
Annual Report

2024-2025

**60
YEARS**

Strengthening communities with stability,
empowering neighbors with dignity,
enriching lives with opportunity.



(570) 622-1995
schuylkillcommunityaction.com
info@schuylkillcommunityaction.com

SCA
**SCHUYLKILL COMMUNITY
ACTION**

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Letter from the CEO

As we celebrate 60 years of service to Schuylkill County, I am reminded of one of my favorite sayings: "It takes a village." In the Community Action world, those words are more than an expression, they reflect the foundation of our work. For six decades, Schuylkill Community Action has partnered with community members, businesses, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers to create opportunities and strengthen our communities. Our success has always been rooted in collaboration, and this milestone anniversary provides an opportunity to recognize the many partners who help make our mission possible.

Partnerships and stakeholder alignment serve as a force multiplier when organizations work toward shared goals and values. This year, those partnerships helped us expand access to healthy foods through our collaboration with Geisinger Health Plan, connect veterans with critical resources through a countywide resource fair, improve housing conditions through the Whole Home Repair Program, and assist vulnerable households through partnerships with utility providers such as PPL and UGI. These successes demonstrate the impact that can be achieved when organizations come together to address community needs.

As you review this annual report, I hope you see more than numbers and accomplishments. I hope you see the story of a community working together to create opportunities for our neighbors and strengthen Schuylkill County. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and the individuals and families we serve, thank you for being part of our village. Together, we have accomplished much over the past 60 years, and together, we will continue building a stronger future for generations to come.



"Together, we have accomplished much over the past 60 years, and together, we will continue building a stronger future for generations to come."

Dave Young

Chief Executive Officer
Schuylkill Community Action

About Schuylkill Community Action

Mission

To focus all available resources on low-income Schuylkill County residents, empowering them to achieve self-sufficiency.

Vision

Strengthening communities with stability, empowering neighbors with dignity, and enriching lives with opportunity.

Core Values

- We will treat our customers with respect, dignity, and with empathy for their situations.
- We will treat our employees professionally and be transparent as we work together as an agency.
- We will be knowledgeable and efficient as we serve our customers, partners, and communities.
- We will take pride in being a part of Schuylkill Community Action and the positive changes we can make in our communities.

60 Years of Community Action

Serving Schuylkill County Since 1965

For 60 years, Schuylkill Community Action has worked alongside individuals and families throughout Schuylkill County to build stability, strengthen communities, and create pathways toward self-sufficiency.

In 2025, Schuylkill Community Action proudly celebrated 60 years of service to Schuylkill County. Since 1965, the agency has remained committed to addressing poverty, strengthening communities, and empowering residents to achieve self-sufficiency.

Established as part of the national Community Action movement created under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, SCA has evolved to meet the changing needs of the community while remaining grounded in the belief that every individual deserves dignity, stability, and opportunity.

Today, SCA provides a broad range of services designed to address immediate hardships while building long-term stability, including food assistance, housing support, financial education, weatherization, emergency assistance, and community-based initiatives that strengthen neighborhoods throughout Schuylkill County.

As SCA reflects on this milestone year, we remain grateful for the dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and supporters who continue to make this work possible. Together, we look forward to continuing our mission of strengthening communities and creating opportunities for generations to come.

Understanding Community Need in Schuylkill County

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey and local Community Needs Assessment findings highlight persistent economic and housing challenges across Schuylkill County.

12.3% Residents live below the poverty level in Schuylkill County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey One-Year Estimates)

<p>Economic Hardship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16,878 residents live below the poverty level • 72.6% of individuals in the labor force (16+) living below the poverty level are employed 	<p>Household Composition & Child Poverty</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18% of children under age 18 live in poverty • 75.4% of households with children in poverty are headed by a single parent
<p>Housing Stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21.4% of renter-occupied households and 6.1% of owner-occupied households are below the poverty line. 	<p>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17.1% of households receive SNAP Benefits • 56.7% of SNAP recipient households contain one or more members with a disability • 83.9% of households have at least one worker

Community Needs Assessment

Across Schuylkill County, individuals and families continue to face significant barriers to stability and self-sufficiency. Rising costs for housing, food, utilities, transportation, and healthcare have placed increasing pressure on households already working to meet basic needs.

