

CAP-LINES

COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Serving Central and Northeast Kansas

Spring 2010

www.cactiontopeka.com



COMMUNITY ACTION'S MISSION SUMMARY

To alleviate the causes and conditions of poverty through the promotion of public policy that helps those in poverty move to greater self-reliance and by providing services and resources that meet basic needs, promote self-reliance and enhance the quality of life for individuals and families.

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

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.

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Lead Story

May is Community Action Month; Fire safety highlighted

"Power of Partnerships" this year's theme; Head Start student honored

THE COLLABORATIVE NATURE OF COMMUNITY ACTION is celebrated this year during Community Action Month.

Those partnerships, both public and private, forged over 46 years of Community Action, are marked this May.

Locally, Community Action, Inc. also marks its 40th anniversary this year, and the many partnerships it has formed have enhanced its efforts to "empower individuals, families and communities to overcome poverty through education, advocacy, prevention and services to meet basic human needs."

Some of Community Action's collaborators include federal agencies like the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Housing and Urban Development, the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation (a state housing corporation), grantors like the Topeka Community Foundation and Wal-Mart, and even bequests from individuals.

Nationally, the Community Action Partnership (CAP) will recognize the CBS television network with its Corporate Partnership Award for the network's collaboration with the California/Nevada CAP and the Illinois Community Action Association on the development and production of 30-second vignettes that have aired on local CBS stations in California and Chicago, as well as showing how 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds are being used to offer employment and training services and provide Weatherization training.

For more information on Community Action Month, please go to www.communityactionpartnership.com.

HEAD START STUDENT RECOGNIZED WITH FIRE SAFETY DAY

What kids need to know in the event of a fire at their homes was the focus of Fire Safety Day,



a collaboration between Community Action and the Topeka Fire Department.

The day also honored Davier Holmes, the four-year-old who died in a fire at his family's home on Dec. 23, 2009. Davier had been a student with Community Action's Head Start program.

Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten read a proclamation celebrating Davier's life and educating kids on fire safety, and TFD Public Information Officer David Banks spoke and showed the kids what to do in case of fire in the department's "Fire Safety House," a trailer containing a simulation of what happens in a house fire.

Davier's family attended the event. Emily Archuleta, Davier's mom, thanked Community Action for its help in getting her family back on its feet and for honoring her son in such a heartfelt and productive manner. **END**



Davier Holmes' family

"Head Start graduates are more likely to graduate from high school and less likely to need special education, repeat a grade, or commit crimes in adolescence."
— U.S. House Member Joe Baca, 43rd District, California

Head Start

Women's Fund grant ceremony; TARC award; Early Head Start bus tour, Head Start accountability report available

Grant for classes; TARC partnership lauded; Tour decries cuts; Report shows services

COMMUNITY ACTION HEAD START recently was awarded a grant for \$15,000 at a ceremony held by the Topeka Community Foundation Women's Fund.



(L to R) Community Action Head Start Manager Adam Spence and Director Phyllis Marmon accept check from Pam Alexander of the Women's Fund. (Photo courtesy Topeka Capital-Journal)

The grant award will provide ten Financial and Housing Life Skills classes targeted at single women during the 2010-2011 Head Start program year.

TARC AWARD

Community Action's partnership with TARC recently was recognized at TARC's annual awards event.

The partnership began with Community Action and TARC agreeing to jointly fund an Infant-Toddler position. That position worked part-time for TARC and



also provided technical assistance and support for Community Action's Head Start/Early Head Start program to ensure that all children with disabilities were fully included.

Since those beginnings, the partnership has grown to include all kids, regard-

less of disability, and has provided both staffs with opportunities for learning.

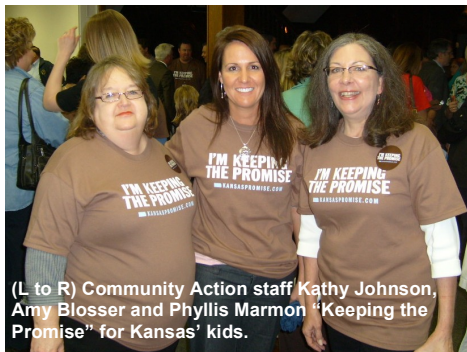
EARLY HEAD START LEGISLATIVE BUS TOUR

The issue of more cuts to Early Head Start funding was addressed head on at a press conference on Apr. 22 sponsored by Kansas Action for Children and the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness.

