

The Community Crusader

*A quarterly publication of Community Action of Southern Kentucky,
another weapon in our war against poverty*

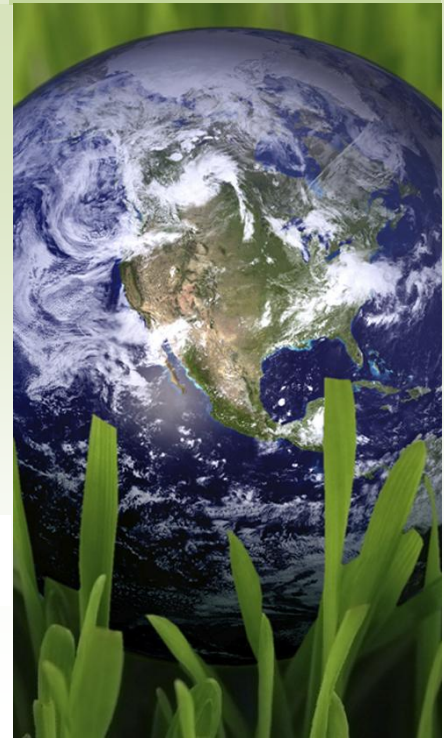
May is National Community Action Month

In honor of National Community Action Month—Community Action of Southern Kentucky will host an open house and ribbon cutting on May 19, 2010 at 9am at the Agency's new Annex which houses GO bg transit and Weatherization. The event at 901 Beauty Avenue in Bowling Green, KY will also serve to celebrate the Agency's 45th Anniversary.

This year during National Community Action Month, Community Action of Southern Kentucky and Community Action Agencies across the country will highlight the anti-poverty works and celebrate their history of partnering with other organizations to address poverty related issues in their communities. Our most recent notable partnership is with the Laura Goad Turner Charitable Foundation, which has donated the property and \$1.75 million towards a new facility for Allen County Services. In addition, the Agency is working towards raising \$250,000 in pledges and/or contributions by June 30, 2010 to be matched dollar for dollar by the Foundation. There is still time for organizations and individuals to help reach that goal. For more information and to check our progress, visit www.casoky.org and click on the Laura Goad Turner Match Grant link.

The Community Crusader is Going Green!

The economic downturn is being felt all over the country and it is no different here at Community Action of Southern Kentucky. Recently with a change to a free email application, it has given the Agency the ability to give every employee an Agency email address. This will allow us to email the newsletter to all of our staff and post the newsletter on www.casoky.org in full color. **If other newsletter recipients would like to help us go green, by receiving future newsletters by email, please send your email address to charity.johnson@casoky.org or call Charity Johnson at 270-782-3162.**



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Success Corner: Garden Program

Community Action's Garden Program is designed to encourage self-support by providing low-income households with the essential materials, education and training to grow a vegetable garden, as well as how to preserve and prepare some of the foods.

In April 2010, the Agency gave out 800 vouchers of \$20 each to eligible community members for seed, fertilizer and plants for their

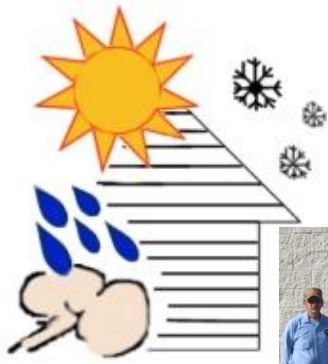
gardens. This was \$5 more per household than in previous years.

Pictured here is one example of what participants were able to achieve in their garden with the \$15 voucher from last year and a little elbow grease.

Stay tuned to www.casoky.org for more photos from the many successful gardens this program provides.

Community Action welcomes new employees hired January 2010 to March 2010!

NAME	PROGRAM	POSITION	COUNTY
Magan Belt	Food Services	Nutrition Specialist	Warren
Patricia Bostic	Community Services	ARRA Job Dev. & Training Specialist	Hart
Vanessa Britt	Head Start	Translator/ Transition Coordinator	Warren
Kevin Cofer	TANF FPP	Intensive Intervention Specialist	Warren
Matthew Collins	Access to Visitation	Family Service Associate	Warren
Cristin Cooksey	Head Start	Teacher	Warren
Ruby Dement	Food Services/ Head Start	Cook	Metcalfe
Tovara Gray	Head Start/ Child Care	ACM/FSW/ SSI	Warren
Robin Hitchins	Weatherization	Laborer	Warren
Melissa Jolly	Head Start	Substitute	Warren
Kristi Jones	Child Care	Substitute	Warren
Debra Jones	Head Start	Substitute	Warren
Edwin Lee	Weatherization	Laborer	Warren
Stephen Manley	Weatherization	Field Service Coordinator	Warren
Alicia Manning	TANF FPP	Intensive Intervention Specialist	Warren
Judy Neighbors	Head Start	Substitute	Butler
Heath Ray	Head Start	Family Service Worker	Warren
Amanda Rich	Head Start	Teacher	Barren
Maria Romans	Head Start	Substitute	Butler
Dina Sadikovic	Head Start	Substitute	Warren
Justin Shaw	Weatherization	Laborer	Warren
Natalie Stice	Head Start	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Edmonson
William Sutton, Jr.	Head Start	Substitute	Warren
Billy Vincent	Weatherization	Laborer	Warren
Breia Worthy	Head Start	Substitute	Warren
Jane Wright	Head Start	Teacher	Barren



