

Striving Towards Self Sufficiency

Hollie R. Brown entered the U.S. Army planning to make the military her life. She was proud to serve her country and proud to give up her life to protect the freedoms of her fellow Americans. She was stationed at Fort Gordon, Georgia, and assigned to B Company, 73rd Ordinance Battalion. Avionics repair was her specialty and she worked on preparing and maintaining helicopters used by the military. Tensions rose in her company as a deployment to Iraq seemed evident. Hollie knew the military tour would be trying but she was prepared to do whatever was needed to serve her country.

Two months before her unit was deployed to Iraq, Hollie received devastating news. She was told a hip injury she received while in basic training was too severe and she would have to leave the military. The Army issued her an Honorable Discharge and Hollie returned home to stay with her family.

After returning home, Hollie became pregnant and gave birth to her son J.R. She struggled to take care of her child, not sure what to do with her life. In 2005 Hollie began receiving public assistance while she tried to find a career she could pursue.

In August 2006, Hollie turned to Community Action, Inc. and entered the Supported Work Program (SWP). Through her work with a career counselor, she received several certifications through the PA Career-Link's Work Readiness Skills Standards. Within a month, Hollie gained employment at a local retailer while she continued to work with her Supported Work Counselor to prepare for a future career.

While Hollie worked, Community Action's Supported Work Program provided her with workshops, teaching her how to properly construct a resume and interview for a career. As she worked through the programs, Community Action, Inc. helped Hollie find a career path that would suit her ability to make sacrifices while

helping others – nursing. She enrolled in a Certified Nursing Assistant class in January 2007, quickly excelling in the training and sailing through the program. Hollie was able to find employment at a personal care facility close to her home. Her employer was pleased with her hard work and dedication and steadily increased Hollie's hours.

On May 25, 2007, just eight months after she started, Hollie successfully completed the Supported Work Program. She is now working a full work week at a respectable wage that has allowed her to reach self-sufficiency and provide for her son. She continues to raise J.R. with the help of her family and believes that she and her son can accomplish anything they set their minds to.

Hollie is thankful for the help Community Action, Inc. provided in structuring a future for her family and cites her mother as her greatest influence. Hollie is excited about her future and plans to purchase a home while she continues to raise her son and refine her talents in the medical field.



Clarion County Resident Receives Governor's Achievement Award

Life has always been tough for David who has struggled with many demons. When he was young, David dropped out of high school and worked odd jobs, a practice he continued for most of his life. David also struggled with a drug addiction that has been quite detrimental to his family and to any possibility of maintaining regular employment.

Prior to enrollment in Community Action, Inc.'s Supported Work Program (SWP), David and his family were severely in debt and had several utility shut-off notices. David felt his life was in despair and saw no hope for his children's future.



David had become lazy, his addiction grew worse and his marriage was failing. David's wife knew she could not continue to allow their children to grow up in a world with no hope. She prepared to leave David. When he entered the Supported Work Program, David was really desperate for change as his world was about to collapse.

David immediately began to take part in SWP workshops.

He received help with preparing his resume, took part in interview exercises and maintained a willing and cooperative attitude. David enrolled in Community Action, Inc.'s Adult Education General Education Diploma (GED) classes and began preparing for the GED exam.

David and his SWP Case Manager then focused on the difficult task of working through his stigma as a chronic job hopper and learning how to answer questions about why he moved so many times throughout his life. David and his wife were also assisted in making contact with their utility companies to set up payment plans so their utilities would not be shut off.

Eventually, David's wife told his SWP Case Manager she was preparing to leave him because she could no longer deal with his drug addiction. David's wife and Case Manager suggested he enter a drug and alcohol treatment program. David agreed.

David worked hard to balance the demands of attending SWP workshops, getting treatment for his addiction and participating in job interviews.

Ultimately, David's Case Manager contacted Trail King Industries to schedule him an interview, which was contingent upon him successfully completing a mandatory drug screening. David attended the interview and was immediately offered a position as a welder.

David completed the required company training and passed his drug screening. David's starting hourly rate at Trail King Industries was \$10.68. Now his rate is \$11.16 and he generally works 48 hours a week and receives overtime.

Currently, David and his family are working to get out of debt. Their utility bills are current and the family has health insurance through David's employer. The family has opened a savings account and lives a more comfortable life.

Most importantly, David is drug-free! He and his family are happy, healthy and grateful to Community Action, Inc. for providing the tools he needed to succeed.

On May 9, 2007, David was honored by Governor Rendell with the Pennsylvania Partners' Governor's Achievement Awards for his drive and determination in becoming self-sufficient. David and his family accepted his award at the Hershey Lodge in Hershey, PA. The Clarion County Commissioners also presented David with a proclamation to recognize his achievements.

David's Case Manager feels he is an exceptional role model for anyone struggling to make a better life for themselves and their family. David has taken every suggestion offered by the Supported Work Case Manager and truly has made himself a better person.

Community Action, Inc.

Promise - 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.

Mission Statement - To provide and coordinate activities which alleviate poverty, promote family self-sufficiency and advance community prosperity.