The event was the Topeka stop on a seven-city, two-day "Kansas Promise Tour" that also included Leawood, Pittsburgh, Wichita, Hutchinson, Salina, and Junction City.



"Keep the Promise to Kansas' Kids" was the theme of the tour. KAC Director Gary Brunk was joined by Shawnee County District Attorney Chad Taylor, Topeka Police Chief Ron Miller, Intrust Bank President Scott Griffith and retired Army officer Ed Gerhardt in extolling the

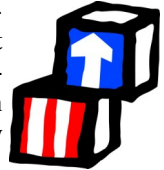


(L to R) Community Action staff Kathy Johnson, Amy Blosser and Phyllis Marmon "Keeping the Promise" for Kansas' kids.

virtues of early childhood education and the dangers that more budget cuts pose to kids getting off to good starts in their lives and later becoming productive adults.

HEAD START ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The progress of Community Action's Head Start and Early Head Start programs was compiled in March in an accountability report for the year Nov. 1, 2008 - Oct. 31, 2009 (go to www.cactiontopeka.com for details).



Head Start/Early Head Start

Head Start/Early Head Start enrollment for the period totaled 292 children and/or prenatal women and 246 families.

In terms of enrollment, the monthly Head Start average for the period was 95 percent. However, seven of the 12 months were at 100 percent, with the figures only down during the summer months as kids move from Head Start to kindergarten and left Head Start services earlier than their eligibility would require.



Head Start students finger paint during class.

The monthly Early Head Start average was 98 percent, but nine of the 12 months were at 100 percent, with the numbers only down in August as a new program year began.

Also, Community Action Head Start works very hard and in many ways to encourage parents to become involved with their children's education, including field trips, volunteering time, Parent Committee (issues that concern parents are discussed at meetings set up for the parents, and a meal and childcare are provided), and Policy Council (each Head Start component option has a parent representative who sits on Policy Council and becomes a voice for other parents and children involved in the program).

END

"It took me 17 years to get 3,000 hits in baseball.
I did it in one afternoon on the golf course."
— Baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron

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Community Services

Golf tourney set, First Tee receives check, recognition; KC Royals honor local man; Tax season ends

New Mustang for hole-in-one; First Tee awarded \$2,500, nat'l recognition; Man wins Royals' game seat; Tax season ends

FORE! COMMUNITY ACTION'S second annual golf fundraiser will be held on May 24 at Lake Shawnee Golf Course. Registration starts at 11 a.m., followed by lunch. Play begins at noon.



A scramble format will be used. This year's honorary starters are Kansas State Senators Laura Kelly and Vicki Schmidt.

The first participant to hit a hole-in-one will win a brand new red Ford Mustang.

For more information or to register, contact Elmer Robinson at 785-235-9296 or erobinson@inlandnet.net.

FIRST TEE RECEIVES CHECK, RECOGNITION

Cox Communications has made a \$2,500 corporate contribution to The First Tee Shawnee County. Those funds will support a curriculum promoting "Life Skills" and "Core Values" instilled in youngsters while they learn the game of golf.

The First Tee also was recently recognized as a Promise Place by America's Promise Alliance for "providing access to caring adults, safe places, a healthy start, an effective education, and opportunities to help others."

America's Promise Alliance was founded in 1997, with former Secretary of State Colin Powell as chair. Powell's wife, Alma, chairs the Alliance today.



For more information on the First Tee, contact Elmer Robinson at 785-235-9296 or erobinson@inlandnet.net. For more information on America's Promise Alliance, go to <http://www.americaspromise.org/>.

MAN WINS HONOR OF SITTING IN SEAT OF ONE OF HIS HEROES

As a young man Topekan Gil Carter was recruited by Kansas City Monarchs' legend and Chicago Cubs scout Buck O'Neil to play for the Cubs. Now, more than 50 years later, Carter's name once again was associated with O'Neil.

Carter won tickets to the Apr. 26 Kansas City Royals' game with the Seattle Mariners where he sat in the "Buck O'Neil Legacy Seat" at Kauffman Stadium.



Through an anonymous donation, Carter was able to rent a car to attend the game with his family. Community Action's Alice Schimmel, who had worked with

Carter before, attended the game with him and his family.

In 1959, Carter hit what is still recognized as the longest home run on record, a 733-foot blast over the left-center field fence at Carlsbad, NM. The ball cleared the fence and the two city blocks beyond it. Carter still has the ball. His feat was announced at Kauffman Stadium.

