

COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Serving Central and Northeast Kansas
Summer 2011

www.cactiontopeka.com

Lead
Story

Consortium honors agency's work

Topeka businesses name Community Action one of city's best non-profits

THREE TOPEKA AREA BUSINESS CONCERNS recently honored the work of small businesses with awards. Community Action, Inc. was a finalist for one of the awards.

The Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, GO Topeka and Entrepreneurial and Minority Business Development presented the 31st Annual Small Business Awards on May 18 at Washburn University.

Awards were given in four areas of excellence: Emerging Entrepreneur of Distinction, Non-Profit Award of Distinction, Minority and Women Business of Distinction, and Capital City Business of Distinction. Community Action, Inc. was nominated for the Non-Profit Award of Distinction.

The Non-Profit Award went to ERC Resource



Some of the Community Action board members and staff at the Small Business Awards: (L to R) Board Vice-President Brian Thompson, Board Member Doug Wallace, Kelly Meerpohl, Board Secretary Jo Salehar, Susan Wheatley, Thea Warren, Herminia Chavez, Phyllis Marmon and Michael Bell.

and Referral, Reva Wywadis, chief executive officer

Community Action, Inc. Executive Director Sue Wheatley said this about being recognized: "It is inspiring that non-profits are being recognized as enterprising small businesses that provide jobs as well as needed services in our community. Community Action is very proud to have been one of the finalists for this first round of award recognitions and congratulates ERC."

The Emerging Entrepreneur of Distinction went to T.R.E.A.L. Fashions, Terry W. Dudley II, chief executive officer. The Minority and Women Business of Distinction Award winner was JQ Historic Properties, Barbara Quaney, president. The Capital City Business of Distinction Award went to L & J Building Maintenance, Lonnie J. Williams, owner. **END**

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Students win Community Action scholarships

Multiple hardships haven't deterred winners from working towards goals

A PAIR OF AREA STUDENTS NOW HAVE SOME help with college expenses through the agency's scholarship program.

Cathrine Headworth and Heather Crowley both were awarded \$1,000 scholarships by Community Action, Inc. at its July 14 board meeting.



Scholarship winner Cathrine Headworth (in light blue top) with friend Alyssa Johnson and son Devan

Headworth is pursuing a degree in education at Washburn University. So far she has paid for her education

with student loans, grants and scholarships. She and her son, Devan, have had medical bills to cover that have been piling up, so the scholarship will relieve some of the pressures of paying those expenses as well as the expenses associated with attending Washburn.

Crowley is pursuing a degree in culinary arts from Washburn Tech in Topeka. She has one year to go on her degree. She has two children, currently lives in public housing and doesn't have a vehicle, so it's been hard for her to get around. She said the extra money from the scholarship would be help with transportation and her education. **END**



Scholarship winner Heather Crowley

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Helping People
Help Themselves Since 1970



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.

"It is poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish."
 — Mother Teresa of Calcutta, 1979 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

Head Start

State senator feted for helping kids; Agency staffer honored

Sen. Kelly designated a Kansas Champion; Brown named Advocate of the Year

THE TIRELESS WORK OF SEN. Laura Kelly on behalf of Kansas' children was recognized in April and Com-



(L to R) Community Action Head Start Director Phyllis Marmon, Kansas State Senator Laura Kelly and Scott Henson, Head Start Director at the Sheldon Developmental Center.

munity Action, Inc. Assistant Head Start Director Brenda Brown recently was honored for her efforts at promoting the GenesisEarth database.

KELLY NAMED A KANSAS CHAMPION

The Region VII Head Start Association; consisting of Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri; designated Kelly a State Champion because her leadership on children's and family issues has helped to increase the number of Kansas Early Head Start participants by 50 percent over the past five years and helped to create the

Early Childhood Block Grant, which funds evidence-based programs in multiple counties across the state.

Kelly represents District 18 in the Kansas Senate, which includes part of Topeka.

BROWN NAMED ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Brown was named the Sarah M. Green Advocate of the Year. The honor is bestowed on the person "who has gone above and beyond in 'advocating' for GenesisEarth from a sales and marketing perspective, including arranging demonstrations for colleagues, presenting at conferences or promoting GenesisEarth on listserves."

Brown began with Head Start as a college intern in 1990 in Hutchinson, KS, and from there she has been a Head Start volunteer, assistant teacher, home visitor, teacher, Parent Involvement Coordinator and has served in various data and communication management positions. **END**



(L to R) Sarah M. Green and Assistant Head Start Director Brenda Brown

Service

State group honors three

KACAP recognizes contributions of Community Action client, volunteers

WENDING ONE'S WAY TO SELF-sufficiency and volunteering one's time to empower others to overcome poverty both were recognized by the Kansas Association of Community Action Programs, or KACAP, at its annual awards luncheon on June 7.