National Goals -

- Low-income people become more self-sufficient.
- The conditions in which low-income people live are improved.
- Low-income people own a stake in the community.
- Partnerships among supporters and providers of services to low-income people are achieved.
- Agencies increase their capacity to achieve results.
- Low-income people, especially vulnerable populations, achieve their potential by strengthening family and other supportive services.

CHILD CARE INFORMATION SERVICES

Shannon* was working full-time at a moderate paying job, raising two children and living with an abusive husband. Her in-laws supplied free child care. She was struggling with the abuse, trying to get out of the house and marriage, but alone she couldn't afford to pay for child care plus rent and utilities if she moved out. A worker told Shannon about Community Action, Inc.'s subsidized child care program, Child Care Information Services (CCIS).

Shannon called CIS and received an application and help completing the documents. She returned the application and was determined eligible, but was unable to escape her current situation in time to meet the program enrollment timeline. Unfortunately, she became ineligible.

Two months later, Shannon called for another application. She was found to be eligible again, but this time funding was not available so she was placed on a waiting list. A couple of weeks later, Shannon called to report a new address because she had finally moved into her own home. She was able to enroll her two children in a state-licensed child care facility she felt was trustworthy of keeping her children safe; now she just needed help paying for the care.

A few weeks later, funding became available to enroll her children. CCIS Staff scheduled a face-to-face meeting with Shannon to finalize the enrollment process.

Shannon attended her interview and was pleased to learn her weekly co-pay would be low. Her weekly child care costs were going to be \$153 a week during the school year, but would increase to \$220 a week during summer. However, through the CCIS program, Shannon's co-payment would be only \$40 a week.

Shannon would have money left for food and utility bills, which turned out to be more than she expected. However, Shannon had faith in herself and felt hope she could make this new living arrangement work.

The CCIS referred Shannon to Legal Services for help with issues resulting from her divorce and custody battle. CCIS also referred Shannon to other agencies for utility assistance.

When Shannon left her CCIS interview, she thanked the CCIS for their help, support and encouragement.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during 2006-2007, CCIS provided subsidized child care services for 918 children in 556 families.

ADULT EDUCATION

When Monica* enrolled in adult education classes in late August 2006 she needed a job but had to improve her math and writing skills before she could enter college. At that time, she was also receiving medical assistance, food stamps and cash assistance. Being a single mother with one child, Monica knew she could only rely on herself to improve their lives.

As a direct result of her attendance in adult education classes, Monica rapidly gained self-confidence as her educational and employment seeking skills improved.

By the end of September, she obtained a full-time job that offered benefits allowing her and her son the chance to eliminate their reliance on medical assistance.

With new confidence and determination to pass the college entrance exams, she juggled her schedule so she could continue adult education classes and focus on improving her math and writing skills. By the end of the year, she had finally passed the exams and gained acceptance to college.

In January, Monica began her college studies attending night classes at Penn State DuBois. She has maintained her employment, health benefits and college pursuits. Monica hopes she can continue her night classes with her long term goal of becoming a nurse.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during 2006-2007, Adult Education served 267 individuals.

COMPREHENSIVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Mr. and Mrs. Smith* came to Community Action, Inc. in August 2005 and enrolled in the Comprehensive Self-Sufficiency Project (CSS). At the time, the Smiths were a struggling family with six young children.

Staff worked with the Smiths who were having numerous problems as a result of an automobile accident involving Mrs. Smith. The accident caused her to be incarcerated for several months. Due to expenses incurred from fines and legal fees, Mr. Smith was struggling to pay his monthly bills.

After her release from incarceration, Mrs. Smith sought and found employment and received child care assistance through Community Action, Inc.'s Child Care Information Services (CCIS).

Over the years because of changing employment, lay offs at work, reduction in hours and other household emergencies, Community Action, Inc. helped the Smiths with budgeting, home weatherization, Penelec's Customer Assistance Program, rent and utility payment assistance and food vouchers.

In April of 2006, Mr. Smith, suffering from a severe medical condition, was forced to apply for disability. Mrs. Smith had no option but to seek additional work hours to support their family. Mr. Smith's disability was denied, but with new and adequate medication he pushed himself back to work to help his wife with the burden of providing for the family.

Within one year Mr. and Mrs. Smith both found full-time employment with benefits enabling them to pay all their bills and purchase an automobile.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith are very proud of the barriers they have overcome and are thrilled with the fact two of their children are attending college. They also anticipate the other four attending college.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during 2006-2007, the Comprehensive Self-Sufficiency Project served 107 individuals.



Serving Clarion and Jefferson Counties Since 1965!

**Names have been changed.*

Community Action, Inc. (serving Clarion and Jefferson Counties) has helped thousands of people work towards self-sufficiency since we opened in 1965.

Each year with your help....

- We serve approximately 10,000 consumers in Clarion and Jefferson Counties.
- Advocates assist nearly 1,000 victims of domestic violence with legal and medical dilemmas they face as a result of abuse.
- We distributes food vouchers to over 3,700 of your neighbors to ensure they have adequate, nutritious food.
- We arrange transport of over 1,000 consumers to medical appointments to ensure they receive life-saving care.

