

INSIDE OUT



**To Provide Services, with Dignity
and Respect, That Help People
Become Self-Sufficient.**

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN \$ 20.00 – Read on to find out how \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Executive Director's Update:

- Thank you for helping to make 2011 another successful year at Community Action! Our agency, like other non-profit and governmental service providers, has definitely felt the impact of the economic downturn and the resulting serious budget challenges at all levels of government. We have made numerous adjustments to “live within our means.” The economy is making a comeback, at least for corporate America. In theory at least, increased economic activity will help to relieve the pressures on government budgets. However, this will take some time and the recovery has not been exactly robust, so we expect to continue to see a difficult funding environment.
- As you may recall, last year the President proposed a 50% cut to CSBG (Community Services Block Grant) funding. CSBG funding is the “core” of Community Action and, for our agency, funds many of our direct services including: Emergency Services, Eastern Orleans Community Center, Family Development, After School program, and supports many volunteer efforts such as Community Action Angels. CSBG also supports all of our programs by providing planning, reporting, technology, training, program development, etc. etc. The good news – in the final budget passed by Congress (and signed by the President), CSBG was funded at virtually the same amount as 2011. Congress clearly heard our message of how important CSBG is to local communities. Unfortunately, in the recent budget proposal for the next Federal budget year, the President has again proposed the same 50% cut. We will again call on Congress to restore the funding. Proposed funding for Head Start and other programs (except CSBG and Weatherization) for next year appears stable.
- The funding for our Weatherization program has not fared well in the President’s budget proposal either. Funding through the Dept. of Energy was significantly reduced this year and is proposed to be reduced next year. Fortunately, many States had not spent last year’s funding, so we think (should know within the next few days) that funding for this year will be adequate. Congratulations to our Weatherization program for exceeding the production goals under the ARRA (“stimulus”) funded program! As a result, over 200 households (in addition to our “regular” funded program) have received the lasting benefits of lower energy bills!
- We (along with 101 other programs across America) have received notice that we will be required to re-compete for our Head Start and Early Head Start grant funding. Head Start and Early Head Start are listed separately on the “grants forecast” website. The estimated release date on grants.gov is 3/23/12 with an application due date of 5/22/12. If these timeframes hold, we expect we have the results of our application by the end of 2012. This process is naturally creating anxiety among agency/program staff as well as an abundance of extra work to respond to the RFP. We ask that, as much as possible, staff remain focused on providing top quality service and meeting all the program requirements. Responding to the RFP will, of course, be a top priority for me and Bonnie as well as others in the management team. We don’t know who our competition will be, but from my perspective it doesn’t really matter. Our task is to submit a proposal that clearly demonstrates that we are the most qualified agency to provide Head Start services. I have absolutely no doubt that we are, and that will come through clearly in our proposal. We are in the process of enlisting the support of two retired high level officials from the Head Start regional office (Arthur Elkin and Matthew Schottenfeld) to help us make sure our proposal is “Top Notch”. **I have total confidence that we will prevail in this challenge!** Eventually, I expect that this process will be the “norm” for Head Start (and other) programs.

- March 30th will be our annual spring in-service, help at Oak Orchard Assembly of God church (12111 Ridge Road, Medina). Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit a nomination form for our annual staff awards! We have arranged to provide transportation to/from the in-service from the Albion, Medina, and Batavia locations. Mileage reimbursement will be permitted only if you have a valid reason for not taking the bus. You should receive further details regarding bus times from your site coordinator or supervisor. You will have the opportunity in the very near future to sign up for the breakout sessions that are of greatest interest to you (hopefully through survey monkey). Watch for the email!
- Congratulations to Annette and all the volunteers on another successful Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign, raising over \$25,000. Thanks go out to Grace Denniston (Chairperson of our Board of Directors) for coordinating the efforts of the MANY volunteers. Thanks go out to Amy and Becky for helping to count the donations and to all employees who took the time out of their busy schedules to ring the bell. Through our partnership with Salvation Army, these funds are available to our agency to provide critical emergency services to customers in Orleans County.
- I'm very happy to announce the approval by State Dept. of Labor of our application for training funding for unemployed workers! This funding will allow the Main Street Store to provide job training that will result in employment outcomes for customers.
- I'm also pleased to report that we have been successful again in our grant application for RESTORE funding. This program provides emergency home repairs for low income senior citizens. This year the program is available only in Genesee County. We're already working on our applications for next year; hopefully we'll be able to include Orleans again.

