The time has come to DOUBLE YOUR DONATIONS!

Become a CAAS Champion today! Double your impact by signing up to be a monthly donor to CAAS!

During July and August a generous group of donors will match the annual total of your monthly donation. Please sign up to give monthly and become a CAAS Champion, a member of our new donor appreciation program. CAAS Champions give a set amount each month, automatically through a credit card or bank account. The goal is to double the number of monthly donors giving automatically to CAAS!

If you are one of many local donors who would otherwise wait until the end of the year to donate an annual gift to CAAS, we ask that you consider becoming a CAAS Champion instead. CAAS Champions will receive special “thank you” benefits, including CAAS T-Shirts for the first two donors to sign up, digital badges to post on social media, and special recognition at events and in publications.

It takes just a few minutes and these easy steps to become a Champion:

1. Visit www.caasomerville.org/donate
2. Fill out the online donation form

CAAS Community Organizing

The organizing department at CAAS continues to build tenant power! At Clarendon Hill, a public housing project that is set to be re-developed in the next several years, resident leaders have been negotiating with developers to ensure that no one is displaced and that current residents receive benefits from this project. The tenants have won almost all of the things they initially asked for, including the right to two temporary apartment options for each family, the right for everyone to return after the renovation, and access to common spaces in the new market rate apartment buildings. The leaders continue to fight for the right for families with kids in Somerville Public Schools to be able to stay in Somerville during the renovation. At Pearl Street Park, an elderly affordable housing complex, residents have just officially formed a resident association, which will foster community within the building and advocate for residents’ rights.
CAAS Community Needs Assessment

Our most recent Community Assessment Report & Strategic Plan is complete! This Plan presents the major findings from our 2017 community needs assessment and outlines a three-year plan with specific actions for addressing the community’s most pressing needs.

The low-income community in Somerville lives in a context of serious change and disruption. Political uncertainty in Washington, the effects of decades of worsening income and wealth inequality, and rapid gentrification locally are combining in ways that can only be described as a crisis, calling for systemic change. Our response to this call is rooted in the belief that solutions can and will arise from the imagination and capacity of the community itself. Our community needs fundamental change, and we will respond.

The Top 3 Community Needs articulated by our community are the need for more affordable housing, jobs that pay enough to cover basic living expenses and high-quality, affordable care for children of all ages, seniors and people with disabilities. CAAS, in partnership with the community, will:

1. Advocate and organize for the preservation and creation of safe and affordable housing and will directly help those threatened with eviction
2. Advocate for development that increases the supply of and access to higher-paying jobs for Somerville residents
3. Increase the availability (through our own Head Start program and in partnership with other providers) of high-quality, affordable care for low-income children, disabled persons and seniors.

Head Start Updates

CAAS Head Start will be opening a new classroom at the Capuano center this Fall! This new classroom is opening in collaboration with the Somerville Public Schools. In addition to our current three full-day classrooms, two additional classrooms will extend from part-day to full day programming increasing from 4.5 hours to 6 hours to better serve the needs of our children, families, and community. This continues CAAS Head Start’s transition to full day programming for all classrooms.

Homelessness Prevention Program

Recently, HPP was successful in helping two families get approved for Emergency Housing through the Somerville Housing Authority. The families all moved in mid-July. The two families qualified for emergency housing because they were being evicted through no fault of their own as a result of skyrocketing property values and landlords wanting more money for rent. A third family already residing at a Somerville Housing property was successfully transferred to a larger apartment due to an increase of household members. All three families now have safe, appropriate and affordable housing they can live in for the foreseeable future.

Volunteer with CAAS!

Spend time helping us out at the CAAS office in Union Square or volunteer to help with an event!

Host a House Party or other event to help raise money for CAAS’ Head Start and Homelessness Prevention Programs!

Email info@caasomerville.org today to find out more!

Learn more about our work by visiting our website: www.caasomerville.org

Check us out on Facebook and Twitter!
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