WISH LIST:

\$15 - provides one family with a holiday meal.

\$25 - provides budget counseling services for one family (equivalent to "an office visit").

\$50 - provides clothing/Christmas gifts for one child.

\$100 - provides youth a fun, group activity with adult mentoring.

\$170 - provides food assistance for a family of four for one week.

\$200 - provides assistance for one man to live in shelter for 30 days.

\$250 - provides heating assistance for one month for a family that needs heating help but does not qualify for the usual subsidy heating programs.

\$350 - provides one family with housing for one month.

\$500 - provides materials for both parents and children to participate in a 12-week child development series.

\$650 - provides books and instruction to assist an individual prepare to take the General Equivalency Test (GED).

\$750 - provides assistance for one month for one family living in shelter due to domestic violence.

\$1,000 - provides case management services for 40 area families.

Community Action, Inc. receives federal and state grants but we are not a government agency. We must raise funds locally to continue supporting families in Clarion and Jefferson Counties. To help us help others in the community, please return this form and your contribution to:

Community Action, Inc., 105 Grace Way, Punxsutawney, PA 15767

YES, I/We want to support Community Action, Inc. and the communities you serve through this tax deductible gift of \$25_____ \$50_____ \$100_____ \$250_____ \$350_____ \$500_____ other \$_____

() Please use my donation where it will help most.

() Please use my donation for _____

() I would like to volunteer my time. My interests are _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Sam* had no family and his income came from working odd jobs. Sam rented a travel trailer which the owner was planning to sell. When the trailer was sold, Sam was homeless and forced to live in his vehicle.

When odd jobs became harder to find and with no place to stay, Sam contacted Community Action, Inc. for help. He first entered Holmes House, a men's emergency shelter. After 30 days, Sam entered Community Action, Inc.'s Transitional Housing Project where he received more intensive case management. Sam ultimately secured full-time employment which enabled him to obtain non-subsidized permanent housing.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during FY 2006-2007, Transitional Housing served 17 individuals.

RENTAL HOUSING

In February 2007, Tom* and Mary* were living in an apartment building with no heat. Tenants were trying to keep warm by using electric space heaters until the building's electrical system overload started a fire in the fuse box. Officials determined the building was uninhabitable and tenants were given 24 hours to vacate the building. Community Action, Inc. responded to this crisis by immediately sending staff to the building to help tenants and provide relocation options.

Tom and Mary were two of the tenants who had nowhere to go. Tom worked locally; Mary was a student at IUP. Neither had access to a vehicle. Therefore, it was crucial to find Tom and Mary suitable housing within walking distance to Tom's work and Mary's school. Fortunately, Community Action Inc. had a vacant rental unit that met Tom and Mary's needs. A Case Manager did an emergency lease for the apartment so Tom and Mary were able to avoid becoming homeless and keep their lives intact. Tom was able to maintain his employment and Mary was able to continue with her education.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during 2006-2007, the Rental Housing Project served 45 individuals.

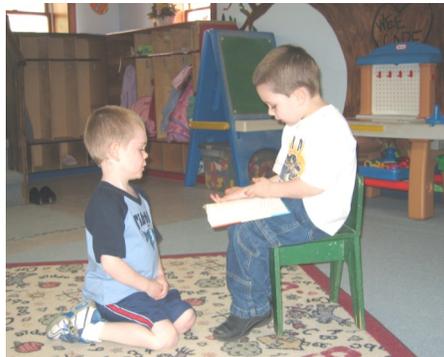
EARLY CARE and EDUCATION

The Early Care and Education Project participated in many outreach events and activities throughout Clarion and Jefferson Counties. Highlights included Kids Celebration on Groundhog Day and Fun in the Sun—Clarion County's Week of the Young Child Celebration.

Staff also worked closely with Head Start to host school readiness sessions for parents and child care practitioners to help children enhance their skills and prepare for school.

Staff also facilitated literacy events at local child care facilities to celebrate Week of the Young Child, a national movement to promote early education for young children.

In 2006-2007, the Early Care and Education Project provided free child care and school readiness information to 1,420 Clarion County residents and 895 Jefferson County residents.



Children in a local child care spend story time reading to one another during the April One Book Every Young Child state literacy campaign.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. Bish* contacted the Medical Assistance Transportation Program (MATP) to assist her family during a difficult time. Mrs. Bish's daughter Kim* was diagnosed with cancer and the family did not have a second car to take Kim to her medical appointments.

Mrs. Bish was required to take a leave of absence from work to care for her daughter further compounding the family's burden. Kim enrolled in MATP and transportation was arranged to and from her medical appointments. Mrs. Bish was able to accompany her daughter.

HOMELESS ASSISTANCE

Kathy* contacted Community Action, Inc. when she needed help paying her first month's rent and security deposit. She and her family were being evicted from their home of eight years and her husband recently lost his job.

