

Community Action of Orleans & Genesee

Action News

Volume 5, Issue 2: Spring/Summer, 2011

Our Mission: "To Provide Services, with Dignity and Respect, that Help People Become Self-Sufficient."

Summer is anything but a 'break' at Community Action



School may be out, but exciting things are still happening at Community Action of Orleans and Genesee all summer long!



Surplus Food Distributions are scheduled for 11am-3pm on August 3rd, and September 14th at the Genesee County Fairgrounds (Kennedy Building, East Main Street, Batavia). These distributions are for Genesee County Residents only and require an I.D., proof of income, proof of residence, and bags/boxes to carry food.

The Children's Carnival is on Friday, July 15th (10am-2pm) at Bullard Park in Albion.

There will be games, prizes, educational materials, food, and information for parents who are interested in our Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Children of all ages and their families are invited to attend!



Community Action Angels Annual Golf Tournament is Sunday, August 7th at Hickory Ridge Golf Course (in Holley). Opportunities to sponsor, donate, volunteer, or golf are available! For more information, call Annette at 585-589-5605.

The Holley Youth Center (75 Public Square) has daily events happening all summer, Monday - Thursday 2:30 - 5pm. It's a safe, fun place for kids (ages 11-18) to participate in educational and fun activities, hang out with friends, and enjoy a healthy snack.



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www.caoginc.org



A Message from the Executive Director: Edward Fancher



Greetings! After a long, cold winter and very rainy spring, I hope you are looking forward to summer as much as we are here at Community Action!

Our annual Community Appreciation Luncheon was a huge success this year with 180 guests in attendance at the Elba Fire Hall in Genesee County. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those customers who shared their inspirational stories of how our Agency has assisted them in various ways. One of our Genesee County Emergency Services customers, had this to say: "I can't begin to explain the depth of my gratitude for Community Action of Orleans and Genesee. The women in Genesee County have been wonderful, supportive, friends. I am a survivor of domestic violence and with their support I got the motivation to leave that situation. The staff and volunteers at Community Action motivated me to pursue my dream to write poetry and I wrote a poem for the 2009 NYS Fine Arts Recovery Festival and I won!" (To view the poem "This Pathway", visit our website.) It's stories like these that prove our Agency's success through the hard work of our dedicated employees and volunteers. Our luncheon also honored Community Action "Angels" who have volunteered in many ways at the Agency. Thank you to those who have given their time and/or donations, it is very much appreciated.

Our 2010 Annual Report and list of donors and advisory boards have been published and are available for viewing online at <http://www.caoginc.org/resources/publications/>. Also, please notice the updates and improvements to our website; we now have a Facebook page and a Twitter account as well as a full calendar of events. Thank you to our donors and those who serve on our advisory boards. We currently have two vacancies on our Board of Directors, please see page five for more information. Enjoy the summer!

Summer 2011 Calendar		
June	August	September
<p>20th - Board Meeting</p>	<p>3rd - Surplus Food Distribution (Genesee County)</p>	<p>5th - Agency Closed</p>
July	<p>4th, 18th, 25th - "Stuff the Bus" @ Wal-mart in Batavia (11am-3pm)</p>	<p>14th - Surplus Food Distribution (Genesee County)</p>
<p>4th - Agency Closed</p> <p>15th - Children's Carnival @ Bullard Park (Albion)</p> <p>TBA - Surplus Food Distribution (Orleans County)</p>	<p>7th - Community Action Angels Golf Tournament @ Hickory Ridge (Holley)</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>TBA - Surplus Food Distribution (Orleans County)</p> <p style="color: red; font-weight: bold;">For more information about Agency events, visit: www.caoginc.org and click on the "calendar" tab.</p>

Check out the new features at the Community Action of Orleans and Genesee website! We now have a Twitter and a Facebook account to keep you informed and up to date about Agency news and events. Find ways to volunteer, and donate. Log onto: www.caoginc.org.





Disability Employment Initiative



Community Action has received funding from the GLOW WIB (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming Workforce Investment Board) to operate the Disability Employment Initiative (DEI). This program replaces the former Disability Program Navigator (DPN) that ended in August, 2010. Community Action has contracted with the GLOW WIB in the past to provide services such as the National Emergency Grant and the Disability Program Navigator position. The DEI program goals and outcomes are to improve coordination and collaboration among employment training and asset development programs implemented at state and local levels, and build effective community partnerships that leverage public and private resources to better serve individuals with disabilities and improve employment outcomes. These goals and outcomes are very similar to the DPN.

The Disability Resource Coordinator (DRC) is part of a network of Case Management professionals at Community Action that share information and training. The Director of Community Services in Genesee County, Sue Rigoni, will oversee the Disability Resource Coordinator position and manage the Disability Employ-

ment Initiative in both Genesee and Orleans Counties.