REMINDER – ANNUAL IN-SERVICE

Friday, March 30, 2012 – Registration begins at 8:30 AM
Oak Orchard Assembly of God
12111 Ridge Road
Medina

Talk to your supervisor about transportation

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

October – November - December

Jan Albanese
 Carl Fields
 Ruth Higgins
 Darlene Klineline
 Sam Seager
 Nate Varland
 Joann Zajackowski

Virgie Brooks
 Janet Foppes
 Linda Karp
 Kim Miller
 Angel Slick
 James Willis

Leanne Donovan
 Jennifer Forward
 Cheryl Kent
 Kari Powers
 Sally Snider
 Donna Woodworth

Alana Fabry
 Kim Gloskowski
 Amy Kingsbury
 Chris Schuster
 Kim Sucrese
 Heidi Wyant

EASTERN ORLEANS COMMUNITY CENTER

At the Holley Community Center, Maudie Mae's Kitchen serves lunch Monday through Friday at 11:30am. A great game of Bingo, where everyone is a winner, is available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 12pm. Coffee is served throughout the day. All are welcome to come enjoy lunch and socialize with us.

Please come check us out! Tell your friends!

CALENDER OF EVENTS

March 14 –Hosting annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner - GREAT Corn Beef and Cabbage at lunch time.

Please feel free to stop in for the great meal and the festivities.

April 9 - Hosting a homemade Easter Dinner - Ham, Mashed Potatoes, and Corn. Join in on the fun and great food!

See you soon!



While the weather has been cold and dreary outside, the kids at EOCC's Youth Center have enjoyed warmth and creativity inside the Holley Community Center.

Stockham's Lumber of Holley recently donated materials for the youth to build African drum boxes (Cajon drums). Chad Fabry donated his afternoon and experience helping 9 of our youth carefully build their musical instruments. Deb Rothmund, Mary Furness, Leanne Serrato, and Alana Fabry stood by to ensure there were no musical mishaps. The project kept the kids busy for many wintry days, as they enjoyed painting and learning to play their Cajons. Bruce Stafford and Chaplin Fabry donated their time and talent as musicians, leading the youth in dynamic drum circle concerts.

The youth have also been writing and reading poetry this month. One of our poetry exercises was to "write a mini memoir, describing your life story in 6 or less words." Hannah Day, touched all of us with her memoir and play on words: "*Growing from fears to fierce.*" This concise line clarifies our mission at the youth center to create a safe, caring, and creative environment for our kids to grow confidence and well-being.

The Holley Youth are pleased to have Leanne Serrato, AmeriCops volunteer, assisting twice a week. Leanne is energetic and has some great projects planned. She will help the kids organize their very own portfolios in March. She will also be teaching us about eco-friendly agricultural practices and talk about where our food is produced.

The Holley Youth Center has been operating since the summer of 2009. We are consistently growing and looking for new adult volunteers. If you have a skill or knowledge to share, our kids need you! Please call (585)-638-6395.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Debbie Rothmund – EOCC Coordinator



Debbie has worked at Community Action since September 24, 2001. She has been at the Holley Center from that date. She has been promoted to the position vacated by Debbie Whittier as Eastern Orleans Community Center (EOCC) Coordinator.

Congratulations and Good Luck Debbie

What I do here: Emergency Services, Case management, Prepare Menu and Lunch, Order and shop for Pantry and Soup Kitchen, Oversee and ensure the programs at the center run smoothly according to policies and procedures.

Family: I have three children, Jeremy, Joshua, and Annie. I have five grandkids, Sydnie, Gavin, Mckenna, Liana and one on the way!

Favorite food. Spaghetti

Pastime: Spending time with family and friends and going to the beach!!