Community Action's Weatherization Team



Maude Murrell, Foster Grandparent

Weatherization Works

By Charity Johnson, Public Information Coordinator

Energy Efficiency, Green Jobs, and Weatherizing are all popular topics recently in the news. There is a national effort called the Weatherization Assistance Program that is helping individuals and families increase the energy efficiency of their home and permanently reduce their energy bills.

President Obama was recently quoted by Associated Content saying "If you saw \$20 bills just sort of floating through the window up into the atmosphere, you'd try to figure out how to keep them."

That is exactly what Weatherization is meant to do – help homeowners identify opportunities for energy improvements and provide the resources and workers to complete the repairs. By permanently reducing ongoing expenses, weatherization helps recipients be more financially self-reliant. The benefits of this program are plenty.

It means more jobs. Community Action of Southern Kentucky has added nine positions in the 10-county BRADD area to help handle the added workload.

It saves money, especially for needy families. Lower-income households spend much more of their income on energy bills than median income families. Median income families spend about 5% of their income for energy, where lower-income families spend 16-17%, according to the US Department of Energy. Many weatherization clients are senior citizens, single parents, or disabled and 90% have incomes less than \$15,000. Weatherization provides a lasting solution by addressing the cause of high energy bills and helps households save approximately \$400-\$600 annually in energy costs.

It's good for the environment. Weatherized homes are more energy efficient, emit fewer greenhouse gases and improve local air quality, according to the federal government. Energy improvements such as adding insulation to the walls and roof, last as long as the house stands.

The most important benefit of Weatherization is the health and safety of the family in a home. Heating systems are also evaluated for safety, energy efficiency, fuel leaks and carbon monoxide.

This past year, Community Action's weatherization team helped a family that was sick from carbon monoxide. Their furnace was replaced; the home was insulated, along with other energy saving changes. The family recently sent a thank you noting that the weatherization of their home has made a huge difference in the comfort level and air quality. The Weatherization team found carbon monoxide being emitted from an old furnace, saving this family from a potential disaster.

This is just one of many success stories from the Weatherization Assistance Program, one of the rewarding programs at Community Action of Southern Kentucky. As more homes are weatherized, the energy savings and benefits will continue to grow.

Volunteers Honored

Some of Community Action's Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) were recognized at the 2010 Volunteers in Action reception. **Maude Murrell, Foster Grandparent & Willie Dean Jones, RSVP** were nominated for a Spirit of Service Award.



Logan RSVP representative

Logan County's RSVP team received the Team Spirit Award for their work to keep the Red Cross Chapter going while the chapter faced many challenges. The nomination for them included their service at Stevenson Elementary as reading mentors and reorganizing the library. The FGP Advisory Council was also nominated in this category.



Barbara Bray, RSVP

Jerry & Barbara Bray, RSVP received the Rookie Volunteer Award to recognize their outstanding first year of service.



Community Action of Southern Kentucky, Inc.

CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC

Thursday May 27, 2010

Tee Time: 8:30a.m. Registration: 7:30a.m.

Cave Valley Golf Club at Park Mammoth Resort

Join us at tee time for a special tribute to our military & veterans in honor of Memorial Day!

Entry Fee: \$60.00 per player or \$240 per team

Included: Green Fees, cart, continental breakfast, lunch and beverages

Flighted Tournament: prizes awarded to 1st and 2nd place teams in each flight

Format: 4 person scramble with shotgun start

Contests for Men & Women: Straightest Drive & Closest to Pin

Prizes: Golf Cart (Hole-In-One) & Door Prize Drawings

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Classic Sponsor Plus- \$650

Includes foursome, name on sponsorship banner, promotion at registration area, recognition in publications, and plaque of appreciation.

