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October is Weatherization Month!

Learn more about how you can make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with our home weatherization services! Contact us at (937) 341-5000 (Montgomery County) or 1-800-617-2673 (outside Montgomery County) for more information.

Tim Donnellan Passes the Gavel National CAP Convention a Success



John Edwards and John T. Donnellan
From One Leader to Another

At the National Community Action Partnership's recent Annual Convention in Chicago, President & CEO Tim Donnellan presided over his final convention after four years as the National Board Chair. As if being Board Chair wasn't demanding enough, Mr. Donnellan also served as the National Agency's Acting President for two years before the hiring of current President & CEO, Don Mathis.

Mr. Donnellan balanced his many responsibilities by "having good folks here and good folks there." He always felt the counties in the Greater Dayton Service Area were covered thanks to strong leadership, staff, and boards. The same is true for the national organization, which Mr. Donnellan believes will continue under the leadership of his successor, John Edwards, and Mathis.

"Membership is showing an upturn," Mr. Donnellan says. "We have a very positive relationship with the National Community Action Foundation. Don Mathis is reaching out to many, many people at the national level who are our natural allies, and that's the first time that's happened."

Though modest about his own achievements, Mr. Donnellan also played a key role in strengthening ties with the AARP, the Center for Social Inclusion, the Center for Community Futures, the Coalition on Human Needs and many other allies who are working to increase awareness of poverty in America.

"The issues of low-income folks are back on the radar screen," says Mr. Donnellan. "Whoever the President is will have to deal with that. That's a very positive sign for us."

He is also optimistic about the future of the Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area.

"Our agency is growing in creative and positive ways. We still have strong board leadership. There's no question about it."

Ohio Benefit Bank Available at the Agency



Visit www.obb.ohio.gov for more information

There are a number of programs and services available throughout the state to support low to moderate income families. Unfortunately, many are often unaware of these services. Thankfully, Ohio's Benefit Bank has been created to help. The Ohio Benefit Bank is a free, web-based computer software program that simplifies the process of applying for programs families need to be healthy and secure.

Programs available through the "one-stop shop" style Ohio Benefit Bank include: The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP); Food Stamps; Child Care Subsidy; tax filing assistance, including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); and health coverage for uninsured children, pregnant women and their families.

Community Action Partnership is pleased to have computers and trained staff at each of our county offices to assist individuals and families with navigating the Ohio Benefit Bank site. We are able to help convert complex eligibility requirements for benefits into easy-to-answer-questions.

To learn more about the Ohio Benefit Bank or for assistance, please contact the Community Action Partnership Office in your community (see page 8 for contact information).

Strengthening Our Work Environment

Community Action Partnership recognizes that the success of an agency depends heavily on having an equipped and productive staff. This means increasing the agency's capacity through staff development and support. Kathy Austin, our new Human Resources Director has made a commitment to ensure that staff have the training and resources necessary to be successful.

She has begun with a series of staff development trainings that focus on topics that include customer service, leadership, supervision and communication. In addition, she is working to improve and reinforce key agency policies and procedures and is seeking to provide new identification tags for all staff. Finally, Ms. Austin reignited the Safety Committee to ensure the agency promotes safe and comfortable working conditions for all its employees, customers and guests.

"Being in this position allows me the wonderful opportunity to develop a department to better serve ALL employees, and one that will grow with the agency," stated Austin. "We look forward to offering more training and more staff recognition, by more involvement of the Human Resources Department. Look out, we are just getting started!"

The Human Resources department is available by contacting (937) 341-5000 and choosing option 6.



Kathy Austin presents information to staff during training

CAP Partners to Host Networking Seminar

The Darke County Office recently partnered with Darke County Department of Jobs and Family Services to present a two-day seminar for the community and area organizations. The seminar, titled "Networking for a Better Community", was held on September 10 and 11, 2008 at Romer's Catering in Greenville.

During the event, more than 40 groups provided speakers and information about services available to Darke County residents. Presenters gave attendees a synopsis of the services they provide, how the services are accessed, the groups' locations, contact information and other pertinent information.

Bonnie Whitesel, spokesperson for the planning committee, said "The conference was a **BIG SUCCESS!** We had 154 people attend the first day and 174 participate the second day. I've heard lots of good comments about the conference."

Community Action Partnership is always glad to partner with organizations to provide valuable information to those we serve. Joining with the community to do so ensures that we are having the greatest impact possible. We look forward to continuing partnerships to achieve results.



Jamey French was the featured speaker for the second day of the conference.