Favorite Movie: Eat, Pray, Love

Favorite drink: Coffee, Plain Iced Tea

Favorite color: Pink

Favorite place to vacation: Australia, or any place with a beach

Favorite TV Show: Grey's Anatomy and Oprah

Pets: 5 Fish

Dislikes: Mean people

ANNIVERSARIES - JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH

JANUARY

Heidi Wyant – 01/08/1990
Carol Berray – 01/23/1996
MaryAnn Fearby – 01/24/2007
JoAnn Brothers – 01/12/2009
Catherine Lewis – 01/26/2010

Jeff Atwell – 01/29/1991
Michele George – 01/29/2001
Lisa Friesen – 01/07/2008
Joe Jensen – 01/12/2009
Elissa Davies – 01/31/2011

Jan Albanese – 01/01/1996
Nancy Eastlack – 01/03/2006
John Read – 01/05/2009
Stacey Heideman – 01/15/2009

FEBRUARY

Diane Bechteler – 02/19/1991
Carl Fields – 02/12/2008
Bonnie Gilbert – 02/18/2011

Mary Bennett – 02/16/2006
Randi Butz – 02/10/2009

Lesley Payne – 02/01/2007
Alana Fabry – 02/10/2009

MARCH

Sherry Martin – 03/08/1976
Cheryl Cotton – 03/15/2004
Sara Soule – 03/02/2010
Jennifer Forward – 03/21/2011

Freddie Stewart – 03/01/1977
Magali Converso – 03/02/2010
Christine Warren – 03/02/2010

Linda Davis – 03/05/2001
Brittany Merritt – 03/02/2010
Jessica Allen – 03/14/2011

CONGRATULATIONS TO:



Jeff Atwell's son, Jared was 12 yrs old at the time of this competition. Over the summer Jared competed at the NY State Trap and Skeet Championship in Jamesville NY. In the intermediate junior varsity skeet competition he won a 3rd place medal and was on the 1st place intermediate junior varsity skeet team. He won a 2nd place medal in the junior varsity trap shooting event and was on the 1st place junior varsity trap team. Jared also competed at the Scholastic Clay Target Programs Sporting Clays National Competition in Sparta Illinois over the summer of 2011. On July 26th 2011, The Niagara County Legislature issued a proclamation honoring him and his teammates from Niagara County for their accomplishments at the state competition.

NEW STAFF

Lorri Snyder – 01/06/2012– Head Start Janitor – Albion

Lorri lives in Kent and is working in the Albion Head Start classroom cleaning.

Shannon Moscicki – 01/09/2012 – Head Start Teacher - Batavia

Shannon lives in Batavia. She has a daughter, Jennifer who is 22 and married to Michael McDonald and a daughter, Christa who is 12 years old and in the 6th grade. Shannon enjoys singing, reading, exercising and cooking.

Sandra Freeman – 01/24/2012 – Head Start Sub – Medina

Sandra lives in Lyndonville and has 2 children attending Head Start

Nicole Potrubacz – 01/24/2012 – Head Start Sub – Medina

Nicole lives in Medina. She is a 19 year old mother of a 6 week old little girl Anmarie. She loves working with children and the elderly. Most of her free time is spent with her daughter and her family.

Jackie Hilobuk – 01/24/2012 – Head Start Sub – Medina

Jackie lives in Medina and has been married for 16 years to her husband, Jason. They have 3 children, Mikayla (15), Jackson (6) and Katelyn (5). They enjoy the outdoors and take many camping trips in the summer. She loves to read and spend time with her children.

Taylor Piskorowski – 01/24/2012 – Head Start Sub – Medina

Taylor lives in Lyndonville and is part of a big family. She has 2 half sisters, ages 22 and 8 and a stepbrother, age 22. She loves reading and spending time with family and friends. She feels she learned a lot by going to BOCES for Early Childhood Education and was a teacher for 3 and 4 year olds.

Dyllon Soccio – 02/28/2012 – Janitor – Batavia

Dyllon lives in Batavia with his family, Jim Soccio, our weatherization coordinator and his mother Kim. He enjoys making music.

Patricia Swanson – 02/8/2012 – Kitchen Assistant – Batavia

Pat lives in Batavia with her husband, Bob.

The News from Bonnie

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION ACTION TEAM NEWS

The Customer Satisfaction Action Team has not met in recent months due to time and budget issues. However, we are going to be sending out the same Customer Satisfaction Survey for use in all agency programs during the month of April. This will be sent electronically to Supervisors, with instructions. Using the same survey 3 years in a row will help us see any trends or patterns. The stats class from Albion High School will again compile our results and summarize the surveys. We hope to have the results for the next newsletter. According to our previous surveys the agency provides very good Customer Service and we trust this year will bring the same information. Thank you for helping us see how we are doing and what changes need to be made.