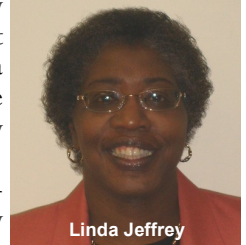
Jennifer Whitcomb was honored as KACAP's Personal Responsibility and Achievement Award winner. Whitcomb has a child in Community Action Head Start and has served as a member of the agency's Policy Council.

KACAP honored Linda Jeffrey with its Caring Service Award. Jeffrey has been a member of the Community Action board for more than 15 years and serves as chair of its bylaws committee. She also is a former Topeka City Attorney.

The 190th Air Refueling Wing received KACAP's Award for Collaborative Excellence for its support of Community Action's Back-to-School Fair through providing free school supplies for area students who might not otherwise have received them. **END**



Jennifer Whitcomb



Linda Jeffrey



190th Air Refueling Wing

Friends

Volunteers thanked at dinner

ADINNER RECOGNIZING THE many contributions volunteers make to Community Action, Inc. was held on May 17 at the agency's Hudson Center.

Dozens of volunteers who help to get the work done from each program from Administration,

Community Services, and Head Start were in attendance.

The dinner was a part of the agency's celebration of Community Action Month in May. This year's theme for the month was "Working for Opportunity and Economic

Security in America." **END**



DATABASE-LINES: 2011 KANSAS LEGISLATURE AND EARLY HEAD START (FROM KS ACTION FOR CHILDREN)

- ◆ Regarding KS Early Head Start, \$10.2 million was allocated, a \$1.2 million reduction from last year's funding. Gov. Sam Brownback had recommended no funding.
- ◆ A proviso in the budget ensures that SRS will, in fact, use the dollars to restore KEHS and not for some other purpose.
- ◆ Due to an unexpected decline in tobacco settlement revenue received in April, the Children's Initiatives Fund, which provides funding for most early learning programs and certain children's health programs, was facing an unprecedented \$8.3 million shortfall. This hole was filled with \$6.7 million in state general funds, making a potential 17.5% funding reduction become a 3% reduction.

"He who teaches children learns more than they do."
— German proverb

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Community Services

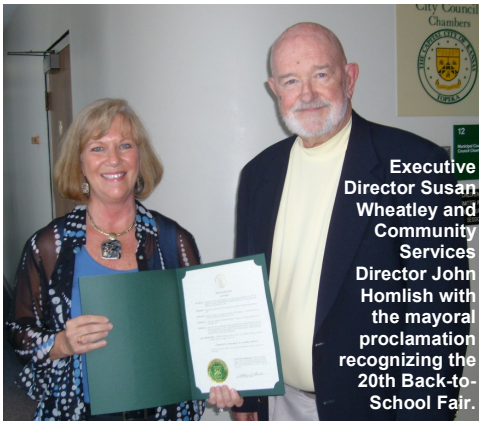
Back-to-School Fair turns 20; Capper thanks Safe Kids; golf fundraiser a success

Free school supplies; kids biking; chipping for charity

COMMUNITY ACTION, INC. WILL mark its 20th year of distributing free school supplies at its annual Back-to-School Fair, to be held from 9 a.m. - noon on Saturday, August 6 at the Kansas Expocentre.



Kids, family members, staff and volunteers at the "Lose the Training Wheels" event.



Executive Director Susan Wheatley and Community Services Director John Homlish with the mayoral proclamation recognizing the 20th Back-to-School Fair.

Children in grades K-12 will receive backpacks filled with free, grade-appropriate school supplies for the upcoming school year.

Topeka Mayor Bill Bunten proclaimed August 6 as Community Action Back-to-School Fair Day at the July 26 city council meeting. The proclamation recognized the agency's commitment to promoting education, advocacy, prevention and services to meet basic human needs.

CAPPER FOUNDATION THANKS SAFE KIDS SHAWNEE COUNTY

The Capper Foundation expressed its gratitude for its collaboration with Safe Kids Shawnee County's "Lose the Training Wheels," a project seeking to teach children with disabilities how to ride bicycles.

Pam Walstrom, Capper Vice President

of Development, said, "Your friendship and support changed the lives of children with disabilities. The children arrived on Monday reluctant to get on a bike. By (the end of the week) they each gained confidence and self-esteem to ride independently...to the roar and applause of the staff, the 73 volunteers who coached and encouraged them each day, and the family members who couldn't imagine this would be possible for their child."

GOLF FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

The First Tee of Shawnee County's golf fundraiser, held on May 23 at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course, hit the middle of the fairway in terms of its success.

More than 70 people participated, Eight companies were tournament sponsors and 25 companies and individuals sponsored holes at the tournament, and more than a dozen companies and individuals contributed prizes. Overall, about \$8,500 has been raised this year to support First Tee programming. **END**



Three tourney participants negotiate a green at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course as part of The First Tee's Golf fundraiser.

