



West Central Missouri Community Action Agency

106 West 4th Street
P.O. Box 125
Appleton City, MO 64724

Phone: 660-476-2185
Website: www.wcmcaa.org

Helping People... Changing Lives



West Central Missouri Community Action Agency Calendar of Events

October—March ~ Low Income Heat assistance Program (LIHEAP) for All Income Eligible Families (*see your local Outreach Office for Details*)

February ~ Black History Month

March ~ National Nutrition ® Month

Missourians to End Poverty meets the *Fourth Wednesday of each month*. For more information, please visit www.communityaction.org.

WCMCAA Governing Board Meetings are held the *Fourth Thursday of each month*.

WCMCAA Featured on 95.3 KDKD Speak Out - *Second Monday of each Month*.

Community Empowerment Meetings in each of the nine county service area are held monthly.

WCMCAA Head Start Centers hold monthly Family Enrichment events.

Please see the WCMCAA calendar of events on our website for more information regarding these and other WCMCAA activities. www.wcmcaa.org

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, WOULD LIKE TO BE ADDED TO THE WCMCAA NEWSLETTER MAILING LIST OR E-LIST, PLEASE CONTACT JAMIE OBERLY, COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR, PHONE: 660-476-2185 OR E-MAIL JOBERLY@WCMCAA.ORG

WCMCAA is a member of the National Community Action Partnership and Missouri Association for Community Action.

***This project is funded in whole/or part with federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Community Services Block Grant, as provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division. The funds received from the Family Support Division are all federally funded.*



Community Action Works!

Community Action Works!

Winter 2013

OUR MISSION

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency is dedicated to empowering people to make a positive change by coordinating and administering resources.

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency strives to be the voice in our communities and our governments for those most in need.

Inside this issue:

- Holiday for Kids 2
- Letter of Thanks 2
- Community Action Embodies the Spirit of Hope 3
- Thank You for Your Generous Support 3
- 90 Years Young and Going Strong 4
- Antioch Hills "Free Room" 4
- WCMCAA's Annual Meeting 5
- Outcome of Efforts...continued 6
- Community Needs Assessment Survey 6
- Need Help with your Energy Bills? (LIHEAP) 7
- Calendar of Events 8

WCMCAA's Outcome of Efforts

Article Submitted by Jamie Oberly, Community Services Coordinator

Annually, West Central Missouri Community Action Agency sets targets for Outcomes to be accomplished for each of the Six National Performance (ROMA) Goals. These Goals are as follows:

SIX NATIONAL PERFORMANCE GOALS

Goal 1: Low-income people become more self-sufficient.

Goal 2: The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.

Goal 3: Low-income people own a stake in their community.

Goal 4: Partnerships among supporters and providers of service to low-income people are achieved.

Goal 5: Agencies increase their capacity to

achieve results. **Goal 6:** Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive systems.

These family, community and agency goals are reported through the Outcome of Efforts. Some of WCMCAA's Outcomes are as follows:

Impressive Results!

EMPLOYMENT:

449 low-income people became more self-sufficient by obtaining a job, of those 449 people, 298 maintained that job for at least 90 days

ECONOMIC ASSET ENHANCEMENT AND UTILIZATION:

2 Participants of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program were able to purchase a home with accumulated savings.

Volunteers donated a total of 58,507 hours to WCMCAA of those hours, 57,375 were from low-income people.

1,045— the number of vulnerable (Seniors Citizens and Individuals with Disabilities) individuals receiving services from Community Action who maintain an independent living (continued on page 6)



Check Out Our Updated Website:

www.wcmcaa.org

~New Features ~ Customer Satisfaction Survey ~
~ User Friendly ~ Informative ~

Holiday for the Kids

Article submitted by Stephanie Hlade, Site Manager, Antioch Hills, Clinton, MO.

Antioch Hills celebrated our 5th Annual Holiday for the Kids on December 18th. For the past five years, a group of wonderful and generous antique merchant and antique dealers from the region have donated gifts and their time for every child at Antioch Hills.

Because of this generosity, each child receives a gift bag full of age and gender appropriate gifts. The process normally starts in July of each year with a count of how many children we have, then it's fine tuned in September and the fun begins in November. Most of the wonderful donors

start shopping during the year in preparation for the coming December. This year the Holiday for the Kids event provided gifts to 51 children.



Holiday Gifts given to 51 Children

Letter of Thanks...

Submitted by Stephanie Hlade, Site Manager, Antioch

December 29, 2013

Dear Friends of Antioch Hills,

I would like to express my gratitude and heartfelt thanks for the wonderful gifts you provided to the children of Antioch Hills.

I appreciate you shopping for the gifts, the donations of money to purchase gifts and food, and taking the time out of your busy schedule to share this kindness. It takes many hours of planning, wrapping and seeing that every gift is just right for each child. This year we made fifty-one (51) children's holiday a little brighter.