Jennifer Forward (former DPN) is now the Community Action Disability Resource Coordinator in both Genesee and Orleans Counties. She answered some questions about the new program;

Q: How will these services be offered?

A: These services will be provided in partnership with the Department of Labor's

One-Stop Centers and a network of local employers and partner agencies.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has awarded funding to nine states under the DEI to improve education, training, and employment opportunities and out-

comes of youth and adults who are unemployed, underemployed, and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. The DEI is jointly funded and administered by the U.S. DOL's Employment and Training Administration and the Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Q: What do DEI projects do?

A: DEI Projects build upon the Disability Program Navigator initiative and hire staff to serve as Disability Resource Coordinators. DEI Projects will also support extensive partnerships, collaboration and service



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coordination across multiple workforces, generic, and disability systems in each state. These involve state vocational rehabilitation agencies, mental health and developmental disability agencies, Medicaid Infrastructure Grant-supported activities, independent living centers, business leadership networks, and other community-based and nonprofit organizations.

Q: What do DEI projects focus on?

A: DEI services will focus primarily upon providing assistance to County residents with disabilities in finding employment, workforce training or disability programming (e.g. SSI, SSD, etc.) through a DRC. DEI Projects focus on either adults or youth in order to develop and refine replicable models. A key element of the DEI is expanding the workforce investment system's capacity to serve as Employment Networks for beneficiaries under the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work program. An independent evaluation will be conducted using quantitative and qualitative data from grantees. The National Disability Institute is the Technical Assistance Center for the DEI.

Q: How can customers obtain this service?

A: Usually customer appointments are set up at the One Stop locations in Genesee or Orleans counties. However, if this poses a problem I can make other arrangements. Contact me directly at **585-409-9723** and please leave as much detailed information as possible so I can be prepared ahead of time.

Board Member Profile:

Bill Privett



How long have you been serving on the board? One year.

What is your favorite part of serving on the board? "It's a delight for me to be a part of Community Action and be able to participate as best I can with my heartfelt commitment to alleviate the struggle of lower-income people. I'm thrilled to be with the group. I was involved in the field at the national level and I wanted to become engaged at the local level. I met Lisa Wittmeyer and I was very impressed with her personality and commitment to Community Action. I met with her, worked with her, and I wanted to be associated with the agency she worked for. I've met some really wonderful people at Community Action, especially at the Luncheon. I was really moved by the customer stories; the people we serve. I

also enjoy working with Ed and Tina, it's very rewarding."

Little known facts: Bill is the Moderator of "Peaceful Genesee," a partnership of faith groups, non profits, government agencies, and people trying to create a more peaceful community, and the former Chief of Financial Operations for Community Action at the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C. He is also: a former co-chair person of the Interfaith Peace Network for WNY, the Regional Coordinator for "Pax Christi" National Catholic Peace Movement, the former Associate Director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, and the former Executive Director of an agency serving individuals with disabilities in central New York.

Anything more to add? Bill lives in Pembroke, has six sons, 10 grandchildren, enjoys gardening, is a Bills fan "mournfully," and visited Privett, England this past fall.

News

National Grid Consumer Advocate Carl Pawlak, will be at Community Action of Orleans & Genesee (Batavia site) every 3rd Wednesday of the month (until further notice). Carl is available to clients for consultation on payment agreements, financial statements, energy use management, bill comparisons with energy service companies and general information on how to save money and conserve energy. No appointment is necessary; if you wish to call ahead, call Carl at **716-673-7279** with any inquiries.



“Stuff the Bus” in Genesee County will be at Wal-Mart from **11am-3pm on August 4th, 18th and 25th**. Look for the Head Start School bus and donate new school supplies for needy children in the community. Families may apply at the Salvation Army in Batavia, July 1st-31st. Call **343-6284** for more information.

The Board of Directors needs two residents of the community to join the Board. The present vacancies are for community residents who are economically disadvantaged residing in Genesee or Orleans Counties. There will be a public meeting at the Community Action Center in **Batavia on Monday, July 25th, at 5:30pm and in Albion on Monday August 29th, at 5:30pm**. If you are interested in becoming a Board Member please plan to attend a meeting. For more information, call Ed at 585-589-5605, 8am - 4:30pm, Mon-Fri.

Recent Events

Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Auction at Albion First Baptist Church raised **\$1,180** to benefit Community Action and Diabetes.

Empty Bowls Event presented by Albion Middle School art students raised **\$1,310** to benefit the Community Action food pantry. Participants received a student-made pottery bowl, soup for dinner, and learned from a student led service-learning program about hunger in our community. This event served as a reminder that many people live with empty bowls and a lack of food every day.



Cabaret! The Community Action Angels of Genesee County raised **\$1,740** to help support the Angels Crisis Fund. The event featured performances by: Encore! Theater Arts, the Blue Belles, and The Bataviators. This event was sponsored by Community Action Angels of Genesee County and St. James Restoration Committee.

