

# Victories *Everyday*



Cincinnati-Hamilton County  
Community Action Agency  
*We help make things happen*

www.cincy-caa.org

January/February 2010

## Creating 'Best Practices'

CAA recently received the Best Practice Award for its neighborhood revitalization efforts in the Bond Hill area of Cincinnati. The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies and the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at The Ohio State University honored CAA for its Jordan Crossing facility. Previously an abandoned department store, the state-of-the-art facility now offers new standards of education and improved access to resources. The facility also houses a Public Library branch, a SuperJobs Center, and will soon offer a medical and health clinic.

## Leading the Way

CAA welcomes three new members to lead the agency on its Board of Directors:

- **Daniel Brooks**, Mayor of North College Hill
- **Jeffrey A. Ficke**, Fifth Third Bank
- **Reverend Donald Jones**, Greater New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

The agency also welcomes a new addition to its leadership staff—**William D. Parr**, Director of Planning & Economic Development. He will lead CAA's efforts to develop its volunteer base and land new business enterprises.

## Join Us on the Web

Have you surfed around  
CAA's new website?  
Replied to one of our tweets?  
Become our Facebook fan?

Check out CAA on the web at  
**www.cincy-caa.org** and  
on your favorite social  
networking sites.



@CincyCAA



Cincinnati-Hamilton  
County Community  
Action Agency

## Dates to Remember

CAA's free EITC tax  
preparation services offered  
January 25—April 15, 2010

Agency Closed for  
President's Day  
February 15, 2010

CAA's Employee Event—  
Men's Cook  
February 25, 2010



## Turning a House into a Home

Cincinnati resident Christine Brown never imagined she would contract a rare disease that would change her life forever. The disease has had a domino effect on Christine's health, forcing her to pay careful attention to her body's needs, especially during the winter months when the outdated windows on her 50-year-old house provide little protection against over-exposure from the cold and wind. She is now a diabetic and suffers from high blood pressure; she has recently developed arthritis and asthma. Christine's illness has also made her legs retain substantial amounts of fluids that hinder her ability to walk. Her leg therapy treatments require the use of appliances and machines. However, the day came when the circuit breaker in her home went out, and the appliances no longer worked. Christine was unable to afford making repairs because her disease had put her out of work, and her husband had recently been laid off. She turned to CAA's Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) for assistance. The agency's home weatherization team made sure Christine could live as comfortable as possible and not let the age of her home further impact her health. CAA repaired the circuit breaker, installed a new furnace and hot water heater, insulated her doors, and will soon replace the windows. For many like Christine, home weatherization services provide more than lower utility bills and environmental benefits. It provides comfort, health and safety, and peace of mind.

*Did you know...  
that a properly weatherized home can save  
a family more than 30% on their energy bills?*



## CAA's President & CEO: A Profile in Courage

CAA's President & CEO, Gwen L. Robinson, was recently recognized as a 2010 Profiles in Courage honoree. The Profiles in Courage distinction honors African Americans who have met life's challenges with tenacity and courage, inspiring us all to be more and to do more for our community. Ms. Robinson's passion and gift for serving this community is evident throughout her 15-year career as CAA's dedicated leader. However, her dedication continues long after the work day has ended, actively serving on numerous boards committed to serving low-income families at the local, regional, and

state level. Now in its ninth year, Profiles in Courage is presented by Fifth Third Bank, in partnership with WCPO Channel 9, the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati, the University of Cincinnati, and The Cincinnati Herald. WCPO will air vignettes sharing each honoree's story throughout the month of February.

### CAA's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) continues to help a record number of families this season.

Since November 1, 2009, when the winter HEAP program began, CAA has helped more than 15,330 clients keep their heat on. That is more than double the number of clients the agency saw during the 2008-2009 winter season. Emergency HEAP ends March 31 and provides financial assistance to eligible households who are in disconnect status or have received a disconnection notice.

## What's New at CAA

CAA's award-winning **Blueprint for Success program** will provide more men and women with hands-on training in the construction field when it raises its age eligibility requirements to accept participants over 30 years old. Blueprint for Success currently serves 18 to 30 year olds and is a nine month pre-apprenticeship construction training program that provides both life and job skills training.



### The Columbus Dispatch...

recently reported that although unemployment is still on the rise, the number of manufacturing jobs is increasing. CAA aims to prepare individuals for this growing field through its **Cincinnati Manufacturing Certificates program (CMC)**. Through intensive training and testing, CMC helps participants earn four national production certifications sought after by the manufacturing industry.

In its first few months, 26 individuals graduated from the CMC program.



CAA opened a new location to assist job-seekers struggling to overcome the employment obstacles created by a criminal record. The **Ex-Offender Fresh Start program** will now provide services at our main office at 1740 Langdon Farm Road and at 2009 Millvale Court on Cincinnati's West Side. Fresh Start assists ex-offenders in finding employment by providing comprehensive employment

assistance. The program works with clients to address the unique barriers that ex-offenders often face when seeking employment. Clients receive assistance with resume development, interview coaching, job retention services, and referrals.