Classic Sponsor - \$500

Includes name on sponsorship banner, promotion at registration area, recognition in publications, and plaque of appreciation.

Classic Co-Sponsor - \$250

Includes signage on tee or green, recognition in publications, promotion at registration area and appreciation certificate.

Hole Sponsor - \$100

Signage on tee or green, recognition in publications.

Closest to the Pin/Straightest Drive Sponsor - \$75

Signage at sponsorship location, recognition in publications.

Food Sponsor - \$50

Signage at breakfast/lunch area and recognition in publications.

Beverage Cart Sponsors - \$50

Signage on beverage cart, recognition in publications.

Exclusive TV Media Sponsor:



For more information
contact 782-3162 or
visit www.casoky.org
and click on





At WKU's Earth Day 2010 Celebration, GO BG Transit's Public Transit Coordinator, Ken Meredith and driver Jody Denton handed out over 1100 GO bg shopping bags with information about the service.

Program Spotlight: GO bg Transit

GO bg Transit is celebrating Earth Day every day with a new era of accessibility on new buses! Ken Meredith, Public Transit Coordinator, said, "Just think if 20 people ride the bus each day, that could be 20 less cars on the roads."

GO bg Transit provides essential transportation for everyone in Bowling Green. A rider recently said in an article in the BG Daily News, "Without transit, I wouldn't be able to go anywhere." Despite ridership being down nationwide, GO bg's ridership is up. This year, an additional 30 minute "purple route" was added to service the Nashville Road/Campbell Lane area in and around Western's campus. Students are encouraged to ride and pay only \$40 per semester for a bus pass, which can be used on all five routes!

Five new buses have been added to the fleet with a new system to make getting on and off the bus easier. The bus pulls to a stop and hydraulics lower it to the ground and a handicap accessible ramp is lowered for all entering and exiting to use! The Agency will be hosting an open house to showcase GO bg's new buses and the new Central Office Annex on Beauty Avenue on Wednesday May 19th at 9am.

In April, GO bg Transit offered FREE RIDES on Earth Day. As a result, ridership was at its highest ever with 595 riders – almost a 10% increase over Earth Day 2009. So encourage your family and friends to "Avoid the Fuss, Take the Bus!"

Recycling Fundraiser

Community Action, in partnership with Graves Gilbert Clinic, is collecting candy wrappers, drink pouches, chip bags, glue bottles and other items to be recycled through teracycle.net and will receive funds from each item collected. Collection days will be scheduled at each Community Action location. Collection day at the Agency's Central office will be Tuesday, June 1, 2010. Please bring each type of item in a separate bag. Contact Charity Johnson for more information at 270-782-3162 or charity.johnson@casoky.org.



Tips for Going Green at the Office

- **Save paper & ink.** Print or copy only what you need. Always use the second side of paper, either by printing on both sides or using the blank side as scrap paper.
- **Turn it off.** Turn off the lights in unused rooms and before you leave work. Remember to turn off your computer and monitor at the end of the day.
- **Reuse materials.** Reuse envelopes, folders, paper clips, packing materials and other items & share with coworkers.

Have a "green" tip or suggestion? Please send all tips or suggestions to Jolie Owmbly at jowmbly@casoky.org and we will highlight the best one in the next Community Crusader. ALSO – Senior Service is collecting used printer cartridges from individuals and businesses! Contact Sandi Knight at 270-782-3162.

Agency Program Contacts

Cheryl Allen, CEO/Executive Director
 Jenni Basham, Family Preservation
 Robbie Chinn, Foster Grandparents
 Brandon Fowler, IT Administrator
 Tracy Haddix, Children's Services
 Ellie Harbaugh, Associate Director
 Kathy Hunt, Weatherization
 Charity Johnson, Public Information
 Sandi Knight, Senior Services
 Kathy Leath, RSVP
 Pam McElhiney, Family Nurturing
 Ken Meredith, Public Transit
 Angela Roy, Human Resources
 Susan Simmons, Finance
 Leslie Talley, Community Services
 Donna Tooley, Transportation

Calendar of Events

- May 10 Tai Chi Classes Mondays Warren Senior Center 4:30
- May 15 Griff's Deli Benefit for Foster Grandparent Program
- May 19 Open House & New Buses at 901 Beauty Ave. 9am
- May 26 Healthy Aging Conference at Carol Knicely Center
- May 27 Community Action Charity Golf Classic
- June 26 Allen County Facility Grand Opening 1pm

*Please join us for our Grand Opening of
 our new Allen County facility!*

*Community Action of Southern Kentucky: Serving Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson,
 Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson, and Warren Counties.*



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