

JANUARY 2023

EAC Network Newsletter



VOLUME 5



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**Make a Small Donation for a
BIG Impact**

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to donate to our \$20.23
campaign**

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! In January we celebrate, commemorate, and honor the life, legacy, and impact of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Through our 109 programs, we provide a safety net for the 65,000 children, adults, seniors, and families we serve across Suffolk, Nassau, NYC, and Rockland County.



The past almost 2 years have been my opportunity as the new CEO, to observe and learn about the organization, our history, our partnerships, and our priorities. We have grown and evolved from the programming of our early days in 1969 as the Education Assistance Corporation to the EAC Network of today. In recent years, we have survived Covid and a stream of organizational changes. With a new leadership team firmly in place, and a Board of Directors that is energized and ready to move forward, we will be developing a strategic plan to strengthen the infrastructure and culture of our organization as we put plans in place to continue to grow and become a stronger voice for our clients and communities .

As we launch into 2023 with great excitement, it seems fitting that I share with all of you, some of our plans for the year ahead.

My hope is you will see and feel our impact, and that you will engage with us as we engage with our clients, our community partners, donors, employees, and volunteers. The work ahead of us is vast and complicated but our mission is simple. We will continue to provide critical programs and services like feeding seniors, protecting children from physical and sexual abuse, providing vocational services and workforce development opportunities and hope for young people who have been impacted by the Human Trafficking problem plaguing our communities.

A Message from EAC Network's President and CEO

In addition to the consistent need to protect and care for our seniors and children, we hear and read more about how mental health and substance abuse issues are affecting our schools, workplaces, and family dining rooms. We will continue to address how mental health and substance abuse policies and services are affecting our communities and how EAC Network can alleviate some of the public safety concerns that have dominated the media of late, through our Alternatives to Incarceration, ATI, Transitional Case Management, TCM and vocational programs, where we work meaningfully and effectively, with individuals involved in the justice system. We will also expand our efforts to help individuals suffering from substance abuse disorders and provide vocational support to help them get on track to healthier and more constructive lives. These programs and our partnerships with the District Attorney's offices, the unified Court System, law enforcement, and mental health and substance abuse providers support safer communities and greater access to services. EAC Network will continue to be on the front line of this important public safety, mental health, and substance abuse issues.

Delivering with excellence means providing the most up-to-date technology and practices for our areas of need. We will look to invest in our technology and seek to provide direction and guidance on best practices for all areas of programs and services. We will look to offer opportunities for our staff to continue to grow and learn, as our environment is ever-changing.

Our smart and compassionate staff are on the front lines of helping our communities. I am committed to honoring their work by supporting our staff and clients with programs and practices that are culturally and linguistically responsive, trauma-informed and protect the inherent rights of our employees, and the clients we serve.

We start 2023 not only with our own goals, but also with bold goals from our state, county, and city leadership. As they talk about significant investments into high-need areas and policies that can affect the lives of all New Yorkers, we recognize that part of our role is to advocate on behalf of the clients and communities we serve. We are working with our organization and program leadership to identify where and how we can most effectively use our voice and platform to effect positive change and garner additional resources to help us continue to fulfill our mission. We recognize that both awareness and resources are necessary for us to accomplish our goals on behalf of those we serve.

Join me and engage with us as we use 2023 to strategically look ahead, expand and continue to strive for excellence in our services, and advocate for our clients, communities, and our mission. I ask you to visit our website at <https://eac-network.org/>, view, like and share our social media posts or email me directly to schedule a site visit so you can really see and feel the impact of our programs.

Best wishes to all for a healthy and Happy New Year!



Neela Mukherjee Lockel, President & CEO
EAC Network
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REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

On January 16th, we commemorate and honor the life, legacy, and impact of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

At EAC Network, we hope to continue his legacy through our programs that provide vital services and access to resources to the underserved and vulnerable populations in Suffolk, Nassau, New York City, and Rockland County.

Dr. King Jr. said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

EAC Network has more than 109 programs serving 65,000 children, adults, seniors, and families throughout Long Island, NYC, and Rockland County.

Many of our programs are geared towards social justice, equity, fairness, and the values and missions proposed by Dr. King and the civil rights movement.

Among them are our Alternatives to Incarceration Programs, the Health Home Program, the New Path Treatment Center, Suffolk County Children's Center at Cohalan Court, Safe Harbor, Alternatives for Youth, Community Reentry Assistance Network (CRAN), Senior and Nutrition Programs, Enhanced Employment Initiatives, and the Transitional Case Management Program.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.



EAC New Path Treatment Center Client

EAC Network

Equity, Justice, and Belonging Committee

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King example is our call to action. EAC serves over 65,000 people in need across Long Island and New York City.

Dr. King said, “Everybody can be great because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love.”

We will continue to forge ahead to ensure that our programs are culturally and linguistically responsive, trauma informed, and protect the inherent rights of our employees, and the clients we serve.

As we commemorate the civil rights leader Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, we are taking the opportunity to introduce EAC Network's Equity, Justice, and Belonging Committee.

Seth Azizollahoff, Chief Human Resources Officer at EAC Network serves as the leader of EAC's Equity, Justice, and Belonging Committee.

Created in May of 2022, this committee comprised of 12 members, stands to address all aspects of diversity within EAC, to practice empathic leadership, celebrate cultural differences, and work to identify and eliminate any company bias that devalues our employees and community members.



Diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the core of what we do to serve our clients; the structure of EAC Network also reflects such principles.



EAC Network Staff

Social Impact of EAC Network

EAC Network is a **SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION** that focuses on the **QUALITY OF LIFE** of our clients. EAC Network firmly believes that everyone has the right to the services they need to enjoy a healthy, happy, and fulfilled life.

The 5 pillars of EAC Network are distinctively:



For more information regarding our programs please visit www.eac-network.org

National Human Trafficking Awareness Month

The human trafficking and sexual exploitation of Suffolk's children is rising at an alarming rate. EAC Network's Safe Harbour Program advocates for and supports children that have been, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited in Suffolk County. Our goal is to provide the education, skills, and support to protect children from being trafficked and sexually exploited.

EAC Safe Harbour is hosting a Human Trafficking Conference on January 25th at the Suffolk County Bar Association.

Any minor who has engaged in sexual acts for a fee or other promised payment (drugs, alcohol, other), loitered or solicited for sexual acts, or has been physically assaulted, threatened, or otherwise coerced into performing sexual acts is a sexually exploited child. All youth are at risk of being exploited/trafficked, yet there exist certain populations with higher risk. These groups include:

- homeless or runaway youth
- children with a history of abuse
- children with disabilities
- LGBTQ youth
- females

For more information
about EAC's Safe Harbor
Program click here



EAC Network Safe Harbour Presents

SHINING A LIGHT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE

2023

560 Wheeler Rd, Hauppauge, NY 11788



JAN

25th

2023

Hosted by the Suffolk County Bar Association



9am-12:30pm
Doors Open: 8:30AM
Networking Hour: 12:30pm-1:30pm

[CLICK TO REGISTER TODAY!](#)