To make ends meet, Kathy was forced to deplete their savings and sell personal items at a garage sale. Kathy was referred to the County Assistance Office where she applied and was approved for cash assistance and the Emergency Shelter Allowance (ESA). Community Action, Inc. was then able to assist with the remaining balance of the first month's rent and a security deposit so Kathy's family could obtain safe and affordable housing.

Kathy worked with her Community Action, Inc. case manager to establish family self-sufficiency goals. One of the goals was for her husband to find employment. The case manager provide Kathy's husband with job referrals and within a few months he found a full-time job with benefits.

At her Case Manager's recommendation, Kathy enrolled in Penelec's Customer Assistance Program to lower their electric bill and arrearage. Kathy also signed up for Section 8 housing through the County Housing Authority.

Today, Kathy and her husband continue to work towards self-sufficiency and her husband is employed. They have opened a savings account for future emergencies.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during FY 2006-2007, the Homeless Assistance Project served 92 individuals.

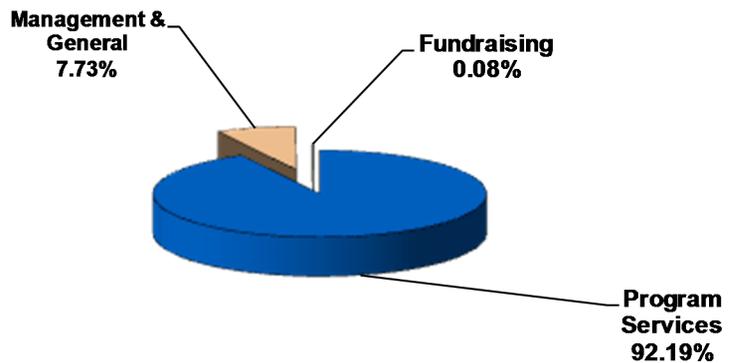
Because of the medical assistance transportation, Mr. Bish was able to utilize the family's only car to continue working and financially support the family. Kim attended her medical appointments and treatments and her cancer is now in remission. Kim has returned to school and Mrs. Bish was able to return to her job to help support her family.

In Jefferson County during 2006-2007, Community Action, Inc.'s Medical Assistance Transportation Program served 1,088 individuals.

2006-2007 Staff

<i>Adams, Pamela</i>	<i>Hutchins, Kimberly</i>
<i>Adduci, Beth</i>	<i>Jones, Pat</i>
<i>Alicea, Sarah</i>	<i>Kowalski, Tim</i>
<i>Anderson, Kacey</i>	<i>Kvant, Helen</i>
<i>Barrett, Daryl</i>	<i>Learish, Marsha</i>
<i>Beatty, Laura</i>	<i>Lightcap, Joshua</i>
<i>Best, Karen</i>	<i>Love, Janeen</i>
<i>Bish, Wendy</i>	<i>Lowmaster, Betty</i>
<i>Burkett, Debra</i>	<i>McLaughlin, Susan</i>
<i>Butler, Cynthia</i>	<i>McMillen, Justin</i>
<i>Campagnola, Rita</i>	<i>McMillen, Mia</i>
<i>Cardamone, Robert</i>	<i>Milligan, Arlene</i>
<i>Carlson, Mark</i>	<i>Mills, Elizabeth</i>
<i>Certo, Jr., Ernest</i>	<i>Moses, Karla</i>
<i>Cherry, Laurie</i>	<i>Murone, Peggy</i>
<i>Collins, Krista</i>	<i>O'Connor, James</i>
<i>Coulter, Waylon</i>	<i>Paulson, Brenda</i>
<i>Craft, Cheryl</i>	<i>Perry-Barnett, Tamala</i>
<i>Daisher, Sally</i>	<i>Rhodes, Rodney</i>
<i>Day, Kelly</i>	<i>Riddle, Amanda</i>
<i>Diener, Richard</i>	<i>Riggie, Cathy</i>
<i>Domb, Kaylan</i>	<i>Serafini, Grace</i>
<i>Elkin, Judith</i>	<i>Setree, Manette</i>
<i>Ellenberger, Melissa</i>	<i>Shaffer, Nathan</i>
<i>Elliott, Linda</i>	<i>Skarbek, Trisha</i>
<i>Fike, Michele</i>	<i>Skarbek, Wanda</i>
<i>Fox, Meghan</i>	<i>Stamler, Katherine</i>
<i>Fusco, Susan</i>	<i>Stanford, Carol</i>
<i>Gaffney, Deborah</i>	<i>States, Donna</i>
<i>Graham, Kathleen</i>	<i>Stewart, Cynthia</i>
<i>Gray, Craig</i>	<i>Toven, Brenda</i>
<i>Guntrum, Douglas</i>	<i>Tyger, Donald</i>
<i>Haag, Jan</i>	<i>Verdill, Matthew</i>
<i>Hankinson, Jennifer</i>	<i>Weaver, Tracy</i>
<i>Hepler, Rochele</i>	<i>White, Aaron</i>
<i>Himes, Suella</i>	<i>White, Crystal</i>
<i>Hopkins, Robin</i>	<i>Whitling, Amy</i>
<i>Horner, Pamela</i>	<i>Young, Bobbie Jo</i>