The Customer Satisfaction Team is also looking for at least 2 additional members. Please let either one of us know if you are interested in being on this team. Our next meeting will be sometime in the spring. Thank you for remembering that what we do and how we treat others is always important to our customers!

Janet Foppes,
Customer Satisfaction Team Leader

Bonnie Malakie
Team Director

NEED SOMETHING – CALL ACT

ACT has a number of items that we are willing to donate to anyone who can use them. We believe everything works. No guarantees though. The items are old but in good shape.

- * Sharp TV/Monitor 27" – big and heavy.
- * Magnavox VHS player.
- * land line phone.
- * camera – requires 35mm film.
- * 3 sets of old computer speakers.
- * 2 old computer keyboards.
- * heat laminator – occasionally things get caught, but we know a trick (and will share it).
- * MGN Telecorder TV/Monitor 20" – big and heavy.
- * portable phone w/base.
- * small answering machine.
- * paper cutter – blade could use sharpening.
- * 5 old computer mice.
- * cat litter pan.

We just want these items to find a good home -

Please call the **ACT office (589-5754)** to set-up a time to see the items –or- stop by (113 East State Street, Albion) and hope that we're here.

LIFE IS A GREAT BIG CANVAS, THROW ALL THE PAINT ON IT YOU CAN!

Danny Kaye

NATE'S NEWS

Weatherization Completes ARRA!

Over the past two years, the Community Action Weatherization Program has used nearly 1.5 million stimulus dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to weatherize 202 housing units. Our Weatherization staff have worked extremely hard over that time to complete these jobs. Many programs, especially those in other states had trouble completing this work



Beginning in the fall of 2009, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) made \$4.8 billion available to states and community agencies to weatherize nearly 600,000 homes by April 1, 2012. With \$5 billion in Recovery money to add to its ongoing Weatherization Assistance Program, The Department of Energy (DOE) focused on quickly reducing energy waste in low income homes by installing upgrades such as insulation, air-sealing, and more efficient heating and cooling systems. The goal was to weatherize 607,000 homes by March 2012.

DOE announced it had reached that goal in December 2011.

“On average, the program reduces energy consumption for low-income families by up to 35 percent, saving them more than \$400 on their heating and cooling bills in the first year alone,” DOE said. “Nationwide, the weatherization of 600,000 homes is estimated to save more than \$320 million in energy costs in just the first year.”



Weatherization was also the sixth-largest Recovery Act jobs creator in the summer of 2011 with more than 14,000 homebuilding industry workers who would be jobless otherwise.



Over the last couple years, the Weatherization Program at Community Action of Orleans and Genesee has weatherized 332 units (202 ARRA units and 130 total regular Weatherization units in 2010 and 2011). Using national averages, these families will save a total of \$132,800 on their energy bills **each year!** When you see them, congratulate these people for a lot of great Weatherization: Jim Soccio, Cathy Tracy, Jeff Atwell, Larry Lee, Gary Elich, Kenny Pritt, David Laraby, Joey Wright, Randy Newbould, Ricky Standish and Terry Daniels.

How would you like \$ 20.00? SAFETY ACTION TEAM REPORT

During our recent safety meeting the team discussed the high number of compensation claims in 2011 compared to previous years. In 2011 we had 7 comp cases. This will increase our workers compensation insurance premiums significantly. That means we have less resources for other benefits and for the costs of operating our programs. We realize accidents happen, but we all need to be conscious of practicing safe work habits to prevent any accidents we can. In an effort to reduce the number of comp cases, each newsletter will contain information on the most recent incidents (NO NAMES WILL BE MENTIONED) and some tips for that time of year or based on the type of incidents we have had.

You can win a **\$ 20.00 gift card** by making a safety related suggestion that is implemented. Forward any and all constructive safety suggestions you have to the Safety Team Secretary, Diane Bechteler at dbechteler@caoginc.org. Your suggestions will be taken to the Safety Team Meeting – the Team will review them and if we use your suggestion, your name will be put in for a drawing for a **\$ 20.00 gift card**. So, make sure you put your name on your idea!!!