Free Food to be Distributed In Auburn and Rossville, KS

In 2011 the Auburn Rural Mobile Food Pantry will be held on the fourth Friday of each month from 1 - 2 p.m. at the Auburn Community Center, 121 West 11th.

The Rossville Rural Mobile Food Pantry will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. at Citizen Potawatomi Nation, 806 Nishnabe Trail.

For more information, please contact Alice Schimmel or Jessica Villegas at 785-235-9561 (800-792-7056) or aschimmel@inlandnet.net or jvillegas@inlandnet.net.

August - October 2011 Safe Kids Buckle Up Events

(FOR DETAILS CONTACT COMMUNITY ACTION'S
SWYGART CENTER AT 785-235-9296)

Aug. 20: 9 a.m. - Noon, Ed Bozarth Chevrolet, 3731 SW Topeka Blvd.

Sep. 18: 9 a.m. - Noon, Babies-R-Us, 2190 SW Wanamaker Rd. *Child Passenger Safety Week.*

Sep. 20: 4 - 7 p.m., Fire Station #12, 2101 SW Urish Rd. *Child Passenger Safety Week.*

Sep. 22: 4 - 7 p.m., Dillon's Store #87, 5311 SW 22nd. *Child Passenger Safety Week.*

Sep. 24: 9 a.m. - Noon, Ed Bozarth, 3731 SW Topeka. *Child Passenger Safety Week.*

Oct. 15: 9 a.m. - Noon, Burlington Coat Factory, 1801 SW Wanamaker Rd.

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 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.: 785-235-9296
Weatherization/Winterization: 785-232-3499
CACFP: 785-232-3258
Safe Kids, First Tee: 785-235-9296
Fax: 785-290-3200

HEAD START, EARLY HEAD START HOME VISITATION:

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

DATABASE-LINES: 2011 KANSAS LEGISLATURE AND EARLY HEAD START (FROM JOHNSON COUNTY SUN)

- ◆ Regarding next year's KEHS funds, requests for proposals will be required for grantees to qualify for funding, the first time that's happened since the program's inception in 1998.
- ◆ SRS' Rachel Whitten says competitively awarded funds will increase efficiency, but KEHS advocates are con-

cerned about how funding decisions will be made and what impact this plan, coupled with any more funding cuts, might have on the number of people served.

- ◆ KEHS serves approximately 1,250 kids in 56 of Kansas' 105 counties (National Center for Infants, Toddlers and Families).



Early
Head
Start

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

Funding for this publication was provided in part by the federal Community Services Block Grant through the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



If you would prefer to receive CAP-LINES via e-mail, please contact our office at 785-235-9561 (866-235-9561) or mbell@inlandnet.net.

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Home and Housing Services

Hot temps challenge staff, but work still completed

Weatherization inspections, facilities' maintenance, housing conference highlights

THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS MEAN much sunny weather to work in, but with that also comes hot temperatures. Weatherization staff have been adapting to both conditions.

Inspectors have been trying to work around the heat to get as many homes inspected as possible so that contractors have plenty of homes to keep them busy

and to move ahead with the schedule of homes to be completed.

The weather also has allowed the completion of some projects at Community Action housing complexes.

Specifically, the Swingle House Apartments parking area recently was widened and received a new gravel covering to complement the building's new paint.

Tanglewood residents were able to complete their flower and vegetable gardens and, with the help of a horticulturist, have started to reap rewards from their efforts.

And renovations to the Community Action Homes, acquired earlier this year, are now complete. All five single-family homes on Topeka's east side are now occupied.

Looking ahead, weatherization and housing staff will attend the 2011 Kansas Housing Conference August 8 - 11 in Wichita and hope to bring back with them fresh ideas to enhance both programs as they move forward.



Swingle House Apartments in Leonardville, KS.

END

COMMUNITY ACTION CALENDAR

August - October 2011

Board of Directors' Meetings

Aug. 3: Executive Committee
Aug. 9: Community Committee
Aug. 18: Head Start Review Committee

Sep. 7: Executive Committee
Sep. 8: BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
Sep. 15: Head Start Review Committee
Sep. 22: Housing Committee
Sep. 27: Program Committee
Sep.: Bylaws, Finance and Personnel Committees TBA

Oct. 5: Executive Committee
Oct. 13: ANNUAL MEETING
Oct. 20: Head Start Review Committee
Oct. 25: Program Committee

TBA = To Be Announced

Events, Holidays

Aug. 8: Agency Closed
Sep. 5: Labor Day (Agency Closed)
Sep. 26: All-Staff In-Service (Agency Closed)
Oct. 10: Columbus Day (Agency Closed)