As a largely rural county with some of the oldest housing stock in Pennsylvania, residents often experience additional challenges related to transportation, housing quality, and access to essential services. These conditions contribute to ongoing food insecurity, housing instability, and financial hardship, particularly among seniors, individuals with disabilities, veterans, and low-income households.

The 2024 Community Needs Assessment identified food and nutrition, affordable housing, healthcare access, employment opportunities, and home energy assistance as the most pressing needs in Schuylkill County. Residents also highlighted transportation limitations and unequal access to resources across rural communities as persistent barriers to stability.

These findings continue to inform Schuylkill Community Action’s planning and service delivery, ensuring that programs remain responsive to community-identified needs and focused on strengthening long-term stability for individuals and families throughout Schuylkill County.

Voices From the Community

- residents identified affordability as the biggest barrier
- transportation limits access to food and jobs
- seniors & individuals with disabilities face increased vulnerability

<p>Top Community Needs Identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food & Nutrition Security • Affordable Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthcare Access • Employment Opportunities • Utility Assistance / Home Heating & Cooling
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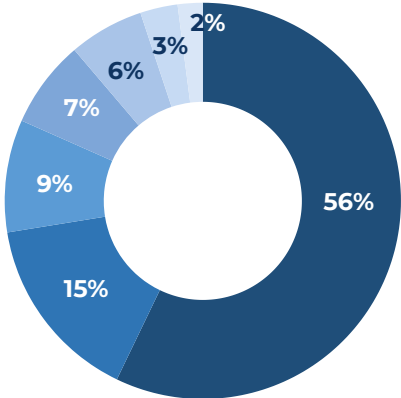
Financial Overview

Statement of Activities for fiscal year ending June 30, 2025

Revenue sources and program investments across Schuylkill Community Action

Revenue by Source

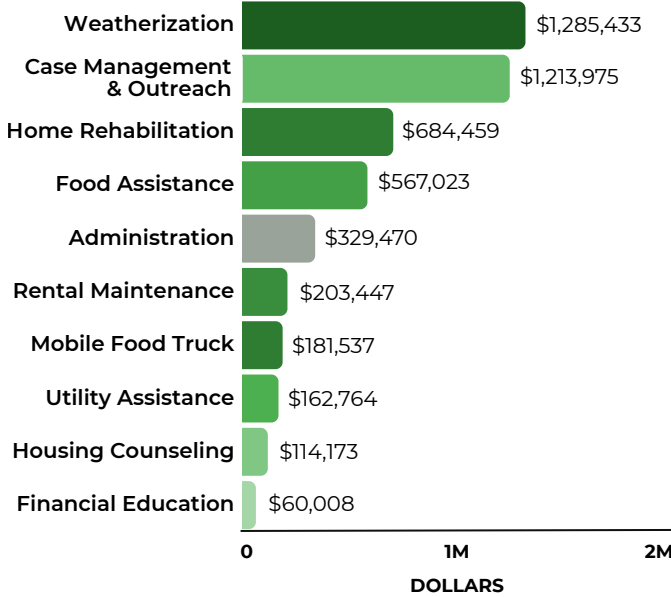
Total \$4,684,630



■ Federal Funding \$2,636,776 56%	■ Contributions \$298,178 6%
■ State Funding \$716,888 15%	■ Rental Income Interest, Misc. \$150,702 3%
■ Fees for Service \$422,452 9%	■ Administration \$116,268 2%
■ Local Funding \$343,366 7%	

Expenditures by Program

Total \$4,802,289



How Funds Were Used

• Direct Program Services	\$2,071,886	• Travel & Training	\$19,631
• Personnel	\$1,960,887	• Miscellaneous Other Costs	\$13,479
• Space Costs	\$244,161	• Advertising	\$10,091
• Contracted Services	\$228,597	• Dues & Publications	\$4,588
• Depreciation	\$83,537		
• Insurance	\$75,647		
• Legal / Audit Services	\$32,055		
• Office Expenses & Supplies	\$32,027		
• Vehicle Expenses	\$25,703		

Key Insights
43% of expenditures supported Direct Program Services.