TAX SEASON ENDS

As the Apr. 15 tax deadline passed, the collaboration between Community Action, Inc. and AARP Tax Aide com-



(L to R) Jose Soto has his taxes prepared by AARP volunteer Bob Wollin.

pleted another successful season of free tax preparation, counseling, and E-filing services.

This year Community Action processed 880 e-filed federal returns, a 19 percent increase over the 709 returns e-filed last year. **END**

May - July 2010 Safe Kids Buckle Up Events

- May 15:** 9 a.m. - Noon, Dillons Store #54, 800 NW 25th (NW Hwy 24 and NW Rochester Rd.)
- May 25:** 4 - 7 p.m., Dillons Store #54, 800 NW 25th (NW Hwy 24 and NW Rochester Rd.)
- June 10:** 4 - 7 p.m., Fire Station #8, 2700 SW Fairlawn Rd.
- June 24:** 4 - 7 p.m., Dillons Store #54, 800 NW 25th (NW Hwy 24 and NW Rochester Rd.)
- July 3:** 9 a.m. - Noon, Fire Station #11, 2000 NW Lower Silver Lake Rd.
- July 13:** 4 - 7 p.m., Dillons Store #37, 6829 SW 29th (SW 29th and SW Urish Rd.)
- July 31:** 9 a.m. - Noon, Dillons Store #67, 2010 SE 29th (SE 29th and SE California Ave.)

Free Bus Passes Available for May

Limited number available after May 3. Applicants must be at least 18 years old who use public transportation to and from work or a vocational training site and meet income guidelines. If interested, please contact Community Action's Swygart Center at 785-235-9296 to be placed on an acceptance list.

Community Action Directory

ADMINISTRATION, EARLY HEAD START

HOME VISITATION:

Hancock Center
1000 SE Hancock
Topeka, KS 66607-1578
Phone: 785-235-9561 (866-235-9561)
Fax: 785-235-9564

COMMUNITY SERVICES, HOUSING AND HOME SERVICES, WEATHERIZATION/WINTERIZATION, CACFP, SAFE KIDS, FIRST TEE:

Swygart Center
621 SE Swygart
Topeka, KS 66607-2070
Phone: 785-235-9296 (800-792-7056)
Housing, Home Svcs.: 785-235-6671
Weatherization/Winterization: 785-232-3499
CACFP: 785-232-3258
Safe Kids, First Tee: 785-235-9296
Fax: 785-290-3200

HEAD START:

Hudson Center
2410 SE Highland Ave.
Topeka, KS 66607-1765
Phone: 785-266-0245 (800-792-8039)
Fax: 785-266-4967

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CAP-Lines is a publication of Community Action, Inc. Inquiries regarding content may be directed to Michael Bell.

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Home and Housing

Weatherization staff active

Furnaces replaced, staff added, certifications received

THE COLD IS FINALLY OVER! FOR weatherization applicants the just completed winter months were made more bearable through having their homes sealed and insulated from the cold weather.



Furnace inspection

Community Action Weatherization replaced 36 furnaces during the first three months of this year.

NEW STAFF

The program welcomed Manuel Garcia as a Weatherization Inspector in training. Garcia previously had worked as the agency's Program Support Specialist.

CERTIFICATIONS

Housing Program Director Kelly Meerpohl recently received his certification as a weatherization inspector, and Billy Fish is close to receiving the same certification.

HOUSING

The Housing Department is beginning many outdoor projects at the agency's housing complexes, including yard work



Meriden Heights

Tanglewood Apts.



Swingle House Apts.

at Meriden Heights and Tanglewood and parking and building repair work at the Swingle House Apartments in Leonardville.

The implementation of new property management software is almost complete and should provide a smoother way of tracking tenant rents and maintenance work orders.

END

COMMUNITY ACTION CALENDAR

May, June, July 2010

Meetings

May 3: Executive Committee

May 13: BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

May 20: Head Start Review Committee

May 25: Program Committee

May 27: Housing Committee

June 2: Executive Committee

June 17: Head Start Review Committee

June 22: Program Review Committee

June: Community Committee TBA

July 7: Executive Committee

July 8: BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

July 15: Head Start Review Committee

July 22: Housing Committee

July 27: Program Committee

July: Finance Committee TBA

Holidays

May 31: Memorial Day (Agency Closed)

July 5: Independence Day (Agency Closed)

Free Food Available in Rossville, KS,
12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Wed., May 26, at Citizen
Potawatomi Nation, 806 Nishnabe Trail. No
income guidelines. Provide picture ID, soc.
sec. number. Call 785-235-9296 for info.