



CAP-LINES

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

Free school supplies, information shared

Back-to-School Fair marks 17 years of preparing school-aged kids for classes

FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES were provided to area children again this year at the Back-to-School Fair, held on Aug. 2 at the Kansas Expocentre.

Community Services Director John Homlish said 1,500

backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to school-aged children.

He said the fair featured a "Kindergarten Room" for kids entering school for the first time and a "Grandparents'

Room" that provided information and activities for grandparents raising grandchildren.

Homlish said approximately 70 community groups had tables at the Fair to share information with the public. This year's Fair attracted approximately 2,500 people.

The Kansas Housing Re-

This family was able to access Free grade-appropriate school Supplies at last year's Fair.



Kids play at the Back-to-School Fair.

sources Corporation (through the Community Services Block Grant), Security Benefit Group, Children's Mercy Family Health Partners, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, 190th Air Guard, UniCare-Kansas, Wal-Mart, Best Buy, and Frito-Lay provided financial and other support. **END**

Page One

Youngsters "Tee" off with golf program

First Tee instills values, teaches game to kids

THE FIRST TEE OF Shawnee County began summer programming at the end of May, enrolling nearly 80 youths.

Project Attention Coordinator Elmer Robinson said nearly 70 of those youths will complete the 12-week program in mid-August.

Robinson said the First Tee of Shawnee County (TFTSC) combines teaching the "core values" promoted by the program, as well as actual golf instruction. Sessions are conducted at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course, he said.

Fall programs will begin on

Sept. 6 from 1 - 3 p.m., and will be held on successive Saturdays through the end of the month for as long as the weather is suitable.

Robinson said TFTSC also will continue its involvement with area schools through assemblies promoting the program's values and physical education classes.

TFTSC recently received a \$24,000 grant from the First Tee Foundation, as well as a \$12,000 matching grant from the U.S. Golf Association. These grants will

support the operating and educational activities of the program.

The First Tee was co-founded by Tiger Woods' father, Earl, in 1997 to provide golf instruction and life lessons to youths. The "core values" are honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, and courtesy. **END**



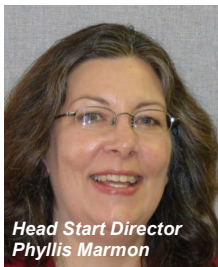
The First Tee enables kids to learn golf and its life lessons.

“Children are like wet cement.
Whatever falls on them makes an impression.”
— Dr. Haim Ginott, Child Therapist

Head Start

Senior staff member certified; Tecumseh North Head Start applauded; family with special needs helped

Head Start Director named Community Action professional; expanded school program helps low-income kids; disabled senior and granddaughter thrive



Head Start Director
Phyllis Marmon

DURING THE last quarter Head Start Director Phyllis Marmon became a Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP), the Community Action-

Tecumseh North partnership received kudos, and a non-traditional family thanked the agency for its help.

CCAP Certification

Marmon said the CCAP is a peer recognition program that was developed after two years of extensive research and field testing. It draws on the knowledge and insight of over 100 local community action professionals who have contributed to a body of knowledge related to Community Action Agency management.

Potential funders and community leaders who see that an agency has a CCAP on board will know that person has achieved a high standard of excellence, which can be of benefit in competing for public and private grant funds.

The following three activities had to be completed to be certified:

1. Completion of a Candidate Data Form providing an accurate record of Community Action experience.
2. Development of an Executive Skills Portfolio as a sample of work, structured according to certain guidelines.
3. Passing a written exam based on the Community Action Body of Knowledge document.

The nation's 24 new CCAP's will receive their certificates at the Community Action Partnership Convention Awards Gala on Aug. 28.

Tecumseh North Head Start

The two-year-old partnership between Community Action, Inc. and Shawnee Heights USD 450 that resulted in the Tecumseh North Head Start location, recently received coverage in the school district's newsletter.

The program began with 15 students receiving 3.5 hours of daily classroom time. One year ago the classroom time more than doubled to an eight-hour day.

Marmon said the program seeks to prepare low-income youngsters to relate to others and their world, both in and out of school and now and in the future.

Marmon gave kudos to the Shawnee Heights School District for its support of the Tecumseh North Head Start and how it has enabled area children to have transportation to classes and classroom space.

