To use a range of resources and programs to meet the needs of each family and community are unique, Community Action is able to craft solutions to identified top challenges.

From young families and their children, learning to prosper at home and in the classroom, to providing important nutrition and socialization opportunities to senior citizens, SENCA programs run through the entire fabric of our communities, providing vital solutions to identified top challenges.

Thank you for your continued support of SENCA's programs and services. Tax Deductible Donations can be made online at www.senca.org

Announcing the 2018 Community Leader Scholarship Award Recipients

The SENCA Community Leadership Scholarship recipients selected for 2018 are: Cass County, Weeping Water High School-Michael Buehre Stackpole; Johnson County, Johnson County Central High School-Hannah Swanda; Nemaha County, Auburn High School-Sheldon Rightsell; Otoe County, Syracuse High School-Madeline Werner; Pawnee County, Pawnee City High School-Natalie Blecha; and Richardson County, Falls City High School-Rudy Vrtiska. Congratulations to all area grads!

The scholarship program was established in 2012 with the goal of awarding six (6) scholarships, each in the amount of $400, to graduating seniors who exhibit a commitment of leadership within their community. To date SENCA has awarded nearly $14,000 to seniors graduating throughout the six county service area.

SENCA’s 12th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament Scheduled for June 16th

Attention all golfers, the SENCA 12th Annual Benefit Golf Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, June 16th at Kirkman’s Lakeview Golf Course, northwest of Humboldt.

This is a four-person scramble with an 18 team limit. Pre-register for the tournament and reserve a cart by contacting Kirkman’s Clubhouse at 402-862-2828. A Benefit Raffle will also be held in conjunction with the tournament. Tickets will go on sale April 1st with the drawing the day of the tournament, need not be present to win.

All tournament proceeds benefit local and area agency programs and services, including the Community Leader Scholarship program. If interested in sponsoring or donating to the event please call 402-862-5883.

SENCA Transit Celebrated Nebraska Transit Week April 8th - 14th

SENCA partners with Richardson and Pawnee County to provide low-cost public transportation to local residents. In recognition of public Transit programs provided throughout the state, Governor Ricketts signed a proclamation that declared April 8 – 14th, 2018 as Nebraska Public Transit Week. Both of a SENCA’s Transit programs participated in the week-long event providing special give-a-ways to riders. Richardson County Transit hosted drawings during the week with daily winners each receiving a $5 ride pass with a final drawing awarding a $20 ride pass.
April Celebrated as Fair Housing Month

During the month of April, the State of Nebraska joined the nation in celebrating Fair Housing Month and the 50th anniversary of the Fair Housing Act. Each year the month of April is a designated time to celebrate the advancements of equal access to housing regardless of race, color, religion, sex, nationality, familial and military status, disability or ancestry. Enacted by Congress in 1968, the Fair Housing Act applies to housing and housing-related activities, including the following: home and apartment rentals; real estate sales; mortgage lending; and homeowners insurance. SENCA provides several housing programs designed to assist qualifying individuals, up to 200% of poverty, with housing needs.

1) Down Payment Assistance with Rehab provides financial assistance to eligible, first-time homeowners to purchase a home and make improvements which ensure the health and safety of the home purchased.

2) Rental Housing - SENCA currently owns one housing complex in Elk Creek that accommodates low-income families and one complex in Falls City that accommodates elderly and disabled low-income individuals. This helps ensure that residents have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Housing Program Manager, Rosanna Glathar, and the HTRS 8th grade class have partnered with Fair Housing Month Essay Contest. Winners will be revealed in May.

Celebrating May as Community Action Month

May is recognized as Community Action Month by more than 1,100 Community Action Agencies nation-wide. In honor of the event, each of the six counties served by SENCA programs and services have proclaimed May as Community Action Month.

In addition, SENCA is recognizing 52 years of providing a variety of programs and services to southeast Nebraska residents and the communities they call home. While many of the programs are income based, with a focus on helping economically challenged households attain the goal of self-sufficiency, programs such as Homebuyer Education, SENCA SMART Financial Literacy, Transit, Meals on Wheels, and Congregate Meals are available to the general public. Education is key to improving lives and building strong communities, which is part of SENCA’s mission.

Building and strengthening community partnerships is also a vital part of SENCA’s mission. Community involvement is provided through countless volunteer hours, private funding, donations, and various collaborations. Partnerships are instrumental to help ensure that positive outcomes are achieved by those who participate in each of the three primary program areas of Community Economic Development; Family Outreach; and Youth Education. To find out more, please visit www.senca.org or “like us” on Facebook www.facebook.com/Senca1.

SENCA HEAD START…. Our Last 50 Years

The summer of 2018 will mark the 50th year of service for the SENCA Head Start program. SENCA Head Start began providing services through a summer program in Pawnee City and Tecumseh in 1968.

SENCA was awarded grant funds to provide Head Start services in 1969 and Richardson and Nemaha Counties housed the first classrooms in Falls City and Auburn in 1970. Shortly thereafter, Betty Lippold was named the SENCA Head Start Director in 1971. After 14 years of operation, SENCA Head Start expanded into Pawnee and Otoe Counties providing services through a home-based model in 1984.

Eligible children in Richardson, Nemaha, Otoe, and Pawnee Counties were receiving Head Start services by 1984. These four counties continue to make up the SENCA Head Start service area today. Pawnee and Otoe County moved to center-based programs in 1986.

In 2004, the program received a one-time grant to pilot a Youth Mentoring program where high school and middle school at-risk students were paired with a Head Start child. This program continues today and has expanded into three area public schools. More details about the history of SENCA Head Start can be found in the SENCA Story located on our website www.senca.org.

This long and rich history continues to grow as SENCA Head Start provides high-quality education and child development services to children in southeast Nebraska.

Today, the program is funded to serve 151 children ages 3 to 5 years and their families. Our program is blessed with loving and caring staff working to build relationships and support children and their families as they grow. To learn more about Head Start services, we invite you to visit the local center in your area. Addresses and contact information can be found at www.senca.org.

SENCA SMART Financial Literacy

During the 2017-2018 school year SENCA partnered with the following schools to provide the SENCA SMART experience to approximately 400 students from both 8th and 12th grade. Participating schools included: Falls City Public; Falls City Sacred Heart; HTRS (Humboldt, Table Rock, Steinauer); JCC (Johnson County Central); Louisville; and Weeping Water.

Each of these schools participated in one day events, that provided a two-to-three hour poverty simulation in the morning followed by a two-to-three hour classroom curriculum session of Hands-on-Banking in the afternoon. During the poverty simulation students are placed in various family groups that range from a single household to a family of five. Each family is given a typical situation households in poverty may experience. Their goal is to make it through the month, four (4) ten to twelve minute weeks, while meeting their basic needs. Students interact with community volunteers representing local service providers including: a school, ministerial groups, utility providers, law enforcement, grocery/super center, community action, banks, etc.

Free Tax Preparation Provides Financial Boost to Local Economically Challenged Families

During the months of February through April, trained and certified Family Outreach staff prepared 145 Federal Tax Returns and 146 State Tax Returns for qualifying households at 125% of poverty. This no-cost service helped provide refunds totaling $245,481, that included Earned Income Tax Credit of $120,765 and additional Child Tax Credit of $31,611. This increased disposable income circulates through the local economy helping families meet basic needs without seeking assistance.