Fiscal Year:
July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



SCA's financial statements are audited annually. A copy of the full audited financial statements is available upon request.

Services by the Numbers

Service Count: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

SCA served an unduplicated total of **14,098** households and **34,829** individuals. SCA responded to **16,238** telephone inquiries and **1,305** walk-in inquiries for services.

6,553

households accessed local food pantries a total of **25,918** times over **210** food distributions feeding **15,220** individuals

400+

volunteers distributed an estimated **52,000** boxes of food with an estimated combined weight of **650,000** lbs

280

households received emergency food through emergency food pantry efforts feeding **641** individuals

7,706

households received utility assistance through PPL, UGI, and Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

58

households were able to avoid losing their homes through mortgage assistance and foreclosure diversion programs

129

individuals including **150** children avoided eviction through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program

4,752

nights of transitional housing were provided to **27** households containing **38** individuals through the Bridge House Program

11

individuals graduated from the Bridge House Program obtaining permanent housing with the Pottsville Housing Authority

23

individuals received ongoing support through Bridge House's aftercare program, Project Care

23

households containing **61** individuals resided in SCA's rent-restricted rental units in Girardville, Port Carbon, and Pottsville

8

homeless households received a total of **61** nights of emergency shelter utilizing hotel/motel vouchers

304

households were able to purchase a range of essentials such as state ID's and work clothing through the Emergency Fund and Anne's Fund

Services by the Numbers (continued)

28

households received rehabilitation through Owner-Occupied Home Rehabilitation Programs

9

homes of seniors and/or individuals living with a disability received repairs to major systems and/or increased accessibility

19

households living with asthma or COPD received free cleaning supplies and/or critical home repairs for healthier living spaces through the Asthma Remediation Program

7

households received home repairs that allowed them to receive weatherization services through the Weatherization Deferral Program

42

households received weatherization services reducing their energy burden and **12** received routine maintenance to their heating systems

315

households received repairs to failing major heating or cooling systems (or AC window units and fans) through LIHEAP Crisis and LIHEAP Cooling

143

households received housing counseling services and attended housing workshops benefitting **299** individuals

250

individuals received financial education through **23** community-based workshops and **46** households received one-on-one coaching sessions

433

low-income preschool children received financial education lessons across **7** Child Development locations

49

children in **17** households received holiday gifts and clothing along with a festive meal for their entire family through the Brighter Holiday Project

178

elementary aged children participated in free youth summer programming through the Summer BLAST Program

398

households benefitted from SCA related services through our outreach office locations in Tamaqua and Mahanoy City

Expanding Access to Food & Essential Resources

Mobile Food Expansion Initiative

During the 2024–2025 fiscal year, Schuylkill Community Action reached a major milestone in expanding food access across Schuylkill County through the launch of the Schuylkill Food Network Mobile Expansion Initiative.

In partnership with Geisinger and with support from TEFAP Reach and Resiliency funding provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), SCA acquired a new refrigerated box truck designed to transport and distribute fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods throughout underserved communities across the county.

The initiative was developed in response to transportation barriers, geographic isolation, and limited access to healthy food options in many rural areas of Schuylkill County. The refrigerated truck has already supported the establishment of new mobile distribution locations in Port Carbon and Gordon while also strengthening existing pantry operations by improving transportation and storage of perishable food items.

Branded with the message “Food and Health Delivered,” the mobile unit reflects the growing connection between food access and community health. As the program continues to expand, SCA looks forward to increasing mobile food distributions and strengthening access to nutritious food for residents throughout Schuylkill County.



Community partners at the ribbon cutting celebrated the launch of the Mobile Food Expansion Initiative.

"With the new truck, we can extend our reach to rural and remote areas, ensuring that no one in Schuylkill County has to struggle with food insecurity due to transportation barriers."

