

Victories

Everyday



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

www.cincy-caa.org

September/October 2010

Bridging the Gap

CAA's **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** ended on September 23 with the Bridging the Gap conference. Over 200 youth participated in the one-day workshop that focused on self-esteem, healthy relationships, and youth violence. The SYEP is an eight-week employment and training program for 14-24 year olds. Youth are placed in entry-level jobs and receive weekly professional development training.

CAA Celebrates 46 Years of Service

Join CAA at its **46th Annual Luncheon** on Friday, October 29 at The Westin Cincinnati. This year's keynote speaker is actor and youth advocate Malik Yoba (*New York Undercover*, Tyler Perry's *Why Did I Get Married?*). CAA's Annual Luncheon serves as a time to look back over the past year of service and reaffirm CAA's commitment to serving low-income families in Hamilton County. To purchase seats or to become a sponsor, visit www.cincy-caa.org.

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Cincinnati-Hamilton
County Community
Action Agency

Dates to Remember

46th Annual Luncheon

Friday, October 29
11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
The Westin Cincinnati

Head Start Soccer League

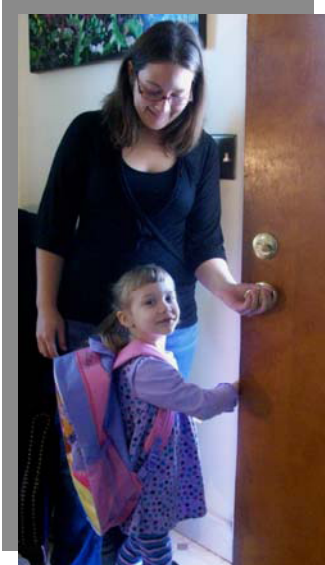
Saturdays, October 2 — 30
Our Mother of Sorrow Church

CAA Closed — Veteran's Day

Monday, November 15

CAA Closed — Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 25
Friday, November 26



Giving Families a Healthy Head Start: *Pre-school program goes above and beyond education*

After Sara Rose moved to Cincinnati from Florida in January 2010, her youngest daughter Alexis begged to start school. Sara began researching local pre-school options and discovered **Head Start**. The 40 year-old program prepares families for life-long educational success and develops children's cognitive, social, and emotional skills through meaningful play.

Due to a lack of health insurance, Sara expected to face challenges when enrolling Alexis in pre-school; the Head Start program provided a different experience. "Everyone we've been in contact with has been very helpful and caring," said Sara. Staff walked the Roses through all of the necessary paperwork and scheduled Alexis' physical at WinMed Health Services located in CAA's Jordan Crossing facility. It was during that free medical exam that doctor's identified Alexis' heart murmur. It was also during a check-up on the Head Start Dental Bus that Sara learned of Alexis' tooth abscess. When the painful infection persisted, staff made arrangements for Alexis to return earlier than scheduled for the much-needed treatment.

Alexis is now thriving at one of the 140 Head Start sites administered by CAA in Hamilton County. Staff also referred Sara to Legal Aid, where she received assistance filing for Medicaid and was approved. "Thanks to CAA and the Head Start program both of my daughters are healthier and Alexis is so happy, and learning and growing in school," said Sara.

Learn more about CAA's Head Start program —
visit www.cincinnatiheadstart.org

Changes Coming to Utility Bill Assistance Program

On November 1, Ohio's **Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP)** will undergo programmatic changes and become PIPP Plus. PIPP helps eligible households maintain gas and electric service by allowing customers to pay only a portion of their bill, based on income. Unlike the nine-month PIPP program, PIPP Plus customers are placed on a year-round payment plan and earn a credit towards their arrearage and current bill if the monthly PIPP Plus payment is made on time and in-full. PIPP Plus also frees customers of all old utility debt if their on time and in-full payments are made for 24 consecutive months.

PIPP Plus is part of CAA's **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**, helping Hamilton County's low-income residents meet the high cost of energy. "For the 24,000 Duke Energy customers who rely on PIPP, it's important that they understand the changes," said Robin Avant, CAA's HEAP Manager. To be eligible for PIPP Plus, individuals must earn a household income at or below 150% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Walk-ins are accepted Monday — Friday beginning at 8:00 a.m. For more information, visit www.cincy-caa.org.

CAA's Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provided heat relief for 3,189 families through its **Summer Crisis Program (SCP)**. The two-month program allocated \$505,000 in funds and distributed 327 air conditioners and 121 fans.

The SCP provides fans, air conditioners, and/or up to \$175 in utility bill assistance to eligible families with a household member over the age of 60 or with someone suffering from a heat-related health problem.

To conclude Energy Awareness Month, the Department of Energy declared October 30th as **National Weatherization Day**. Low-income families spend nearly 14.4 percent of their annual income on energy bills. Home weatherization reduces energy consumption and lowers utility costs with services such as insulating walls, attics, and crawl spaces, caulking air leaks, weather stripping doors, servicing or replacing furnaces, and numerous other energy saving updates.

For every \$1 invested in home weatherization, \$2.51 is returned to the household and society.

Source: ORNL/TM-2010/66,
EIA February 2010 Short Term Energy Outlook

What's New at CAA

CAA held its first **Youth Services Career Fair** in September. Over 80 past and present participants from CAA's Workforce Development and construction training programs met with recruiters from area companies, including Frito Lay, The Kroger Company, Messer Construction, and Time Warner Cable. Local schools were also on-site from Miami-Jacobs Career College, Antonelli College, and Northern Kentucky University.



Representatives from CAA's Fatherhood, Home Energy Assistance (HEAP), and Youth Services programs participated in the **Cincinnati Police Department's National Night Out** in August at the Mt. Washington Recreation Center. The agency joined other community organizations to support the annual event and help spread the message that police want to work in partnership with the local communities to create safe neighborhoods. The event included live music and activities to encourage families and children to interact with specialized police units, including officers on horseback and segues, and the K-9 unit.

