

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **Community Action Partnership receives Best Practices recognition from state association, OSU**

**February 22, 2011**

**CONTACT:**

John Bennett  
(937) 341-5000 ext. 128

Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area (CAP) received two Best Practices in Community Action Awards from the state Community Action Association and its partners. The Foreclosure Prevention Program in Montgomery County and the HOPE Café Program in Greene County were recognized.

The two programs were among 11 programs at eight different Community Action Agencies recognized by the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA) and the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University. The presentations occurred during OACAA's 2011 Winter Legislative Conference.

The Best Practices Awards honor innovative and effective Community Action Agency programs that meet the needs of clients, families and communities by helping low-income people become more self-sufficient. The awards are a showcase for unique Community Action Agency efforts that make a measurable and life-changing difference.

Community Action Partnership (CAP) began its Foreclosure Prevention Program in 2007 in response to high foreclosure filing rates in Dayton and Montgomery County. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development certifies CAP as an Approved Housing Counseling Agency.

The agency's strategies in working with homeowners include loan modification, loan forbearance, deed in lieu, sale, and short sale.

"The housing staff has revised the foreclosure counseling process to better accommodate homeowners," said Willie J. Harris, Director of Housing Counseling and Development for the Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area. "We use a triage system when dealing with mortgages that are delinquent, in default or facing eminent foreclosure or sheriff's sale. Staff is also trained in specific programs for unemployed workers."

The Foreclosure Prevention Program has served 1,400 low-income homeowners and has a 75 percent success rate in curing homeowners' foreclosure crises. By preventing foreclosures and blight, homeowners are now more directly involved in the community and their particular neighborhood.

In Greene County, the HOPE (Helping Others Prepare for Employment) Café offers paid training and apprenticeships in catering, food service and meal preparation to homeless adults participating in a Greene County transitional housing or shelter program. Training is conducted at CAP's commercial kitchen in Xenia.

In addition to training in culinary and catering skills, the program includes instruction and mentoring in interview skills, appropriate dress, interpersonal skills, customer relations, time management and financial management. Since the program began in September 2009, ten people became apprentices and six obtained full-time jobs.

###



**EDITORS:** Here is a cutline for the above photograph: The Community Action Partnership Foreclosure Prevention Program

received a Best Practices in Community Action Award. Staff members receiving the award in Columbus are (L-R): Kevin Foreman, Michele Caldwell, Willie Harris, Vicki Rish and Wendy Carter.