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## Happy New Year!

Community Action Partnership would like to wish all of our customers, board members, partners, families and friends a Happy New Year!

The agency is in gear for another year of service. While last year was successful, we realize that our work is never done. We can do more.

The agency appreciates your support and hopes you will continue to join with us in *helping people, changing lives!*

*Tim Donnellan*  
President & CEO



**The CAP team stands with Kendel Gilley, our first TEEM II recipient.**

## TEEM Up!

In late 2007, we were pleased to announce the agency's temporary expansion of weatherization services through Project TEEM II, a program funded by Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio. Through the program, Vectren provided \$2,000,000 to weatherize 300 homes in southwest Ohio. Project

TEEM II targeted individuals and families at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. The existing weatherization program only serves households who fall at or below 200 percent of the guidelines.

"The response has been amazing and we are confident that we will quickly meet the goal of providing 300 homes with energy-saving measures," said Leonard Florence, Director of the Home Weatherization Assistance Program.

Project TEEM and additional weatherization services are offered year-round through the agency. Contact 800-617-2673 for more information.

## Utility Moratorium in Place

On December 18, 2007, Governor Ted Strickland requested a moratorium on utility disconnections throughout Ohio. This request was granted to avoid shut-offs during the winter months. The moratorium is in effect through March 18, 2008.

“We are glad to see the moratorium put in place”, stated Sheila Holmes, Director of Energy Assistance Programs. “It pushed the restoration of gas services for one of our elderly customers who was using space heaters throughout her home, avoiding a potentially life-threatening situation,” she continued.

However, according to the Office of the Ohio Consumer’s Counsel, consumers need to understand that they are still responsible to pay their utility bills each month when the bill is due. In addition, to qualify for the moratorium, all households must enroll in the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP), or another payment plan. Thankfully Community Action Partnership’s Winter Crisis Program is available to help!

Through the Winter Crisis Program, eligible households may qualify to receive up to \$175.00 toward their utility payment. In addition, eligible households using bulk fuel as their primary heating source may receive up to \$600.00 in bulk fuel. The program will run until March 31, 2008, or until all funds have been depleted. If you are in need of assistance, please contact your specific county (see above) to schedule an appointment.

### Who to contact for an appointment:

Darke Co. (937) 548-8143  
Greene Co. (937) 376-7747  
\*\*Montgomery Co. (866) 504-7379  
Preble Co. (937) 890-1070

\*\* This is an automated appointment line.  
Appointments are scheduled beginning at 6 a.m. daily.

## Mark your Calendars!

As we begin 2008, we want to make sure you are up to date and “in the know” about the exciting events that are in the works!

**Tuesday April 15, 2008** (tentative): Join us at our 2008 Annual Meeting & Luncheon as we celebrate 44 years of *helping people, changing lives!* The event features a light lunch, entertainment, guest speaker and the revealing of our 2007 Annual Report.

**Tuesday April 22, 2008:** Community Action Partnership will join with the University of Dayton Fitz Center for Leadership to present the Annual CityLinks Neighborhood Conference. Details to follow.

**May 2008** is Community Action Month! Did you know that every year in May Community Action Agencies nationwide take time out to reflect on our efforts to help people and change lives? It’s true! Keep your eyes open for opportunities to celebrate in each county.

**May 29, 2008:** The 2nd Annual Rally on Poverty is on the way! Last year nearly 300 supporters from throughout Ohio participated in the rally. Did you miss out? Join us at the RTA Cultural Center in Dayton as we continue the fight to bring the issues of poverty to the forefront of our communities.



Members of the SCLC Drum Corps perform at the 2007 Rally on Poverty

## Committee Continues to Combat Homelessness

The year 2007 has come to an end, but the **Darke County Continuum of Care Committee's** fight to end homelessness is still going strong. The Continuum of Care Committee consists of service providers, private and public officials from more than 15 organizations and businesses throughout Darke County, including Community Action Partnership. Its mission is *to end homelessness within our communities by raising awareness of the factors that put people at risk, collaborating in addressing all contributing factors and securing necessary support services to assist individuals and families in maintaining safe, affordable and decent housing.*

The Committee continues to work hard to address issues of homelessness that were identified during a point-in-time study conducted earlier in 2007. "Our focus this year will be on performing a Homeless Needs Assessment in preparation for the 2009 HUD Homeless Report," stated Janey Christman, Director of Community Action Partnership in Darke County.