The thanks we received from the children, parents and grandparents were truly amazing. One example of the impact your gift makes to these children:

We have a resident mother that had to work until 9:00 p.m. the evening of the party. She asked if the children's grandmother could stop by with the daughter and pick up the gifts that evening. At the end of the party as we were cleaning up, the grandmother came in with the little girl to pick up the children's gifts. We made a take home plate of sandwiches to go with the gifts, and away they went.

The next day, the mother told us that the children waited up for her to open the presents. In fact the children were so excited about their gifts that the little girl slept in her new hat and gloves. The mother told me she felt that each and every one of you must know these children personally because the gifts were perfect and so cherished by her children.

Once again, thanks to you, we can make a difference and a lasting memory in a child's life. I wish each of you a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hlade

Site Manager, Antioch Hills, West Central MO Community Action Agency

1819 Gaines Drive ~ Clinton, Missouri 64735 ~

Phone: 660-885-8200 ~ Email: antiochhills@wcmcaa.org

Need help paying your energy bills?



Get relief from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



What help can I get?

LIHEAP can help you:

1. Pay your main heating & cooling bills
2. Get EMERGENCY SERVICES

Who can get help?

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps low income people meet their immediate energy needs. It can mainly help those who spend a large amount of their household income on energy bills.

To qualify for LIHEAP assistance, you must meet each of these requirements:

1. Be the person responsible for paying home heating and cooling costs
2. Be a United States citizen or have been legally admitted for permanent residence
3. Have \$3,000 or less in bank accounts, retirement accounts, or investments
4. Meet specific income guidelines that vary according to household size

How does it work?

If you qualify for LIHEAP, you will get help through a program called Energy Assistance. Energy Assistance will give you a one-time payment to help pay your main fuel heating bill during the months of October-March. The amount of help you receive is based on the size of your household, your household income, and the type of heating fuel used in your home.

If you qualify for Energy Assistance, you may also qualify for additional help through the Emergency Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP). The Emergency Crisis Intervention Program can help you pay your fuel bill when your energy is shut off or is threatened to be shut off. The amount of help you receive is based on the amount of money needed to settle your crisis with the energy provider.

How do I apply?

Get an application by calling: 660-476-2185 or Download and print an application at www.wcmcaa.org

Application checklist:

- Answer all questions completely
- Sign and date application
- Include your main fuel bill
- Include income records for members not receiving food stamps
- If your account is in disconnect status, include shut off notice
- If you are not currently getting public assistance, include copies of Social Security cards

Do you have questions? Call us at 660-476-2185 Or visit our Website: www.wcmcaa.org



"The picture of the little girl is from the party. You have to love the pink tutu, she received the doll and tutu as part of her gift."

...Stephanie



WCMCAA's Outcome of Efforts (continued)

situation as a result of those services

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE
16 households received Emergency Home Repair (i.e. heating system)
20 individuals received Emergency Transportation

CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

824 Children participated in pre-school activities to develop school readiness skills

FAMILY SUPPORTS (SENIORS, DISABLED AND CAREGIVERS)

343 Obtained health care services for themselves and/or family member

SERVICE COUNTS

12,723 Pounds of Food provided to low-income individuals and/or families

HOUSING

1,599 low-income families obtained safe and stable housing as a result of Community Action assistance

HEALTH

1,504 low-income participants received annual health exams

1,212 individuals received reproductive health care services

These are just a sampling of the FFY 2013 outcomes performed by West Central Missouri Community Action

Agency. Congratulations to both the participants that achieved these Outcomes and the Efforts made by Agency Staff and Programs!



In August, 2013, the WCMCAA set new targets for each of the Six National Performance Goals. The Agency will be striving to reach these targets throughout the next fiscal year.



The Promise

“Community Action changes people’s lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.”

Community Action Works!

Community Needs Assessment



West Central Missouri Community Action Agency will be completing a Community Needs

Assessment in 2014. We will be asking the community to complete this survey so that we may assess a true picture of both participant and community needs. Please be on the look out for this important survey. We look forward to “hearing” from you!

For more information on how to help participate in this important Agency Community Needs Assessment Survey, contact Jamie Oberly, Community Services Coordinator at 660-476-2185 or email joberly@wmcaa.org



Community Action Works!

Community Action Embodies the Spirit of Hope

Submitted by Peggy Bowles, Chief Operating Officer

On December 6, 2013 WCMCAA once again met the mission of Community Action in *embodying the spirit of hope* by providing holiday baskets to 14 families with a total of 39 children. This year’s donations from staff and local vendors

doubled that of previous years. Because of these donations all 39 children will have a new coat/vest, gloves, hat, and toy that they didn’t have before. The families will also have basic need items such as



Chuck Kohzadi (left) and Carol Korsi (right) Gift Wrapping presents for the families.



Johanna Rice, Gift Wrapping presents for the Holiday Baskets



Gifts...each child received a new coat/vest, gloves and toy that they didn't have before..."

laundry detergent, deodorant and more. Because of you, our West Central staff, and your contributions to fundraisers throughout the year made this possible. From all of us with the MACA Executive Committee we want to say a great big THANK YOU!