— Dave Young, CEO

Mobile Expansion Highlights

- ✓ Refrigerated box truck secured through partnership with Geisinger
- ✓ Expanded access to fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods
- ✓ New distribution sites established in Port Carbon & Gordon
- ✓ Increased capacity for rural outreach across Schuylkill County

Building Stability Through Housing & Financial Empowerment

Safe, stable, and affordable housing remains one of the most important foundations for long-term self-sufficiency. Throughout the 2024–2025 fiscal year, Schuylkill Community Action expanded housing-focused services designed to prevent foreclosure, preserve affordable housing, improve housing quality, and strengthen long-term financial security for residents across Schuylkill County.

Responding to Community Need

Housing affordability and housing quality were identified among the top concerns in SCA's 2024 Community Needs Assessment.

Whole Home Repair Program & Weatherization

As the county with the oldest housing stock in Pennsylvania, Schuylkill County faces significant housing challenges that disproportionately affect low-income households, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

Through the Whole Home Repair Program, SCA helped homeowners complete critical repairs that improved safety, structural integrity, accessibility, and energy efficiency. Participants were also prioritized for weatherization services, creating a comprehensive approach that reduced energy burdens while preserving affordable housing and helping residents remain safely in their homes.

Critical home repairs include:

- Roofing repairs
- Plumbing improvements
- Electrical upgrades
- Structural rehabilitation
- Weatherization prioritization





Housing Counseling Services

In response to growing demand for housing stability resources, SCA continued expanding HUD-certified housing counseling services that help residents prevent foreclosure, navigate financial hardship, and prepare for successful homeownership.

- HEMAP (Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program) Counseling
- HECM (Home Equity Conversion Mortgage) Counseling
- First-Time Homebuyers Counseling
- Mortgage Foreclosure Diversion Program
- Default and Delinquency Counseling

Empowering residents with the knowledge, resources, and support needed to make informed housing decisions and achieve long-term stability.

Quick Facts

-  Pennsylvania's oldest housing stock
-  **21** households assisted through Whole Home Repair
-  All participating households prioritized for weatherization
-  Expanded HUD-certified housing counseling services

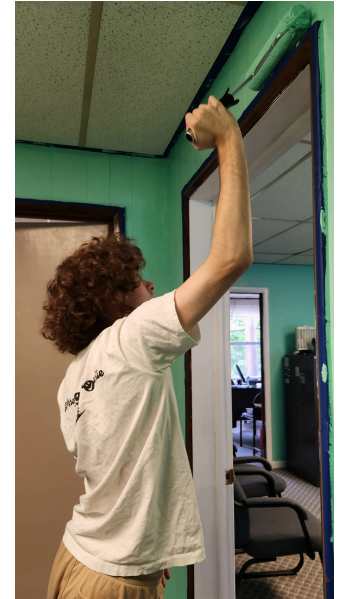
Creating Pathways Through Workforce Development

MY Work Program (Youth Workforce Development)

Schuylkill Community Action was proud to participate in the MY Work Program during the summers of 2024 and 2025 through partnerships with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP).

The MY Work Program provides high school students with meaningful employment opportunities designed to build workplace readiness, confidence, and practical job skills while supporting community organizations throughout the region.

Through this initiative, student employees assisted with food pantry preparation, food distributions, inventory organization, facility maintenance, painting, cleaning, and other operational projects throughout the agency. Their contributions provided valuable support to Schuylkill Food Network operations while also giving students hands-on experience in a structured and supportive work environment.



Community Partners

- OVR
- YAP

The success of the program was made possible through strong collaboration with OVR and YAP, whose staff provided oversight, job coaching, and ongoing support to help students succeed in their roles. SCA looks forward to continuing this partnership and expanding opportunities that support both local youth and community services in the years ahead.

Community Health Worker (CHW) Capacity Building

During the fiscal year, several Schuylkill Community Action staff members began training to become Community Health Workers (CHWs) through an apprenticeship program designed to strengthen community-based support and service coordination.