Annual Senior Picnic a Success

Community Action Partnership was pleased to host 107 Senior Citizens at the Greenville City Park this summer during the agency's annual picnic. Attendees grabbed their lawn chairs and joined the agency for the day as members of the Greenville Craft Club fired up the grill and cooked hamburgers and hot dogs. Agency staff also set up fun games and assisted seniors in the cakewalk during the afternoon.

"We had a great turnout and just can't say thanks enough for all the support from local businesses and the great guys from The Craft Club for helping us with this event," stated Sarah Depoy, Senior Program Coordinator at the agency. "The weather was almost perfect and not too hot for everyone."

A special thank you goes to Bob Anthony and Jim Henby for providing the cooker and coordinating the food volunteers. We look forward to another great event next year!

Win a Gas Card Make a Difference!



The agency is hosting a \$100 Gas Card raffle to raise funds for the Darke County United Way. Tickets are just \$1.00 each or six (6) for \$ 5.00 and can be purchased from any Darke County CAP employee.

The raffle will be held on November 3, 2008. You do not need to be present to win.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Community Action Partnership at 937-548-8143.

Building a Brand... One Wall at a Time!

The Greene County Office was lucky to have Kelsey Nelson and Katie Klimek, two Cedarville University students, share their talents this summer. In just one weekend, the two talented young ladies designed and painted the agency's logo and tagline along the main wall of the intake office. They created a free hand sketch of the logo first, and then painted it to match the official design. The design is about 24 feet wide.

"We want to leave everyone that comes into our office with a lasting image of who we are and why we are here," stated Gale Hutchinson, Greene County Director. "Having our brand so vividly displayed to our customers and guests helps us to create an energy that's simply unforgettable!"

We extend sincere appreciation to Kelsey and Katie for their time, energy and talent. It is individuals like those who help us fulfill our efforts of helping people, changing lives!



The wall spans about 24 feet along the intake hallway

Students Receive Valuable Training Experience



Students join with employees, Gale Hutchinson and Mike Brakeall.

The Greene County Office was fortunate to receive funding from the Workforce Investment Act to provide a Summer Youth Program. Ashley Abbott-Stokes, Kyle Bailey, Allison Fischer, Kevin Frye and Dontrae Hutchins worked at Community Action Partnership throughout the summer, learning valuable skills through on-site job experience.

The young people worked in the office at the front desk, in Emergency Services, with the Harding Place Transitional Housing Program, and with the Senior Nutrition Program. The goal was for them to gain skills that would prepare them for the work force, including appropriate dress for their position, the

importance of maintaining a timely and consistent work schedule, appropriate behavior on the work site, networking and the value of working hard.

Community Action Partnership welcomed the opportunity to become involved with the project. Students from the program seemed very pleased with their experience. Below are a few quotes from letters that students wrote about their experiences:

"Before I came here I thought being homeless meant staying on the street with no job. Once I came here and noticed many people had different situations where some had jobs and worked many hours and still weren't able to afford housing, I was blown away."

"Working with Community Action staff has given me direction as to the field of study I want to master in college. The experience has helped me with public speaking."

Renovations on the Rise!

Community Action Partnership is excited to announce that some major building renovations are under way at our Main Street location in Dayton to enhance our customer and visitor experience. In August, we began reconstruction of the Main Street location to add more office space, expand our waiting room and increase the number of bathrooms in the building. This is just in time for the Winter Crisis Program season that begins November 1, 2008. At that time we anticipate an influx of about 5,000 households.

In addition to our interior efforts, we have been working to improve the external part of the building. Crews have been busy fixing the roof and brick structures surrounding the building.

"We appreciate everyone's patience as we work to create a more comfortable and functional environment," said Joyce Price, Vice President & Chief Executive Officer of Community Action Partnership. "However, the benefits far outway the inconvenience. We are very pleased with the final outcomes."



Survive the Storm with CAP!



Umbrella's are just \$20.

Personally, professionally or economically, we are all surviving some type of storm in our lives. What better way to express this than with a great "Surviving the Storm" shirt or umbrella!

Our "Surviving the Storm" shirts are available in both short and long-sleeved styles in sizes Small to 3XL. The cost is \$10 for sizes Small to XL and \$12 for sizes 2XL and 3XL. The "Surviving the Storm" golf umbrellas are only \$20.



T-shirts are \$10-\$12



The "Surviving the Storm" golf umbrellas are only \$20.