The Continuum of Care Committee will address this focus during their next meeting on February 19, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Department of Job & Family Services, located at 631 Wagner Avenue in Greenville, Ohio and is open to the public.

### Strategic Plan to Focus on Senior Services



percent increase in this population.

Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area began a proactive planning process to lay the groundwork for the development of a comprehensive strategic plan for the years 2008 through 2013. The goal is to highlight the needs of seniors and how the demand for services will increase as more Darke County residents reach age 60. This comes after a focus group identified that almost 20 percent of Darke County's population is 60 years of age or older (10,483 individuals). By 2020, there will be a 25

A planning team met during August 2007 to develop a process outlining a variety of activities to assure planning would include a strong emphasis of broad community and customer participation. This included establishing a focus group meeting on community issues; an environmental scan; a review of the different mix of agency services and programs; the development of a Senior Vision Statement; and an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats ("SWOT Analysis"). In addition, Community Action Partnership is developing a community needs assessment survey to gather input as to what residents believe is necessary and desirable for future services, and their willingness to participate in the efforts.

The planning process will continue throughout 2008. Janey Christman advised that we will communicate our findings and plans through agency correspondences, as well as in articles in our local newspapers. She added, "We appreciate your patience and commitment as we work to better serve our community."

## Xenia Residents Know the *Wright Place* to be for Lunch

Residents of the Wright Place Senior Apartments in Xenia are enjoying hot, nutritious meals and a chance to socialize thanks to Community Action Partnership's Senior Nutrition Program. Through the program, residents can enjoy tasty food that provides one-third of their daily nutritional requirements.

Meals are prepared in Community Action Partnership's prep kitchen in Xenia, which opened in January 2007. A spacious and cozy lunchroom is where the meals are served. Residents encourage others to join them for lunch. The program is opened to all Greene County residents, ages 60 and older, even if they do not reside at the Wright Place Senior Apartments.

"There is quite a buzz," said M. Gale Hutchinson, Director of Greene County. "We have received nothing but positive comments. The tenants agree that this is the '*right place*' to be for lunch."

The Wright Place is one of seven sites available to eligible senior residents throughout Greene County. For more information about the Senior Nutrition Program, contact (937) 376-7747.

### Boxing up a Bright Holiday Season

On November 27, 2007, Community Action Partnership, the Fairborn Community Center, Teleperformance USA, and the Feed the Children Network partnered to make the holidays brighter for 400 families in Greene County. The families received boxes filled with food and personal hygiene items from Feed the Children, an international Christian relief organization that is headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



A volunteer packs a vehicle with supplies

"Community Action Partnership and the Fairborn Community Center worked together to identify families for the distribution," according to Gale Hutchinson, Director of Community Action Partnership in Greene County.

The families arrived at the community center on the morning of the distribution, and were greeted by 20 volunteers from Teleperformance USA, who filled their cars with the gifts.

"Community Action Partnership is grateful for the support of programs such as Feed the Children that provide additional resources and assistance to our community," advised Ms. Hutchinson.

## Homeownership Program Sees Positive Results in 2007



Bobbie Smith and Vicki Rish celebrate closing on her first home.

Community Action Partnership's IDA Homeownership Program is pleased to report a very successful first year of service. Through the program, aspiring homeowners receive a two to one match on savings toward their first home. In addition, participants receive valuable money and home management training that aids them throughout the homebuying and maintenance process.

Community Action Partnership shares in the excitement of many participants this year who have purchased homes, or are working toward this accomplishment. Eleven families have purchased homes, while 43 others are saving toward homeownership. "Currently there is a waiting list," advised Vicki Rish, the IDA Coordinator. The numbers are strong, but there is always room for growth.

"We are currently working to partner with several local lenders and private donors to raise matching funds for the program," stated Ms. Rish. "Each \$1,000 raised allows the admission of one additional participant to the IDA program," she noted.

Contributions can be made to Community Action Partnership, with the IDA Program identified as the designation. Contributions are tax deductible. If you would like to be a part of making homeownership a reality for you or someone you know, call (937) 341-5000, ext. 126.

### FREE Tax Assistance Available!

Are you feeling anxious about the tax-filing process? Do your W-2's and 1040 forms have you confused? Community Action Partnership's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) is here to help - for FREE! The program began January 22, 2008, and runs throughout the tax-filing season (April 15, 2008).