Representing departments including case management and the Schuylkill Food Network, these staff members are helping strengthen the agency's ability to connect residents with healthcare resources, supportive services, and community-based assistance programs. Community Health Workers play an important role in bridging healthcare and community support systems by building trust with vulnerable populations, improving access to services, and addressing social determinants of health that impact long-term stability and well-being.

As SCA continues expanding collaborative approaches to community support, the addition of Community Health Worker training reflects the agency's ongoing commitment to strengthening service coordination and improving outcomes for residents throughout Schuylkill County.

Future Focus: CHW

This growing initiative strengthens SCA's capacity to deliver integrated, community-based support that connects housing, food access, and healthcare services for long-term stability across Schuylkill County.

Honoring and Supporting Local Veterans

Inaugural Veterans Resource Fair

In November 2024, Schuylkill Community Action hosted its inaugural Veterans Resource Fair at Alvernia University Pottsville CollegeTowne, bringing together veterans, community organizations, and service providers for a day focused on connection, support, and access to resources.

The event welcomed more than 45 veterans and featured over 30 organizations offering information and assistance related to healthcare, housing, employment, financial stability, veteran benefits, and supportive services. Educational presentations throughout the day provided attendees with valuable information on topics including financial literacy, identity theft prevention, veteran-focused agricultural programs, and other community resources.

More than an information-sharing event, the Veterans Resource Fair created opportunities for veterans to connect directly with service providers, ask questions, and learn about programs available to support their long-term well-being. The success of the inaugural fair established a strong foundation for future events, leading to a second Veterans Resource Fair in 2025 and continued plans to provide this annual opportunity for veterans and their families throughout Schuylkill County.

45+

Veterans
Attended

15

Educational
Presentations

30+

Organizations &
Service Providers



Veterans connected directly with community organizations and service providers offering information, assistance, and support resources.



Looking Ahead

Building on the success of the inaugural Veterans Resource Fair, SCA remains committed to creating opportunities that connect veterans with resources, services, and community support. The event has continued beyond its first year and is planned to remain an annual initiative serving veterans and their families throughout Schuylkill County.

Catholic Charities provided complimentary lunches for veterans and participating agencies at the event.

Community Engagement & Recognition

CAAP Staff Recognition Awards

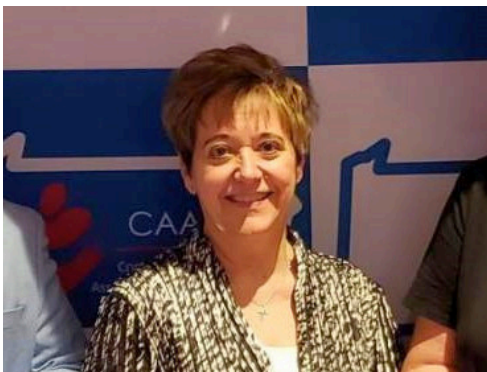
In October 2024, three Schuylkill Community Action staff members were honored during the Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP) Conference in Lancaster for their outstanding contributions to both the agency and the broader community.



Dave Young

Chief Executive Officer

Chief Executive Officer Dave Young received the Community Action Excellence Award in recognition of his leadership and dedication to the Community Action mission.



Lisa Grigalonis

Financial Education Coach

Financial Education Coach Lisa Grigalonis received the CAAP Impactful Educator Award for her work empowering community members through financial literacy education and outreach efforts.



Theresa Yurkonis

Chief Financial Officer

Chief Financial Officer Theresa Yurkonis was presented with the Dependable Difference Maker Award for her exceptional behind-the-scenes leadership and commitment to supporting agency operations.

These awards reflect the dedication and commitment of SCA staff to strengthening communities and creating positive change throughout Schuylkill County.

Celebrating the Volunteers Behind the Mission



In September 2024, Schuylkill Community Action proudly reintroduced the Schuylkill Food Network Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, recognizing the more than 400 volunteers whose dedication and compassion help make food distribution efforts possible throughout Schuylkill County.