Thank you for Your Generous Donations to WCMCAA's Food Pantry

Submitted by Jamie Oberly, Community Services Coordinator

In these troubled times, people are hurting. Many children and families who a few months ago felt like they were doing OK hang on by threads today, and those who were already at risk face even greater hardships, harder choices. This makes what happens to WCMCAA's Food Pantry, even more remarkable.

We have always been amazed by the generosity of the Community when we receive donations whether they be monetary or food to keep our Food Pantries

stocked for families in need of food.

In the past year, WCMCAA's Food Pantries have helped over 7,500 people and have distributed over 12,500 pounds of food.

Everyday, we see more and more families struggling with their basic needs, especially food. WCMCAA's food pantries operate solely on monetary and food donations. If you would like to help make a difference in people's lives, please do so by either contacting Cass

County (Belton) at 816-322-0502 or St. Clair County's Food Pantry at 660-476-2185 for more information about how to provide support. We welcome all donations and support Community Food Drives.

Thank you to all who have so generously given. We and those in need appreciate the difference you have made in these challenging times!



90 Years Young and Going Strong

Article submitted by Kristina Klass, Service Coordinator, Appleton Estates



Helen Wyrick a resident at Appleton Estates Senior Housing celebrated her 90th birthday with her Appleton Estates family at their monthly dinner in October. Helen's actual birthday was October 26th. Helen has been a resident at Appleton Estates since they opened in 1984 almost 30 years ago.

Staff will tell you that Helen is an inspiration and a joy to have at Appleton Estates. She is very independent and likes to do things on her own. She tells everyone she plans to live to be 100 years old and no one doubts her, not even her doctor.



Helen Wyrick Celebrates her 90th Birthday.

“Ms. Wyrick has been a resident of Appleton Estates for almost 30 Years!”

Antioch Hills “Free Room”

Submitted by Stephanie Hlade, Site Manager, Antioch Hills



many years of service. Most residents check out the free room at least weekly. We receive donations of clothing, furniture, toys, books and other household items.

Many of our donations come from other residents, the Clinton community and West Central MO CAA employees. Every donation is truly appreciated and needed. I've arrived at work before to have boxes and bags of donations left at the front doors. What a wonderful generous surprise. Our "Free Room" has helped families from Clinton that had a house fire and needed clothing, send our Antioch Hill's children back to school with

clothing and donated baby items to the new moms and dads. For our residents that are unable to drive or go to the store on a regular basis this is an opportunity for them to shop without the cost.

If you would like to donate to the “Free Room” at Antioch Hills, please contact Stephanie at Phone: 660-885-8200 or Email: antiochhills@wcmcaa.org. If you are unable to drop items off at Antioch Hills, you may bring the donations to Peggy Bowles' office which in Central Office, Appleton City.



Community Action Works!

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency's Annual Meeting

Article submitted by Jamie Oberly, Community Services Coordinator

West Central Missouri Community Action Agency's all Agency Staff meeting was held December 13, 2013 at the Benson Center in Clinton. Although the inclement weather made traveling difficult, over 200 employees were in attendance.

The day was filled with several events, the highlight being the message from Mr. Fred R. Bunch, WCMCAA's Board Chair. Mr. Bunch spoke of the War on Poverty and the fact the war is not over. Franklin D. Roosevelt's quote "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." John F. Kennedy's quote "The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal

Action Agency employees were left with the powerful feeling that they can make a difference in the people's lives they serve every day.

Agency honored and recognized employees of each quarter.

- ◆ Employee of the 1st Quarter: Dara Moles
- ◆ Employee of the 2nd Quarter: Sue Harper
- ◆ Employee of the 3rd Quarter: Gilda Scott
- ◆ Employee of the 4th Quarter: Juanita Pryor

Dara Moles received employee of the 2013 year. Congratulations to ALL!

Among other events of the day, employees participated in fundraisers for the local MACA chapter. A total of \$1,845.50 was raised throughout the day with



hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty..." In 2014, Community Action celebrates the 50th anniversary of Lyndon B. Johnson's declaration on the War on Poverty. Mr. Bunch encouraged employees to keep up the good work and continue the war on poverty. West Central Community



Fred R. Bunch, Board Chair (left) and Amos E. Jackson, President and Chief Executive Officer (right)

approximately \$3,124 through the year from various fundraisers. This funding earned from the day as well as from other events throughout the year is used to assist agency employees when a crisis occurs as well as adopting families for the holidays. "People have been so generous during very difficult economic times. You pay \$3 a gallon at the gas station and almost \$5 for a gallon of milk and still give your heart. They rock!" stated Debbie Bettencourt, local MACA Chapter treasurer. Congratulations to employees for supporting a great cause! Thank You, from the local MACA Chapter!

Mr. Amos E. Jackson, President and Chief Executive Officer concluded the day with the following "Thank you for the job you do each and every day. Whether it is in an office or out in the field or in your car or at your computer, whatever you do **thank you, thank you thank you!**"



(left) Dara Moles presented with Employee of the 2013 Year by Fred R. Bunch, Board Chair (right)