Expenses

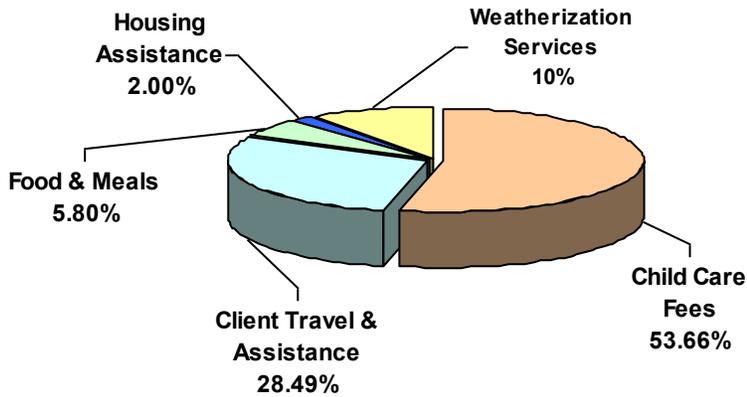


Statement of Expenses Year End June 30, 2007

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Management & General</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>
Compensation of Officers & Directors	\$49,334	\$79,888	0
Salaries & Wages	1,027,842	46,375	760
Employee Benefits	135,410	9,378	38
Pension Plan Contribution	20,594	3,265	21
Payroll Taxes	81,448	9,504	57
Supplies	41,119	549	195
Telephone	49,308	2,954	30
Postage & Shipping	22,452	457	226
Occupancy	\$150,273	\$3,361	37
Equipment Rental & Maintenance	7,193	0	0
Printing and Publications	11,879	1,043	996
Travel	43,433	7,468	142
Meetings	277	786	0
Computer Equipment Sold	14,963	0	0
Depreciation, etc.	16,412	0	0
Other Expenses*	2,868,240	215,614	1528
Expenses Total	\$4,540,177	\$380,642	\$4,030
Grand Total	\$4,924,849		

Projects

- Adult Education, Literacy and Distance Learning
- Allegheny Power Low Income Usage Reduction Project
- Case Management
- Central Electric Family Fund
- Child Care Information Services
- Community Action Information Technology
- Community Services Block Grant
- Comprehensive Self-Sufficiency
- Crossroads' Domestic Violence Prevention Project
- Dollar Energy Fund, Inc.
- Early Care and Education Project
- Emergency Food & Shelter Program
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program
- First Energy Company's (Penelec) Customer Assistance Program, ElectriChoice and Warm Weatherization
- Freedom From Smoking
- Homeless Assistance Program
- Medical Assistance Transportation Program
- Members United
- Neighbor for Neighbor Heating Fund
- Parent Education and Family Support Alliance
- Pennsylvania American Water Company's Help to Others
- Pennsylvania Workforce Improvement Network
- Rental Housing Project
- Senior Corps-RSVP Project
- State Food Purchase Program
- Supported Engagement Program
- Supported Work Program
- Transitional Housing Project
- Weatherization Assistance Program



Other Expenses Year End June 30, 2007

<u>*Other Expenses</u>	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Management & General</u>	<u>Fundraising</u>
Child Care Fees	\$1,416,527	0	0
Client Travel & Assistance	752,028	0	0
Food & Meals	153,032	0	0
Housing Assistance	52,845	0	0
Weatherization Services	265,595	0	0
Total	\$2,640,027	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous			
Administration & Fiscal Services	\$347	\$179,620	\$1,077
Advertising & Publications	8,699	\$1,771	\$0
Auto Expenses	3,520	0	0
Bad Debt Expense	675	0	0
Contracted Services	3,316	26,437	7
Information Technology	50,818	3,374	30
Fundraising	0	0	378
Insurance	37,180	1,340	11
Licenses & Registration	3,882	3,067	25
Miscellaneous	4,811	5	0
Other Consumer Support	38,401	0	0
Administrative Fees	6,213	0	0
Rental Property Expenses	7,517	0	0
Small Equipment & Tools	8,355	0	0
Training /Technical Assistance	6,178	0	0
Utilities	32,887	0	0
Volunteer Support	6,227	0	0
Returned to Funder	9,187	0	0
Miscellaneous Total	\$228,213	\$215,614	\$1,528
Other Expenses Total	\$2,868,240	\$215,614	\$1,528

Community Support Is Key To Our Success

Community Action, Inc. would not be able to help residents of Clarion and Jefferson Counties without the support of our local businesses, government, organizations, students and community groups. We heavily rely on them for monetary donations as well as unpaid volunteer work at events and activities. *Thanks to all who have made it possible for us to help our neighbors in need!*

Area Shelters Benefit From Tractor Supply Company's Hats for Homeless Project

Punxsutawney's Tractor Supply Company sponsored a "Hats for the Homeless" Project to benefit the Crossroads Domestic Violence and Holmes House Shelters.

