

PRESS RELEASE

Agency Brings New Hope

Community Action Partnership to hold Annual Meeting and Luncheon
Thursday, April 16

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Community Action Partnership in Greene County will use some of the government's stimulus funds to bring a new hope to our community. We are excited to ignite the HOPE (Helping Others Prepare for Employment) Café, a new employment training program and catering service to residents and businesses throughout the county. The HOPE Café training program, whose vision is "striving toward self-sufficiency through mentoring, training and employment," began July 30.

"The HOPE Café targets individuals participating in homeless and transitional housing programs in Greene County. We will provide valuable training in proper interviewing skills, dressing for success, interpersonal skills and customer relations, while focusing on specific training in culinary and catering services," explained Greene County Director, Gale Hutchinson.

The ultimate goal is to equip all participants with the skills necessary to gain full-time employment through hands on training, and to provide a "home-grown" catering service to the community.

Four apprentices have been chosen from Community Action Partnership's Harding Place Transitional Housing Program to start the eight week program. Participants begin the eight weeks

with orientation. They then move into our agency's commercial kitchen, where apprentices will shadow the Cook I and II, Kitchen Aide and Dishwasher positions. All apprentices will be supervised by an on-site manager, as well as our head cook, Bonnie Owens.

In addition to preparing participants for the workforce, HOPE Café affords the agency an opportunity to serve the Greene County community. "We are excited to move our first group through the program by September 30, so that we may begin serving an abbreviated menu to area customers", Hutchinson shared. "By November 1 we plan to offer full catering services, with at least 12 HOPE Café graduates on staff!"

An open house is planned for Friday, September 18 from noon until 2 p.m. at 1855 Bellbrook Rd. (Greene County Office). Get ready to embrace the HOPE Café by ordering a meal or allowing the staff to cater your next event! For more information, please contact 937-376-7747.

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