

Victories Everyday



Cincinnati-Hamilton County
Community Action Agency

We help make things happen

www.cincy-caa.org

Summer 2009

Federal Reviewers Praise Head Start

After an in-depth review, the Administration for Children and Families determined Head Start (HS) and Early Head Start (EHS) to be in compliance with all applicable performance standards and laws. The reviewers also noted many strengths, including CAA's use of camera observation which is a valuable tool for training staff and for enhancing parenting skills. CAA is now accepting HS and EHS applications. Call 569.4510 to enroll.

Bridging the Gap

On July 31 and August 1, over 250 participants of CAA's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) took part in Bridging the Gap. The two day conference for 16-18 year olds included community service projects, workshops, and a keynote address from David Tavares, Minister Server of Hip-Hop Ministries. SYEP provides youth with employment in entry-level jobs and professional development for eight weeks.

Join Us on the Web

Join CAA on your favorite social networking sites! Become our fan on Facebook and "tweet" with us on Twitter. We'll keep you updated on news, events, and happenings around CAA and in the community.



<https://twitter.com/CincyCAA>



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CAA Employee Introduces Vice President Biden

CAA's own Thomas Ficklen, Jr. introduced Vice President Joe Biden during his visit to Northside on July 9th. Thomas was hired as the Home Weatherization Intake/Outreach Specialist with funds from President Obama's stimulus package. He spoke on the benefits of pouring money back into the community and how being employed by CAA has

made such a positive impact on his life. Thomas thanked the Obama administration for their dedication to serving our nation and CAA for their commitment to improving our community.

Dates to Remember

**Annual Black Family
Reunion Parade**
Saturday, Aug 15
Avondale Community

**Head Start
Early Childhood
Learning Institute**
Aug 18, 19, & 22
513.569.1840 x 1711

**Head Start
09-10 School Year Begins**
Monday, Aug 31
513.569.4510

45th Annual Luncheon
Friday, Oct 23
Westin Downtown
513.569.1853

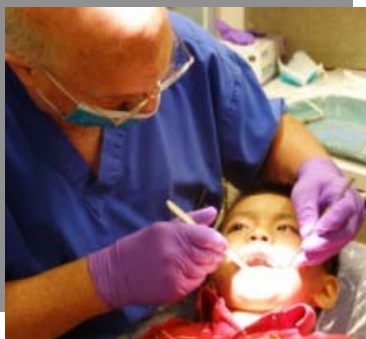
Blueprint Students Lend a Hand

The Council on Aging of Southwestern Ohio contacted CAA when they needed to help ensure seniors were prepared for the digital television switch. The students of Blueprint for Success were eager to step forward and serve the community. On the day of the DTV switch, a group of Blueprint students began installing converter boxes in local seniors' homes. They made sure the TV channels were reprogrammed and that the residents knew how to use the new system. Blueprint for Success is a nine month pre-apprenticeship construction training program for 18-30 year olds. The program helps young adults become self-sufficient community members by providing supportive services, along with educational and vocational training.



How Stimulus Dollars are Helping Hamilton County

Four CAA programs are receiving funding from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA): Home Weatherization (HWAP), Community Services, Youth Services, and Head Start. HWAP is receiving \$11.3 million to weatherize a total of 1,400 homes over the next 22 months. Community Services will receive \$2.9 million in unrestricted funds to use for housing, economic development, health, or education. Youth Services will receive \$618,113 in YouthBuild grant funding to expand the Blueprint for Success program. Finally, Head Start has received \$1.8 million in ARRA funding and has also applied for additional stimulus funds to serve 150-200 more Early Head Start children.



On July 17, the Greater Cincinnati Oral Health Council's **Dental Road Crew** visited Head Start children at the CAA Life Learning Center on Langdon Farm Road. The crew provided dental check-ups and referrals at no cost to Head Start families. The Dental Road Crew will also visit CAA's Ted Berry Head Start location. Many Hamilton County children would not receive proper dental screenings without the benefit of a Head Start program.

CAA News Briefs

Hundreds of shoppers showed up for the **Second Annual Big Top Yard Sale & Head Start Enrollment Event** on June 27 at CAA. Jeri Tolliver and Emanuel Livingston of WDBZ The Buzz broadcasted live as more than 80 vendors sold everything from house wares to clothing. Head Start also enrolled 3 and 4 year-old children for the 2009-2010 school year. Proceeds from the sale of vendor tables and food benefited CAA's Head Start and Fatherhood Initiative.



On July 1, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) began providing heat relief for those at-risk in our community through its **Summer Cooling Program** (SCP). HEAP distributes fans, air conditioners, and/or up to \$175 in energy bill assistance to eligible families with a household member over the age of 60 or with someone suffering from a heat-related health problem. The SCP runs until August 31.

Did You Know...

...that CAA President & CEO Gwen L. Robinson is also President of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA)? OACAA works to keep Ohio's community action agencies in the forefront of the fight against poverty.

GCMI: Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative

During tough economic times, many people attempt to go into business for themselves to make ends meet. Since 1998, GCMI has helped individuals turn their business ideas into reality by providing entrepreneurial training classes, one-on-one mentoring, and small business loan assistance. Visit GCMI online at <http://www.gcmi.org>.