Community Volunteers at the Heart of the Mission

- ✓ 400+ volunteers engaged
- ✓ Annual volunteer appreciation banquet held
- ✓ Continued support across 21 pantry sites



Held at the Blu Tavern Restaurant & Motel, the event brought together volunteers, community leaders, and agency staff to celebrate the individuals who support pantry operations, food distributions, packing events, and countless behind-the-scenes efforts throughout the year.

The banquet served as a meaningful reminder that the strength of the Schuylkill Food Network is built upon community collaboration, generosity, and a shared commitment to helping neighbors in need.

Get Involved

SCA is always seeking volunteers to support food distribution, community outreach, fundraising events, and seasonal initiatives across Schuylkill County.

- Volunteer at food packing and distribution events
- Support community outreach programs
- Assist with fundraising events and initiatives

Contact us or visit our website to learn more about how to get involved.

Board of Directors & Agency Leadership

Schuylkill Community Action is governed by a 21-member Board of Directors representing the public sector, private sector, and low-income community. This tripartite structure ensures diverse community perspectives guide agency decision-making.

Public Sector <hr/> $\frac{1}{3}$ of Board	Private Sector <hr/> $\frac{1}{3}$ of Board	Low-Income Representatives <hr/> $\frac{1}{3}$ of Board
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Board of Directors

Officers

- MaryBeth Dougherty, President
(Representative for David Argall)
- Norm Zwolenik, Vice President
- John Consugar, Treasurer
- Mary Ann Dragna, Secretary
(Representative for Tom Smith)

Members

- Amy Wahalec
- Barron "Boots" Hetherington
- Dan Lynch
- Dave Sickle
- David Argall
- Gary Hess
- Frank Mahoney
- Jeanette Triano Sinn
- John Patton
- Julia Fisher
- Larry Padora
- Rhonda Weaver
- Rich Stianche
- Sarah Donohue
- Shawn Butler
- Shawn Frankenstein
- Susan Long
- Tom Smith
- Trudy Umholtz

Agency Leadership

Executive Leadership

- David Young, Chief Executive Officer
- Jennifer Slifka, Chief Operating Officer
- Theresa Yurkonis, Chief Financial Officer

Program and Administrative Leadership

- Andrea Slotterback, Director of Housing and Community Development
- Erin Muldowney, Executive Assistant
- Kathryn Spofford, Director of Planning
- Liz Rosa, Director of Case Management
- Richard Bigg, Director of Strategic Initiatives
- Terry Sadusky, Director of Weatherization

Working Together to Strengthen Schuylkill County

Schuylkill Community Action is grateful for the dedicated staff, volunteers, community partners, funders, and supporters who help make our work possible. Through collaboration and shared commitment, we continue to create opportunities, strengthen communities, and improve lives throughout Schuylkill County.



**SCHUYLKILL COMMUNITY
ACTION**

Administrative Office

206 North 2nd Street
Pottsville, PA 17901



This publication is financed, in part, by a Community Services Block Grant from the PA Department of Community and Economic Development.

Contact Schuylkill Community Action

Administrative Office

206 N. 2nd St., Pottsville, PA 17901
Telephone: (570) 622-1995
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4 PM

Main Program Office

225 N. Centre St., Pottsville, PA 17901
Telephone: (570) 622-1995
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4 PM

Bridge House Office

400 N. 7th St., Pottsville, PA 17901
Telephone: (570) 624-7764
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4 PM

Schuylkill Food Network

200 N. 2nd St., Pottsville, PA 17901
Telephone: (570) 622-1995
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4 PM

Weatherization Office

500 N. Centre St., Suite 102, Pottsville, PA 17901
Telephone: (570) 622-1995
Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 AM-5 PM

Outreach Office - Mahanoy City

1 W. Centre St., 3rd Floor, Mahanoy City, PA 17948
(Office of Senator Argall)
Telephone: (570) 516-6119
Hours: 2nd Wednesday of Each Month, 9 AM-4 PM

Outreach Office - Tamaqua

20 Mauch Chunk St., Tamaqua, PA 18252
(Tamaqua Financial Opportunity Center)
Telephone: (570) 516-6119
Hours: Thursday & Friday, 8 AM-4 PM



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