of Many Colors" by Dolly Parton stands out for me. This song narrates a true story from Dolly's childhood, delivering a profound message about love and wealth beyond material possessions. One memorable line from the song, "although we had no money, I was rich as I could be," resonates deeply. Growing up in a small cabin in the Smoky Mountains with 11 siblings, Dolly's journey from rags to rhinestones is truly inspiring. Beyond her musical talent and distinctive voice, she has a generous spirit, as evidenced by her creation of the Imagination Library, which offers free books to children worldwide. Her life and the essence of the song were even captured in a movie titled "Coat of Many Colors," further celebrating her remarkable story.

I don't usually have much time to watch TV, but when I do, I love tuning into "How It Was Made, or The Titans That Built America." Discovering the history behind everyday items like cereals, Oreos, and soft serve ice cream is something I truly appreciate. Each thing we enjoy today has its own story and past. Delving into the history of the automobile industry, the rise of McDonald's, and the titans who built

America captivate my imagination. I love watching documentaries and exploring history to understand how we arrived at our present world.

One of my dreams is to create my own Pet Blessing Box because I often feel that pets are overlooked when families face hardships. I know many families with limited resources strive to provide a loving home for their pets. I really wish there was more support for those in our community who struggle to supply essentials like pet food, cat litter, and toys for their furry companions, as these families play a crucial role in keeping animals out of our local crowded shelters.

## **SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM:**

### **ACTIVE PEOPLE, HEALTHY WAYNE (APHW)**

**APHW** is a program at Finger Lakes Community Action funded by the New York State Department of Health grant, [Creating Healthy Schools and Communities](#). The goal of this funding is to establish and support sustainable healthy communities as places where it is easier to practice healthy behaviors.

Program staff are working within high-need communities, engaging a variety of partners and decision-makers, and developing comprehensive implementation plans in the Townships of: Sodus, Wolcott, Palmyra, Arcadia, Lyons, Galen, Savannah, Rose, and Butler.

Grant goals include:

- Implementing [food service guidelines](#) (FSGs) within worksites, community settings, and in multiple venues to:
  1. increase the availability and access to healthy foods, and to
  2. increase the availability and access to locally sourced foods.
- Improving policies, practices, and environments for [physical activity and nutrition in early care and education](#) (ECE) settings.
- Implementing [community planning and active transportation](#) interventions in municipalities to increase safe and accessible physical activity. environmental design.
- Implementing components of Local School Wellness Policies for [Comprehensive School Physical Activity Programs](#) and a [Healthy Nutrition Environment](#) as found in the [CDC Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model](#) within the following school districts: Clyde-Savannah, Newark, Lyons, Palmyra-Macedon, North Rose-Wolcott, Sodus, and Red Creek.