Non-Traditional Family Helped

A physically challenged woman and her granddaughter recently received noteworthy assistance from Head Start.

The woman, "Grace," who received custody of her granddaughter last October, is confined to a wheelchair. Community Action Head Start helped to enroll her granddaughter in classes.



Head Start students take time for a snack. Head Start children and their families benefit as the program prepares kids for life at and away from school.

When Grace had surgery this March, the case manager assigned to her came to see her in the hospital and picked up paperwork for her related to another agency program.

Grace said that she feels comfortable that her granddaughter now has "the 'step up' she needs to prepare her for the upcoming kindergarten year."

Non-traditional families are becoming more common. Nearly 30,000 children live with their grandparents in Kansas, while more than 8,700 kids live in households headed by other relatives. Both demographics total 6.3 percent of Kansas children (see below). **END**

Community Action Board of Directors' Luncheon Topics Schedule:

Wednesday, August 20, 2008:

Weatherization, Emergency Repair Program (ERP), Kansas Accessibility Modification Program (KAMP), Noon, Hancock Center

Wednesday, September 17, 2008:

Agency Properties and Facilities, Noon, Hancock Center

Please RSVP to Herminia Chavez by noon the day before each meeting via telephone at 235-9561 or e-mail at hchavez@inlandnet.net.



Tecumseh North Elementary School houses one of Community Action's Head Start programs.

← DATABASE-LINES: Kansas Grandparents Raising their Grandchildren (Data from the website www.grandfactsheet.org/doc/Kansas%2007.pdf)

- ◆ 17,873 grandparents report they are responsible for their grandchildren living with them
- ◆ 17% of those grandparents are African American, 11% are Hispanic/Latino, 2% are Asian-American, 2% are Native American/Alaskan Native, and 67% are white
- ◆ 38% of those grandparents live in households without the children's parents present, 75.6% are under the age of 60, and 13.2% live in poverty

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”

— Thomas Edison, U.S. Inventor

Community Services

Safe Kids reaches one million; Katrina group grows

Worldwide initiative marks milestone in child car safety seat installations; Katrina group marks three years in Topeka



An infant is safely secured in her car seat at the Buckle Up event at Ed Bozarth Chevrolet.

SAFE KIDS SHAWNEE COUNTY, along with the Safe Kids Worldwide Initiative, marked the one millionth child car safety seat installation in its history on June 14.

The local effort held a Buckle Up event to commemorate the occasion at Ed Bozarth Chevrolet, 3731 SW Topeka Blvd.

Family Institute Coordinator Gilberto Chabbarria assisted with the installations, and Bozarth staff helped with the event.

He said that it is estimated that over the last 10 years Safe Kids Shawnee county has installed over 16,000 child car

safety seats.

Chabbarria said since May, Safe Kids Shawnee County has installed nearly 125 child car safety seats for infants and children from low-income families and conducted frequent “Buckle Up” events to assure that the safety seats have been properly installed by parents or others.

The program also has administered several other child safety initiatives, including parent and child training on walking safely to and from school.

Safe Kids’ motto is “Preventing Accidental Injury.”

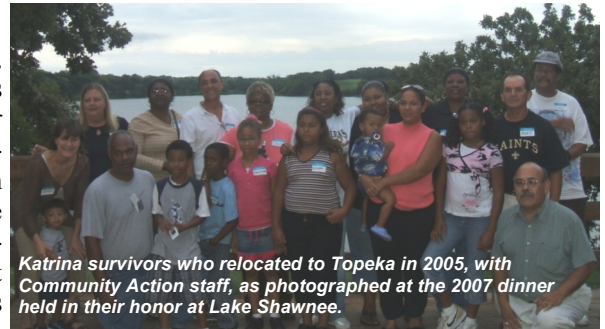
Katrina Group Calls Topeka Home

Relocating can be a difficult thing to do. Having to do it in response to a natural disaster, where your lives are turned upside down, can be almost impossible. Yet a group of people in Topeka who survived Hurricane Katrina in 2005 have successfully integrated Topeka.

Direct Client Services Coordinator Alice Schimmel said that she “really feels (like she’s) a part of their lives and they feel like they’re a part of mine here at Community Action.” She says she keeps in regular contact.