Over 100 new hats, gloves, scarves and warm winter socks were collected by the Punxsutawney Tractor Supply Company in December 2006.

Winter is very hard on the homeless. Their plight is especially tough during the Holiday season when they are alone - no family, no Christmas cheer from friends and no gifts under a Christmas tree. These simple tokens of kindness during the holiday season kept someone warm all winter long.

Middle School Students Make a Difference Through Food Drive

Punxsutawney Middle School students and staff helped local needy families by conducting their 7th annual non-perishable food drive.

All food collected was distributed to five local food banks and shelters, including the Crossroads Domestic Violence Shelter. Historically the school's food drive collects between 8,000 and 14,000 food items.

According to Crossroads Director Susan McLaughlin, "The students are to be commended for their efforts to make a difference in the lives of so many. The Punxsutawney Area Middle School Food Drive puts food on the shelter tables throughout the winter months."

Community Action, Inc.'s official registration can be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State, Bureau of Charitable Organizations by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania 1-800-743-0999. Certificate of Registration Number 3942. Registration does not imply endorsement.

This document was financed in part by a grant from the federal Department of Health and Human Services under the administration of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.



Monica Greene, Punxsutawney Area High School student familiar with Community Action because of her summer youth work at Community Action, Inc., presented the Crossroads Shelter with a handmade wooden dollhouse for use by children served by the shelter. The dollhouse was part of Monica's senior project.



Kayla Curtis, Punxsutawney Area High School Student, donated five handmade blankets to the Crossroads Domestic Violence Prevention Project shelter. Kayla made these blankets as part of her senior project.

May is National Community Action Month

Clarion County and Jefferson County Commissioners proclaimed May 2007 as National Community Action Month.

Community Action, Inc., was incorporated in August 1965 and continues today to provide and coordinate activities which alleviate poverty, promote family self-sufficiency and advance community prosperity.

"Our approach is to alleviate a crisis and then teach and mentor a family to become economically self-sufficient," Executive Director Robert Cardamone said. "Our success isn't measured by how many we serve; it is measured by our ability to move a family towards self-sufficiency."

CROSSROADS

Crossroads Project has provided service to domestic violence victims and homeless women and children since 1986 in Jefferson County and since July 1, 1999, in Clearfield County.

Domestic violence victims are serviced based on guidelines established by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The free services are offered without regard to personal, social or economic status. Domestic violence victims are offered 24-hour hotline; options, supportive and empowerment counseling; prevention/education programs; support group options; advocacy to social, medical and legal services; emergency shelter options in DuBois or Punxsutawney and relocation assistance.

Legal advocacy, which emphasize the Protection From Abuse process, is conducted through offices in Clearfield and Brookville. Legal advocacy, options counseling, safety planning and referrals for Crime Victims Compensation (CVC) are designed to enable more individuals to safely remain in their homes and community.

In Clearfield and Jefferson Counties during 2006-2007, the Crossroads Project served 821 adults and 55 children.

Both the Crossroads Domestic Violence Shelter and Holmes House Emergency Men's Shelter rely on donations to help those in need.

Items always needed include: canned meats; canned and boxed soups; canned and boxed pasta meals; fruits and fruit juices; paper products; cleaning supplies; and personal hygiene items.

Area Programs Band Together to Make Holidays Happy in Clarion County

The 2006 Holiday Season in Clarion County saw many people in need of food and winter clothing. By banding together, Community Action, Inc. and numerous partners were able to serve 1,593 individuals.

In conjunction with Northwest Savings Bank 163 adults received winter coats; 49 children received referrals for Christmas gifts through Pennies From Heaven and 1,381 individuals had a holiday meal thanks to the KDKA Turkey program, Friends For Food, private donations, gift certificates and local funding.

CUP Eagle Ambassadors Donate Christmas Meals

Clarion University Eagle Ambassadors, an elite group of students working to promote relations between the university's alumni and current students, donated turkeys and hams valued at \$500 to Community Action, Inc. for distribution to local families.

The Eagle Ambassadors participate in the annual "Donate-a-Meal" program where students donate the cost of a meal and these contributions are given to a local social service organization. This year Chartwells, the university's food service management organization, matched the money raised by the Eagle Ambassadors.



T.E.A.M. Youth Advisory Council Members: Pam Meterko, Randy Mumford, Susan Fusco, George Yamalis of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, Sandy McGuire and Rod Rhodes accept the \$5,000 check to support the new youth mentoring project.

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Awards Grant to T.E.A.M. Youth

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield awarded a \$5,000 grant to support T.E.A.M. Youth, a new grass-roots project in Jefferson County designed to offer kids with healthy group activities with other youth and adults in a safe environment.

T.E.A.M., which stands for **T**each, **E**mpower, **A**chieve, **M**entor, was started by a group of Jefferson County organizations and residents who believe mentoring youth is important to help them build self-esteem and prevent anti-social behavior.