Through VITA, eligible individuals in Montgomery County may receive free preparation of their 2007 state and federal income taxes. VITA volunteers ensure families receive every tax benefit that they are entitled to, like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which can be worth up to \$ 2,747.

"It is exciting to know that we are aiding people in receiving the money that they've worked hard for all year," stated Debra Davenport, Project Coordinator for the program. "Last year, the VITA coalition accounted for \$1,083,128 in earned income tax credits and \$2,452,626 in total refunds. Our plan is to do even more this year," she stressed.

Community Action Partnership is one of 12 sites that will serve the area this year. Appointments are available at both the Main Street Office in Dayton, as well as the Youth Empowerment Center in Trotwood. Please call (937) 341-5000 to schedule an appointment at the Main Street Office, or (937) 913-2000 to schedule an appointment at the Youth Empowerment Center.

## Head Start Students are on the Move



Students enjoy circle time with their teacher

The school year is in full force and so are the children at Community Action Partnership’s Head Start Program in Preble County. Just halfway through the year, the kids are already well into the curriculum and activities that are pre-planned by certified teachers and directors.

Preble County’s Head Start Program offers a holistic approach to child and family welfare, providing curriculum-based education to their students and case management services for the entire family. One hundred and fifty-two full and part-time children are currently enrolled at two sites, located in Eaton and Camden, Ohio.

The program’s success in the community has made it an attractive resource for Preble County residents, causing the demand for services to exceed the availability.

“We currently have a waiting list,” informed Rita Daily, Director of Community Action Partnership in Preble County. “However, we are always placing families onto our waiting list for the coming year.

If you would like more information about Preble County’s Head Start Program, or to include your child on the waiting list, please contact (937) 879-1070.



Young “Picasso” puts his creative juices to work

## Annual Thanksgiving Day Dinner a Success

Community Action Partnership's Preble County staff spent the Thanksgiving holiday providing meals to residents throughout the community. The Thanksgiving event has been held annually for 13 years thanks to the generous donation of a local business owner (who wishes to remain anonymous), and the time and energy of numerous community volunteers and staff.

Several volunteers carved 25 turkeys and prepared meals, complete with all of the fixings and dessert. The delicious dinner was served to 768 individuals. Brunner Arena at the Preble County Fairgrounds was the dinner site for those that were able to come out and be with others. Meals were also delivered to homebound individuals.

"The event was a great success! We home-delivered 150 meals before we even started serving those who came in," exclaimed Rita Daily, Director of Preble County.

The agency would like to thank everyone who helped ensure the success of the day. Our combined efforts resulted in another memorable event for the residents of Preble County!

## \$\$ IDA's Money Talk \$\$

### How to Avoid Overspending

It happens all of the time. You go to the store to pick up one item, and you leave with several more items and a much bigger bill than you anticipated. The stores don't mind, but if you want to stick to a budget in the new year, here are some tips to keep you from going overboard with your spending:

**Don't use a shopping cart unless you have to.** A cart is just a place to put items you don't need.

**Make a list and stick to it.** A list allows you to focus on the items you intend to purchase.

**Look only at the price and size.** Choose the item that has the best price per ounce, pound, or item. All other package information is marketing.

**Start at the rear of the store and work toward the front.** Going from the front to the rear and back means a longer walk that not only tires you out, but also makes you more prone to impulse buys.

**Look at the bottom shelf first.** This is where you're more likely to find better deals.

**Don't stop unless you are actively selecting an item.** Store displays tempt you to stop and look, but remember, do you need the item or just want it?

**Never go by an item twice unless necessary.** Walking by an item repeatedly may convince you to buy it, even if you don't need it.

**Use a calculator.** A calculator will help you figure out which item is the best buy.

**If you don't know for sure that an item is a good deal, then don't buy it.** Don't hesitate to walk away if you're unsure of the deal.

**Think about everything you put in your cart, and don't be afraid to change your mind.** You're not obligated to buy something just because you're at the checkout.

Adapted from MSN.com Money Central and The Simple Dollar. Contact the agency's IDA Program to learn more about how you can be money wise and even purchase your own home!

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## Office Locations

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

*Weatherization Services Only*

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

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

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

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

Youth Empowerment Center  
716 E. Main Street  
Trotwood, OH 45426  
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The mission of Community Action Partnership is to *work in partnership with local communities to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty and to promote individual independence and self-sufficiency.*

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