From mobile food distributions held at county fairgrounds to educating international head start students, HAPCAP keeps people at the fore of what we do. We treat each and every person that walks through our door with dignity and respect—we know the courage it takes just to ask for help. We are here to meet people where they are. I hope you are as proud of this report and the work we've accomplished together as I am.

These are just a few of the highlights from 2018. Thank you for your support in helping us build a more just and equitable community for all.

Hocking Athens Perry Community Action mobilizes resources to empower individuals & communities through advocacy & quality services that promote self-sufficiency & improved quality of life.

In 2018, efforts to clean up communities reached beyond structures and into the soil. HAPCAP's Disaster Recovery Program began operating in Perry and Athens counties following the heavy floods in February 2018. The program not only cleans up debris in local rivers and streams, but it also serves as a workforce development program to help participants land gainful employment.

Shania Munyan has navigated rough waters in her own life. She grew up in an unstable household and found herself homeless and pregnant at just 15 years old. She was then trapped in an abusive relationship for three years. After breaking away from her abuser, Shania was again left without a home, and her trauma had manifested into a drug addiction.

Her addiction caught up with her in a sting operation, yet afterwards, she completed two treatment programs and started Drug Court in Perry County. She completed treatment at the Georgie Harris House in September of 2018, landed an apartment in October, and started working her first full-time job with the Flood Program in November. Shania graduated from Drug Court in May and is 16 months sober as of August.

Shania tells her story calmly and gently, a clear distinction from the violence of her past. Her strength is unmatched, especially as she talks about her G.E.D. classes, getting her driver’s license, and her daughter, Brayleigh. She was also the only woman on the Perry County crew, but she didn’t mind. The Perry County Flood Staff acts as a large family, and even though Shania left the program for a new job in May, she still comes by to visit and participates in HAPCAP’s CCMEP program.

"I feel really good about the work we’ve done and I notice a big difference," says Shania.

Her former coworker noticed a big difference with Shania.

"Her confidence is just amazing. It has skyrocketed. We are all so proud of her."
HAPCAP recognizes that poverty does not only exist within the walls of the home. In an area without stable industry and with residents living on fixed or inadequate incomes, the effects of poverty can reach out of the home and into the sidewalks, streets, and infrastructure of a community.

The Athens County Land Bank began in 2018 as a hands-on approach to mitigate the structural effects of poverty. Land Banks exist all over the state, and they take ownership of tax delinquent, blighted properties to either rehabilitate or remove them. This helps to stabilize and improve housing or home values, beautify neighborhoods, and alleviate health and safety risks for residents.

HAPCAP administers grant funding for Land Bank demolition projects on a reimbursement basis. The first project was a house on High Street in Glouster that had collapsed on the Fourth of July in 2018. Cheryl Thiesen owned the home but had not been living there, as her son was worried about the home’s condition. The cleanup process began in February, and though the crew could not recover everything, they were able to save her parent’s wedding pictures.

“The Land Bank is great for people who have no way to fix their place up to where it’s liveable for them,” says Cheryl. “This is Appalachia. People can’t live comfortably to start with, let alone fix something like a leaky roof or an old floor. The Land Bank was kind and helpful. I’m glad I was not alone in this process.”