T.E.A.M. Youth will use the Highmark grant to sponsor supervised group activities designed for kids to learn, grow and enhance their social skills through safe, fun interactions. T.E.A.M. Youth will also reach out to parents who may need other family support services but don't know where to turn.

HOLMES HOUSE

Edward* had been living with friends until the arrangement ended due to financial issues. Having no income and no where to go, he became homeless. Edward was also coping with a heart condition that could no longer be neglected. He entered Community Action, Inc.'s Holmes House, a men's shelter, as a temporary housing solution while seeking medical attention.

Within a short time, Edward received the medical care he needed and his heart condition was stabilized. During his stay at Holmes House, he worked closely with his case manager who assisted him in securing an income and moving into permanent housing.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during FY 2006-2007, Holmes House served 20 individuals.



WEATHERIZATION

During the winter of 2006, Bruce* called Community Action, Inc. stating he was in need of a new door for his mobile home. Bruce's family consisted of his spouse and young children.

Bruce's door was in such poor condition that he used duct tape to keep the door permanently shut and as air and snow tight as possible. Bruce's duct tape fix helped, but heat continued to escape from his home; his "fix" also created a hazard by blocking a possible fire exit.

Community Action referred Bruce to the local county assistance office for a Crisis Referral and he was determined eligible for Crisis funds. Community Action immediately dispatched a contractor to replace the door. The new door significantly lessened air infiltration which made Bruce's home more comfortable and also reduced his fuel consumption. The functioning door also restored a fire exit in the rear of the mobile home.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during 2006-2007, Community Action, Inc.'s Weatherization Project served 437 individuals.



Jefferson County resident Jonathan McCracken received a computer in May 2007.

class attendance, provides students a used but fully-functional computer which would otherwise be unaffordable and rewards students for working hard to accomplish their education goals.

Adult Education Project Donates Used Computers

Community Action, Inc.'s Adult Education project, serving both Clarion and Jefferson Counties, donates used computers as an incentive to students who achieve their adult education goals. The incentive helps students maintain adult education as a personal priority, encourages



Clarion County resident Betty Ferringer received her computer in December 2006.

*Names have been changed.

A Message from the President and the Executive Director

Helping people attain and maintain economic self-sufficiency is our ultimate goal. We help by alleviating emergencies, eliminating barriers, educating and mentoring, providing options, collaborating with partners, advocating, and mobilizing resources. During the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007, approximately 10,004 Clarion and Jefferson County residents sought our help.

We work hard to be responsive to ever-changing local needs and we are continuously seeking the most effective means to alleviate poverty, promote family self-sufficiency and advance community prosperity. We believe in personal responsibility and we are committed to helping those who want to help themselves.

We are a community partner and we know we could not be successful without the support of our local businesses, churches, community organizations, local governments, volunteers and the generosity of our community residents. We sincerely appreciate everyone who shares our ideals and contributes to our accomplishments.

Finally, we would be remiss if we did not take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank our dedicated Board of Directors who willingly volunteer their time and expertise to provide continuity for the organization and ensure the organization remains responsive to its stakeholders. We are also very grateful to our resilient staff who is motivated by their ability to help others help themselves and who have mastered the art of finding solutions to difficult problems.

We are privileged and very proud to live and work in a caring community.

Richard G. Fetterman
Board President

Robert A. Cardamone
Executive Director

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Board of Directors

Clarion County

Low Income Representatives

Reverend Clara W. Belloit, Clarion Ministerium
Lori A. Brown, Clarion County Housing Authority
Sally N. Reed, New Choices/New Options

Elected Public Officials

Gerald J. Borovick, Monroe Township Supervisor
Donna R. Oberlander, Clarion County Commissioner
Rita Wilson, State Representative McIlhattan's appointee
Helen Gerlach, State Senator White's appointee

Private Sector

Gregory E. Pacelli, Clarion County Assistance Office
Lee N. Stewart, Stewart Laboratories (3)
Ronald J. Wilshire, Clarion University of Pennsylvania

Jefferson County

Low Income Representatives

Lawrence R. DeChurch, Saint Vincent DePaul Society
Richard G. Fetterman, Jefferson County Assistance Office (1)
Pamela M. Johnson, Jefferson-Clarion Head Start, Inc. (4)
Steven Mehok, Jefferson County Housing Authority

Elected Public Officials

James P. McIntyre, Jefferson County Commissioner
John Hallman, Punxsutawney Mayor Wehrle's appointee
Samuel H. Smith, State Representative

Private Sector

Granville E. Carter, Esquire, Laurel Legal Services (2)
Kimberly A. Fye, Punxsutawney Area Community Center
David N. Gillespie, Banking Industry Representative



Members of Cooks Helping Out Punxsutawney (CHOP) Club who worked to make the fund raising event a success.

IUP Academy of Culinary Arts Helps Local Community

IUP Academy of Culinary Arts Service Learning Students raised \$1,000 during their 3rd annual First Friday Fish Fry to help local residents. With the assistance of Dr. Mindy Wygonik, Certified Hospitality Educator and Chefs Clifford Clinger and Jim Sones, 25 students in the *Cooks Helping Out Punxsutawney* (CHOP) Club worked together to make the event a success.

