Our Vision:
“Helping people, changing lives, and making communities a better place to live.”

Our Mission:
“To provide essential programs that help individuals, families, and communities reach their fullest potential through advocacy and partnerships. Our dedicated staff provides access to opportunities in education, health, housing, nutrition, and transportation. These services empower people to make a positive difference in their lives and communities.”

United Way Campaigns Kick Off

Our staff and board members are the ultimate examples of generosity and dedication. Every day, we make a positive difference for the individuals and communities we serve. Staff and board extend that generosity towards supporting local United Way’s in our communities, which in turn helps support our various programs.

With the most recent United Way campaign, Mid programs received over $100,000 in funding to support ongoing service delivery. Programs that receive funding include Head Start, Senior Centers, Homeless Prevention, Immunization, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Senior Companions, and RYDE Transit. This funding is essential to our local programs. This past year, our employee campaign helped raise $7,565.61 for the seven United Ways in our service area. Our employee campaign raises more dollars than most for-profit business in the area and that speaks volumes about our staff and board members.

With that in mind, we have enclosed the United Way staff donation form for 2019. If you are interested in donating, please fill out the form and either give back to your supervisor or Carrie Eurek in HR or mail back in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Be sure to check out the great raffle prizes available; if you meet the donation criteria on the attached form.

Every dollar donated is important and makes a difference in the lives of the individuals and families we serve. If you have questions on the campaign or the forms, please contact Carrie Eurek at (308) 865-5675.

All Staff Day set for April 26th, 2019

We are excited to announce the official date for our All Staff Day Training! All Staff Day will be held on April 26th, 2019, at the Buffalo County Extension Office in Kearney.

If you have never attended this event, it is a fun-filled day that provides the opportunity to meet other program staff, learn more about the agency, participate in some great trainings, and celebrate the great work of staff and board members. For staff working 40% FTE or more, attendance is mandatory.

Any staff absence for that day will need the approval of Meredith Collins, Chief Executive Officer for Mid, with the exception of RYDE Transit and Senior Center staff due to scheduled transportation routes and preparing and serving senior meals. For those working under 40%, attendance will be up to each Program Director. We have an exciting keynote speaker scheduled for the morning and are working on other trainings for the day. If you have an idea for a fun activity or training that you would like to see at All Staff Day, please email Meredith at mcollins@mnca.net.
Over a decade ago, the National Community Action Partnership began an initiative to develop a “genuine brand”. It is Mid’s goal to make Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska recognizable on a local and state level to our partners as well as those we serve. Our agency is diverse in the types of programs and services we offer, and many times, the communities we serve are not aware of the diverse program services under the Community Action umbrella.

There are a few simple things each and everyone of us does to help build our agency name recognition.

- If you are a staff member who has an agency email account, please follow the signature protocol that includes using the Agency name and logo, as well as your program name and title.
- At community meetings, introduce yourself by stating you work for Community Action, then stating the program you work in.
- Ensure all agency letterhead, fax cover sheets, forms, etc. are the most up-to-date and have the correct name and logo on them.
- The phone can be answered by stating Community Action and your program name; as an example, Community Action WIC or Community Action Head Start. Please do not state Mid-Nebraska then your program name. The emphasis should be on Community Action and not the geographical area we cover. It is also easy to get our agency confused with Mid-Nebraska Individual Services if Mid-Nebraska is used.

Internally it is appropriate to use the term Mid (not MID, as the letters do not stand for anything) in the In Touch articles, internal emails, internal conversations, etc. Mid is not an appropriate term to use when you talk or meet with community members, funding sources, or elected officials. All of this helps the agency build our genuine brand. You are the face of Community Action at work. Thank you for all that you do!

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**Mid Adds New Program Service — The SOAR Program**

**SOAR**  
SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery

In January of 2018, Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska was selected as the SOAR Continuum of Care (CoC) Local Lead! This means in our Southwest Continuum (23 counties in south central Nebraska), we will be the point person for all things SOAR related.

So what is SOAR? The purpose of SOAR is to increase access to Social Security Administration (SSA) disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSI/SSDI), for eligible adults who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and have a mental illness, medical impairment, and/or co-occurring substance use disorder.

The SOAR Works website states that nationally SOAR is responsible for helping nearly 50,000 persons who were experiencing or at risk of homelessness to access Social Security disability benefits since 2006. The national SOAR acceptance rate is around 64%. This compares to the initial acceptance rate of 28.5% for all persons who applied for SSI/SSDI in 2015 by other means.

The SOAR model is very effective. As you can imagine this is a much needed service and we are excited to dive into this project. Region 3 is the only region until recently that did not have a SOAR coordinator. By having a centrally located coordinator we are hoping to help many people with this service.

Our SOAR coordinator will be located out of the Kearney office but will travel throughout our service area. The coordinator will be in charge of screening, enrolling, partnering, collecting medical records, prepare medical summary reports, submitting the final application, advocating for the client, and much more.

We are currently looking to start taking SOAR applications and conducting screenings by October 2018.

Please welcome our new SOAR Coordinator and Community Action staff member, Brenda Wommer. She can be reached (308) 865-1354 Ext 105 or soar@mnca.net.

Find our agency on Facebook:  
www.facebook.com/communityactionmidne/