To show your support of the agency's efforts to help our community "Survive the Storm" get yours today! Simply fill out the inserted form below, and send with payment to Community Action Partnership, Attn: Ivy Powers/Surviving the Storm, 719 S. Main Street, Dayton, OH 45402.

All orders must be received by October 31, 2008. Items will be available for pick up on November 21, 2008. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (937) 341-5000, ext. 146. Proceeds benefit our Youth Empowerment Center programs and events.

Getting a *Head Start* on Energy Conservation

Weatherization Day is recognized each year on October 30. On this day, agencies throughout the state of Ohio take time out to recognize the efforts to make homes more comfortable and energy efficient. Typically, this is done by offering a demonstration opportunity where elected officials can come out to learn about the weatherization programs in the area. However, this year, Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area is pleased to celebrate Weatherization Day in a unique way - with the children!

On Thursday, October 30, 2008 the agency will present energy conservation and weatherization in a fun and meaningful way to the children who attend our Preble Head Start Centers. Children will learn simple ways that they can help their parents save energy and how we can all do our part to maintain a more energy efficient lifestyle.

"In light of increasing heating and cooling costs, it is critical that we educate everyone on energy conservation and ways that families can work to reduce their utility consumption," stated Leonard Florence, Director of Weatherization Assistance Programs. "What better way to do this than to start young!"

Parents, elected officials, and members of the community are all welcome to attend the event, which will be held at the Eaton Head Start Center, located at 151 Industrial Drive, Eaton, Ohio 45320. We will offer both a morning session at 9:30 a.m., as well as an afternoon session at 1:30 p.m. Intake specialists will also be available for individuals who wish to learn more about the program, or wish to apply.

For more information about the event, please contact (937) 341-5000, ext. 146.

Did you know that homes that are weatherized experience a reduced utility consumption of about 25 percent? It's true! Visit http://development.ohio.gov/cdd/oe/res_hwap.htm to learn more about weatherization.



Contact us at (937) 341-5000 (Montgomery County) or 1-800-617-2673 (outside Montgomery County) for more information.

\$\$ Money Talk \$\$

When an Emergency Strikes

The recent wind storm and power outages that left more than 1.2 million homes in the dark throughout Ohio was just one example of the effects that natural disasters and emergencies can have on us all. The power outage that many of us faced reminded us of the importance of individuals and families taking time out to do some emergency planning. Consider these steps when preparing for an emergency:

1. Have a grab-and-go survival kit . There may come a time when you have to leave your home quickly. Creating a portable survival kit with food, water and supplies to last at least three days will help hold you over until your situation stabilizes or help arrives.

2. Stock up. Keep enough food and water in your home to sustain your family for at least two weeks. Buy canned goods, dry mixes and other foods that store well, and don't forget a manual can opener and a camping stove, in case you lose electricity. Collect food you normally eat, so you can rotate it into family meals over time. Purchase a few extra items each time you go to the store, or buy a little more when favorites go on sale.

3. Get your family organized. Establish a home evacuation plan and select a meeting place. Pick two locations for your family to meet: right outside your home and outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.

4. Safeguard important documents. Keep essential documents in a fireproof home safe, including birth certificates, adoption papers, passports, Social Security cards, insurance policies, property deeds and automobile titles. You might also include a backup disc of family photos or important computer files. It's a good idea to toss in some money in case you need to evacuate your home in a hurry.

5. Keep communication open. When the power goes out, most land phone lines do as well. Keep a cell phone charged and ready to use (even if it's not in service, because it may be able to call 911). Purchase a car charger for at least one cellular phone in the household.

Source: MSN Money Central

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The Community Action Partnership Board of Trustees and staff wish Commissioner Dean Lovelace, our Board's Vice Chair, a speedy and thorough recovery!

Commissioner Lovelace has been an avid supporter of Community Action Partnership and the issues that affect low-to-moderate income families throughout the Greater Dayton Area.

Office Locations

Administrative/Mont. County
719 S. Main Street
Dayton, OH 45402
(937) 341-5000

Greene County
1855 Bellbrook Road
Xenia, OH 45385
(937) 376-7747

**New!* Butler County
210 S. Second Street
Hamilton, OH 45011
(513) 645-1401

Weatherization Services Only

Preble County
2080 State Route 127 N.
Eaton, OH 45320
(937) 456-2800

Darke County
1469 Sweitzer Street
Greenville, OH 45331
(937) 548-8143

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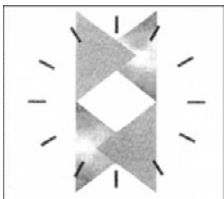
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(937) 341-5000 (phone)
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