CHOP not only prepared the fish dinners but also hosted a number of ticket selling and advertising events, including wearing advertising sandwich boards while walking the Punxsutawney streets on some of the most frigid winter days.

Bryon Gorton, a Culinary Arts student from Rocky Road, Ohio, stated, "I always volunteer; it's something I've always done and always will do. We all put a lot of work into the event and we're really proud our work makes a difference."

Approximately 180 dinners were sold, including 13 dinners to feed shelter residents. The brilliant idea to solicit donated dinners came from Academy student Laura Benjamin. Laura repeatedly had individuals state they were not going to purchase a dinner ticket because they would not be in town the day of the dinner - so Laura began suggesting people buy the ticket and donate the dinner to Community Action, Inc.

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STATE FOOD

Due to an unforeseen emergency, Jane* needed help to purchase groceries for her family. Jane set up an appointment with a Community Action, Inc. case worker and found eligible for a food voucher. During the appointment, Jane mentioned she had previously worked as a telecommunications representative. The case worker provided Jane with local telecommunication company referrals. Jane left her appointment feeling relieved about her food problem and hopeful she would find employment.

Soon after the appointment, Jane contacted Community Action, Inc. to express her gratitude for the food voucher and to also report the work referrals resulted in a new job the day following her appointment with Community Action, Inc.

In Clarion and Jefferson Counties during 2006-2007, Community Action, Inc.'s State Food Project served 3,759 individuals.

Volunteers in Clarion, Indiana and Jefferson Counties Working for Children

Community Action, Inc.'s Senior Corps-RSVP volunteers served over 70 non-profit, educational and medical-based facilities in Clarion, Indiana and Jefferson Counties. Our Senior Corps-RSVP project is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service and engages people age 55 and older in a diverse range of volunteer activities.



Children in this Clarion County Head Start classroom enjoyed their mitten activities with senior volunteers.

During the 2006-2007 year, 559 volunteers served 54,406 hours.

Those hours, if paid at minimum wage, saved the counties over \$388,723 in one year! Volunteers tutor children and adults, assist in hospitals, mentor kids, test water in area streams, deliver meals to home-bound residents, assist local libraries and senior social centers, knit and crochet mittens and lap robes, help with blood drives, provide income tax services to working low income and the elderly and serve their communities in a myriad of other ways too numerous to mention.



These Head Start children in Indiana County received mittens and read *The Mittens* story with Jean Garnes.

During the 2006 holiday season, volunteers delivered 506 pairs of hand-made mittens to all Head Start Children in Clarion, Indiana and Jefferson Counties.

Also, once again Senior Corps-RSVP

coordinated efforts with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves' Toys for Tots Project for Jefferson County and distributed toys to 438 needy children!



Senior Corps—RSVP volunteers who helped with the annual Toys For Tots program in Jefferson County.



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Community Action, Inc. and local officials honored the 320 Senior Corps-RSVP volunteers from Clarion, Indiana and Jefferson Counties at annual recognition luncheons.

Three volunteers were selected by the Senior Corps-RSVP Advisory Council for special recognition to acknowledge their outstanding volunteer services.

BETTY GRIFFITH was selected as the **Clarion County** Volunteer of the Year for her work with the Clarion County Literacy Council where she tutored adults who were preparing for the GED and post-secondary education.

CARL TROUT was selected as the **Indiana County** Volunteer of the Year for his work with Aging Services Inc., Pennsylvania Senior Environmental Corps, Blacklick Creek Watershed, Aultman Run Watershed, Crooked Creek Watershed, Little Mahoning Creek Watershed, Trout Unlimited, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team, Evergreen Conservancy, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and Todd Bird Club of Indiana.

CAROL KNARR was selected as the **Jefferson County** Volunteer of the Year for her work with the Jefferson County Area Agency on Aging's Foundry Social Center, Jefferson County Housing Authority, Angel Food Ministries, Lambs Harvest Food Pantry, Toys for Tots and fundraising events for Community Action, Inc.

Community Action, Inc. is very proud to have Betty, Carl and Carol as members of the Senior Corps-RSVP Project. They are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of others and in our communities and they depict the true spirit of volunteering.



Pictured (L-R): Clarion County Commissioners David Cyphert & Donna Oberlander; Representative Fred McIlhatten; Clarion Volunteer of the Year, Betty Griffith; Janeen Love, Senior Corps-RSVP Director; and Lorna Tucker, Clarion County Literacy Council.



Pictured (L-R): Indiana Commissioners David Frick & Patricia Evanko; Janeen Love, Senior Corps-RSVP Director; Volunteer of the Year, Carl Trout; and Indiana Commissioner Rod Ruddock



Pictured (L-R): Jefferson County Commissioner Paul Corbin; Debi Meneely from Representative Sam Smith's Office; Volunteer of the Year, Carol Knarr; Janeen Love, Senior Corps-RSVP Director; and Jefferson County Commissioner James McIntyre.