Easter Egg Hunt Over **300** children hunted for Easter eggs at The American Legion in Albion! Children met the Easter Bunny, participated in coloring and jellybean contests, and snacked on refreshments. Many thanks to the Salvation Army, the American Legion Masons, and many volunteers who made this event possible!

Night of Entertainment attracted **200** people and raised **\$1,600** this year to help support the Community Action Angels “Mending Homes Together Program” in Orleans County. The event featured Cris Johnson’s Comedy Hypnosis Show, music by “Perifial Vision,” and food by Clor’s Meat Market.

Job Fair This year’s job fair at the Calvary Tabernacle Church in Medina had a very successful turnout with almost **250** job seekers and **11** vendors. This event was sponsored by Career Ventures of The Arc of Orleans County and Community Action.

Community Action Luncheon hosted **180** people! Community Action Volunteers received awards for their service and customers spoke about their positive experiences with the Agency.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered, donated, and/or attended these events!

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*** RECRUITING * RECRUITING * RECRUITING ***

It's that time of year again!

Community Action of Orleans & Genesee Head Start program is now recruiting children, birth to five, for the 2011-2012 Program Year at the Albion, Kendall, Batavia and Medina Sites. To enroll your child, you will need a birth certificate or benefits card and proof of income. Visit the site any time or call Albion/Kendall at 589-7097, Batavia at 343-5917, or Medina at 798-2261 for an appointment. We provide child and family development including meals and transportation (where available) to children enrolled in our educational program. Head Start also provides services to eligible children and families without regard to race, gender, ethnicity and/or disability.



Thumbs Up!
For "Sun Safe Kids"



Thumbs Up! For "Sun Safe Kids"

Community Action Angels are collecting sun protection products (sunglasses or sunscreen) to distribute to children. Help us keep children in our communities SUN SAFE this summer! Please drop off donations during business hours at 409 East State Street in Albion, or 5073 Clinton Street Road in Batavia.

Let the experienced staff at Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) assist you in meeting your childcare needs. CCR&R provides information about childcare openings and resources in your community that meet your individual needs. Call today and let us make your search for day care easy for you!



NEW!

The Affordable Housing Corporation (AHC) Home Improvement Program.

This program helps low-income homeowners pay for repairs to their homes. Examples of eligible repairs include; structural problems (foundations, chimneys), roofing, doors and windows, and electrical, plumbing and heating systems.

NEW!

Homeowners insurance and property taxes must be paid current. Homeowner is required to maintain occupancy for 2-15 years (depending on amount of assistance provided, secured by lien on property). For more information, please call the weatherization department in Genesee County at 585-343-7798 or Orleans County at 585-589-5605.



Available Services

Emergency Services and Family Development

Food pantry, clothing, advocacy and referrals
Genesee County, Batavia – (585) 343-7798
Orleans County, Albion – (585) 589-5605
Holley – (585) 638-6395

RESTORE

Corrects housing conditions for low-income elderly homeowners
Genesee County: (585) 343-7798
Orleans County: (585) 589-5605

CCR&R

Child Care Resource and Referral

Serves the needs of child care providers and assists parents in finding care
Genesee County: (585) 343-7727
Orleans County: (585) 589-5088

Community Action Angels

Assistance regardless of income based on a network of volunteers and events
Genesee County: (585) 343-7798
Orleans County: (585) 589-5605

Head Start (Birth to Five)

Educational and comprehensive services for children ages birth to five, and their families
Genesee County: (585) 343-5917
Orleans County: (585) 589-5683

ACT

Helping Youth ACT Responsibly

Teen pregnancy prevention education
Genesee and Orleans Counties:
(585) 589-5754

Weatherization

Provides energy audits and assistance to help reduce utility costs of low-income residents
Genesee County: (585) 343-7798
Orleans County: (585) 589-5605

HEAP / EP

Home Energy Assistance Program / Energy Packaging

Home heating application assistance, energy saving education, and consultation
Genesee County: (585) 344-7798 ext. 15

The Main Street Store

Educational opportunities, thrift store, community computers, tutoring and job readiness workshops
Orleans County: (585) 589-1430

C.A.T.S.

Community Action Transportation System

General transportation for seniors
Genesee County (585) 343-3735
Orleans County (585) 589-7700

Eastern Orleans Community Center

Multi-generational center, soup kitchen, after school youth program, and emergency services
Orleans County: (585) 638-6395

Disability Employment Initiative

Connects disabled individuals to community resources
Genesee and Orleans Counties:
(585) 409-9723

Community Action of Orleans & Genesee

Community Action of Orleans & Genesee operates a multi-purpose human service agency.

Community Action brings together local citizens, including low-income persons, to provide the community with a voice regarding the opportunities that will best help all of their members to be self-sufficient and productive and to contribute to community life. We

work in collaboration with a number of human service agencies to provide our communities and their residents with programs that help local citizens become self-sufficient.

Come and be a part of Community Action!



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