

## **United Way of Seneca County Talking Points for Presentations**

### **History of the United Way of Seneca County**

- Founded in 1958 to raise money for local charities.
- We're LOCAL. Run by local volunteer board of directors. All money raised here stays here.

### **Mission today- Advancing the Common Good**

Advancing the common good means creating opportunities for a better life for all.

- When we reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all.
- We all win when a child succeeds in school, when families are financially stable and when people have good health.
- These results/changes have benefits that ripple out to the community as a whole.

### **We work together with people from all across the county to create lasting changes in our community.**

Some of our community efforts:

- Seneca County Partners for Children, Youth and Families- Collaboration for Community Change
- EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit)/VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Preparation)
- Seneca County Housing Coalition- helping to increase safe & affordable housing
- 0-5- helping children prepare for success in school
- SURGE After School Programs
- Seneca County Literacy Project
- Seneca County Youth Council

**Community (Allocation) Investment** decisions made by volunteers based on need, impact & program type. We take our responsibility seriously and hold agencies accountable to make sure donor dollars are being spent like they're supposed to be.

### **Living United means being a part of the change. We must address these issues together.**

- It takes everyone in the community working together to create a brighter future.
- Together we can accomplish more than any single group can on its own.
- Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED.
- We invite you to be part of the change- LIVE UNITED

### **Funded Partner Agency Services**

- 24 agencies and programs in Seneca County focusing on the three building blocks for a good life- a quality **education** that leads to a stable job, **income** that can support a family through retirement, and good **health**.
- Over 10,000 people are served on an annual basis in Seneca County
- United Way community investments leverage thousands of additional government matching dollars
- Innumerable success stories show PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE with LASTING OUTCOMES

### **Agency Listing**

American Red Cross in the Finger Lakes  
Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes  
Child and Family Resources, Inc.  
Creative Choices Child Care Center  
Cayuga Seneca Community Action Agency  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton Children's Center  
Family Counseling Services of the Finger Lakes  
Finger Lakes Addiction Counseling and Referral Agency  
Finger Lakes Council, Boy Scouts of America  
Four Town Community Center  
Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways  
Happiness House/Finger Lakes United Cerebral Palsy  
Legal Assistance of the Finger Lakes  
Literacy Volunteers of America, Seneca County Chapter  
Lodi Whittier Library  
Safe Harbors of the Finger Lakes  
Seneca/Cayuga ARC  
Seneca County Children's Committee  
Seneca County House of Concern  
Seneca County Partners for Children, Youth and Families  
Seneca County Senior Center  
Seneca Falls Historical Society  
Seneca Falls Library  
Waterloo Library & Historical Society

### **Interesting Statistics/Facts from the Seneca County Community Profile 2007 (available online at [www.uwseneca.org](http://www.uwseneca.org))**

#### Size and Age of the Population

- From 1990 – 2006, population under 20 declined 17%
- Population between 45 and 64 grew 37%
- 65+ population was stable, but there were significant increases in those 75 and older

#### Trends in Household Types

- 18% increase in single householders living with children, most (70%) headed by females

#### Educational Attainment

- Those with associate's or higher grew from 23% to 28%, 1999-2000, as a share of total Seneca population
- 35% of the Seneca population over 24 graduated with a high school diploma, 15% went to 9<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma and 6% didn't make it to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Poverty

- Poverty was higher among children under 18 (16%) than Seneca residents of all ages (11.4%) in 2004

#### The Local Economy

- Unemployment rates relatively low in Seneca County
- Increasing proportion of workers in county jobs drawn from other counties (Cayuga, Ontario, Wayne), but 45% of resident workers go elsewhere for jobs

- Revenues to government increasing consistent with other counties- but school revenues had lowest rate of growth among counties
- Poverty rates higher than comparison counties
- Increase in requests for food

#### Public Safety

- Reports of less serious crimes have been more than twice as high in Seneca as comparison counties
- Domestic violence cases are up and twice as high as comparison counties

#### Family Wellness

- Household income failed to keep pace with inflation or comparison counties
- Access to health care is a challenge
- Higher rates of low-level crime
- Child abuse and neglect cases have grown and are higher than comparison counties
- High levels of domestic violence
- Smaller proportions receiving early intervention and preschool special education compared to neighboring counties
- Below national goals for early prenatal care

#### Youth

- Slightly higher rates of special education than comparison counties
- Dropout rates higher than comparison counties
- Seneca County in the middle in terms of high school graduates planning to attend four-year college
- Teen pregnancy rates are rising and exceed comparison counties in recent years
- Juvenile delinquency intakes declining, but higher proportion go to petitions and out-of-home placements than comparison counties
- Juvenile arrests rates higher than comparison counties
- Just 40% of youth in Assets survey report they can resist peer pressure and seek to resolve conflict nonviolently
- Two-thirds of 11<sup>th</sup> graders reported being drunk in past 2 weeks; 39% had used marijuana in past year

#### Primary Health Care

- Supply of doctors well below comparison counties
- Cancer and stroke deaths are up and above national goals
- Relatively few cases of sexually transmitted diseases
- Heart disease deaths declined but higher than comparison counties and national goal

#### Substance Abuse

- Felony drug arrests have increased but rates are below comparison counties
- Felony DWI arrests exceed other counties
- 1 in 5 students used marijuana in last year
- Sizeable amount of youth minorities report abusing alcohol, being in cars with drivers who have been drinking, and using drugs more than once

#### Senior Independence

- Decline in poverty rates of seniors and seniors receiving SS