During the month of January 2012 the total number of incidents were 9, 1 burn, 4 involving children, 1 involving the weather, and 3 slips and falls on ice. Hopefully, the “worst” of our winter is over, but probably not so



WALK LIKE A PENGUIN

- In cold temperatures, approach with caution and assume that all wet, dark areas on pavements are slippery and icy. Dew or water vapor can freeze on cold surfaces, forming an extra-thin, nearly invisible layer of ice that can look like a wet spot on the pavement.
- Walk in designated walkways as much as possible. Taking shortcuts over snow piles and other frozen areas can be hazardous. Look ahead when you walk; a snow- or ice-covered sidewalk or driveway, especially if on a hill, may require travel along its grassy edge for traction.
- If you must walk in the street, walk against the flow of traffic, as close to the curb as you can.
- Taking shortcuts through areas where snow and ice removal is not feasible can be hazardous. Try to avoid straying from the beaten path.

Point Your Feet Out Slightly Like a Penguin

- Spreading your feet out slightly while walking on ice increases your center of gravity.
- Bend slightly and walk flat-footed with your center of gravity directly over the feet as much as possible.
- Extend your arms out to your sides to maintain balance. Beware if you are carrying a heavy backpack or other load—your sense of balance will be off. If you must carry a load, try not to carry too much; leave your hands and arms free to balance yourself.
- Keep your hands out of your pockets. Hands in your pockets while walking decreases your center of gravity and balance. You can help break your fall with your hands free if you do start to slip.
- **Watch where you are stepping and GO S-L-O-W-L-Y!! This will help your reaction time to changes in traction.**
- When walking on steps, always use the hand railings and plant your feet firmly on each step.
- **Use special care when entering and exiting vehicles; use the vehicle for support.**
- **Take short steps or shuffle for stability. It also helps to stop occasionally to break momentum.**

Genesee County Buzz

HEAP- HEAP

There is still time to get a Heap Benefit! Heap is open until March 16th. There is one regular and one emergency benefit this year for Heap. If you know anyone who has not applied yet, and meets the income guidelines, please tell them to call Debbie or Kim at 343-7798 to get a Heap Application. After an application is filled out and paperwork is submitted, we can do a phone interview with the client so they can do the interview in the comfort of their own home.

If you have already received the REGULAR HEAP benefit there is a an added benefit of \$ 150.00 supplemental benefit that you will receive.....you do not need to do anything, it will be done for you automatically.

SURPLUS FOOD DISTRIBUTION

- WHEN:** April 18.....June 6.....August 1
- WHERE:** Genesee County Fairgrounds.....Kennedy Building.....
East Main Street.....Batavia
11:00 A.M. until gone (Genesee County Residents)
- BRING:** I.D.Proof of Income.....Proof of Residence.....Bags

*E*mployee *A*ssistance *P*rogram

This is a program that is available to all part time and full time employees and their families. The Employee Assistance Program is a very valuable benefit that we have here at Community Action of Orleans & Genesee, Inc. Most of you are probably not even aware of the access we have to this helpful service. This service can help with so many daily issues, or what some people refer to as life issues. If you are having problems with juggling family & work, marital problems, depression or just need some support to make some changes in your life, this service is there for you to help with these frustrations.

CALL 1-800-451-3281 for help
REMINDER – THIS IS A CONFIDENTIAL PROGRAM

"Adopting the right attitude can convert a negative stress into a positive one.
-Hans Selye



The Main Street Store

585-589-1430



HUGE SUPER WINTER CLEARANCE

Only \$1.99 clothing and shoes sale



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

JOB SEARCHES
RESUMES
COVER LETTERS
JOB SKILLS TRAINING
WORK EXPERIENCE

Let Your Family and Friends know that we can help!

Announcing

*The 4th Annual Chinese Auction
to benefit the
Community Action Goodwill Fund.*

Where: At the Community Action Spring In-Service at the Assembly of God in
Albion

When: March 30, 2012

Raffle tickets for gift baskets will be on sale for
\$3 for a whole sheet!

Plus,
two special prizes will be raffled off at just \$1 a ticket!

- > 50/50 Raffle <
- > \$50 Lottery Card Tree <

You don't have to be a Goodwill member to participate,
so, come to the In-Service prepared to have some fun,
and try for some great prizes!

All baskets are generously donated by
Community Action employees. Proceeds will go to the Goodwill Fund so that we are more able to lift
the spirits of members who are experiencing rough times
and help celebrate the joyous occasions in their lives.