During the past year three children have been born, two of them twins. Two children graduated from high school, and another two graduated from middle school. There also was another wedding this past year, she said.

Schimmel said three of the initial families who came to Topeka after Katrina are now



Katrina survivors who relocated to Topeka in 2005, with Community Action staff, as photographed at the 2007 dinner held in their honor at Lake Shawnee.

homeowners, including two families who just moved into new homes in July.

Two new families moved to Topeka to be closer to their relatives here.

Schimmel said that all of the initial Katrina group members now are self-sufficient and not receiving public assistance of any kind.

Only three of the initial families have moved elsewhere, she said, and they keep in regular contact, including having her complete their taxes for this past year. One of those families returned to Topeka last year to attend the dinner that marked two years in Topeka. **END**

Community Action Directory

ADMINISTRATION:

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES, HOUSING SERVICES, WEATHERIZATION, CACFP:

Swygart Center
621 SE Swygart
Topeka, KS 66607-2070
Phone: 785-235-9296 (800-792-7056)
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



Ed Bozarth staff (and a little friend!) who helped with the Buckle Up event celebrating one million safety seat installations.

← **DATABASE-LINES: THE “NEW” NEW ORLEANS:** (From Black Agenda Report, http://www.blackagendareport.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=549&Itemid=1)

- ◆ Fewer than 50% of New Orleans’ elderly residents, pre-Katrina, have returned (from the Social Security Administration)
- ◆ 59% fewer disabled workers receiving Social Security Disability have returned (Social Security Administration)
- ◆ Barely 40% of renters in Louisiana can return to affordable homes (Policy Link)
- ◆ Medicaid assistance is down 46% (50% for the aged, 53% for the blind, and 52% for children (LA Dept. of Health & Hospitals)

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Housing

Weatherization client likes repairs

Client's home now saves her money; ERP, KAMP funds gone; Meriden Heights construction continues

BLYTH STEWART HAD PROBLEMS. Her house didn't feel like a home anymore.

Then Stewart's home was fixed through the agency's Weatherization Program, which decreases energy use in homes through insulation, caulking, and furnace upgrades and repairs.

Her roof was fixed, her attic and walls were insulated, and the ceiling in her bedroom was repaired. The repairs, according to Weatherization Services Projects Direc-

Weatherization client Blyth Stewart was "very happy" with the work that made her home more energy efficient.



tor Aaron Brucker, reduced the airflow in her home by 50 percent and will save her about \$50 per month on her energy bills.

Stewart also said the workers at her home were "very respectful."

ERP, KAMP Funds Exhausted

Emergency Repair Program and Kansas Accessibility Modification Program funds for Shawnee County have all been spent, and no additional funds are expected until November, said Housing Program Director Jewell Welch. However, the agency still has KAMP funds for Clay, Geary, Morris and Riley Counties.

Meriden Heights Construction

Welch said five of the six buildings are now enclosed and some of the electrical and plumbing activities have begun. The agency has met with the Rural Water Board and now has a design plan for access to and distribution of water. A utility easement has been granted to the city so Westar can run electricity to the buildings.

Applications are expected to be taken starting Sept. 1. The first building should be completed by the end of August, weather permitting. **END**

COMMUNITY ACTION CALENDAR

Aug., Sept., Oct. 2008

Meetings

Aug. 6th: Executive Committee
Aug. 12th: Community Committee
Aug. 21st: Head Start Review Comm.
Aug. 26th: Program Committee
Aug. 28th: Housing Committee
Sept. 3rd: Executive Committee
Sept. 11th: BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MTG.
Sept. 9th: Community Committee
Sept. 18th: Head Start Review Comm.
Sept. 23rd: Program Committee
Sept. 25th: Housing Committee
Oct. 1st: Executive Committee
Oct. 9th: ANNUAL MEETING
Oct. 14th: Community Committee
Oct. 16th: Head Start Review Comm.
Oct. 23rd: Housing Committee
Oct. 28th: Program Committee

Events, Holidays

Aug. 2nd: Back-to-School Fair
Aug. 4th: Agency Closed
Aug. 8th: All Staff In-Service (Agency Closed)
Sept. 1st: Labor Day (Agency Closed)
Oct. 13th: Columbus Day (Agency Closed)