



Agency Happenings

Community Action Month a Success

May was National Community Action Month and many Agencies in Ohio planned exciting events to celebrate the occasion. These activities received plenty of participation and media attention, garnering the awareness this month is all about.

OACAA received a [proclamation from the governor](#) declaring May Community Action Month and created a [newspaper insert](#) to promote Community Action in Ohio. The insert was distributed in 35 newspapers throughout the state on May 30. The 40 participating agencies also received both print and electronic copies to distribute to lawmakers and community leaders, and post on their websites and share through social media. The insert shares real life stories from agencies across the state of people who have been helped by Community Action, focusing on four main areas, economic and workforce development, training programs, health and nutrition, and housing.

Agency Events

Below are some of the events held by agencies throughout Ohio to honor Community Action Month:

- The **Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency** held a Food Stamp Challenge to increase awareness and give participants a view of what life can be like for low-income Cincinnatians receiving Food Stamps. The program limited food purchases to \$23 for a week, the typical budget of a Food Stamp recipient. Some notable community figures participated in the challenge, including Cincinnati City Councilman P.G. Sittenfeld and a local radio D.J., Lincoln Ware of WDBZ. The challenge also received publicity in the [Cincinnati Herald](#).
- The **Community Action Organization of Delaware, Madison and Union Counties** received a

proclamation from their mayor proclaiming May Community Action Month that he gave to them during their staff appreciation lunch.

- The **Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area** held their third annual “Helping People. Changing Lives” Awards breakfast in Montgomery County on May 29 to honor those in the community who are dedicated to



helping people in need.

In Greene County, CAP Dayton held their annual event on May 31, themed

“Partnerships Working Hand in Hand Make it Happen.” The event at Shawnee Park included

free lunch, door prizes, games and entertainment, as well as informative displays by local agencies. The Darke County location had an article featured



in their local newspaper, the [Daily Advocate](#) that described some of the services the agency offers.

- The **Highland County Community Action Organization** received a proclamation from the Highland County Commissioners declaring May Community Action Month, which was publicized in the [Highland County Press](#).

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- **Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers**, Lake County's Community Action Agency, had a celebration for both Community Action Month and their 40th anniversary on May 22 at Painesville Township Park. The event included free food, games, a 50-50 raffle and a 1973 auction basket. Over 175 people attended the event, which provided Lifeline a chance to display 40 years of history and celebrate its accomplishments.



Photo courtesy of Mark Gifford with Gazette Newspapers

- The **Mahoning Youngstown Community Action Partnership (MYCAP)** held a Community Action Awareness Day on May 17 at Wick Park Recreation Center. The event included food, refreshments, games, prizes, Bounce-Around for the kids, face painting and more. Information was available about the programs MYCAP offers and other area non-profit agencies were available to discuss their services. Some residents who have participated in MYCAP programs in the past were also available to discuss how MYCAP helped them in challenging times. The event received a great deal of publicity in the local newspaper, the [Vindicator](#) and on [local television stations](#). A Community Action Awareness Day was also held for the Western Mahoning County office on May 31. That event included free blood pressure screenings, food, refreshments, prizes and giveaways, and information on programs and services. MYCAP Executive Director R. Renee Walton also wrote a poignant [letter to the editor](#) about Community Action and what MYCAP offers that was published in the *Vindicator*.



- In honor of Community Action Month, **Pickaway County Community Action (PICCA)** participated in United Way's Community Care Day on May 3, connecting volunteers to participate in community projects. They also held a volunteer recognition ceremony the following week at the Pickaway Country Club. They also received a proclamation from the mayor of Circleville declaring May Community Action Month. Finally, PICCA hosted a Community Action Yard Sale on May 17. The event, which they hope to have annually going forward, was intended to highlight problems of poverty, growing economic inequality and the need to bring millions of struggling families and individuals into the middle class. The proceeds from the yard sale went towards PICCA programs that help low-income Pickaway County residents. The event raised \$2,692.65! It was also publicized in their local newspaper, the [Circleville Herald](#).
- **WSOS Community Action** had an informative article in the [Tiffin Advertiser-Tribune](#) discussing what programs the agency offers.

