



## OACAA News

### Congratulations Best Practice Award Winners

On February 2, during the Winter Legislative Conference, OACAA along with The Ohio State University's John Glenn School of Public Affairs bestowed eight Community Action Agencies with Best Practice Awards.

OACAA, the John Glenn School and the Ohio Department of Development created the Best Practice Awards to honor innovative and effective Community Action Agency programs that measurably meet the needs of clients, families and communities by helping low-income people become more self-sufficient. The Best Practice Awards serve as a showcase for unique Community Action Agency efforts that make a measurable and life-changing difference. A panel of judges selected by the Glenn School evaluated each nomination independently and assigned points based on their assessment of each nomination.

The agencies receiving Best Practice Awards and their winning programs are as follows:



#### **Community Action Committee of Pike County – Masco Transition Center**

With the closing of Masco Retail Cabinetry Group, a major employer in Pike County, CAC of Pike County worked quickly to open a Transition Center to support the effected workers and their families. There were over 7,000 visits to the center and more than 250 people enrolled in various training programs, 21 GEDs were earned and 68 individuals gained employment.

#### **Community Action Organization of Delaware, Madison & Union County – Right on the Money**

The *Right on the Money* program brought together several area agencies to combine resources and develop a successful financial literacy program that introduced children to key financial concepts and provided parents with tools and information to reinforce their own financial knowledge.



#### **Supports to Encourage Low-Income Families (SELF) – Middletown Group Workcamps Home Repair Project**

While SELF began a Group Workcamp Home Repair Project for the City of Hamilton in 2008, the newly-created Middletown Group Workcamp Home Repair Project was three times larger and more efficient, resulting in 82 homes being repaired for the year.

#### **Hocking-Athens-Perry Community Action – Transportation Services**

When faced with survey results showing significant barriers to transportation in Athens County and the threat of losing transportation services in Logan, HAPCAP stepped in and started an inter-city bus service between Columbus, Athens and Cincinnati, and an Athens Public Transit system, while monitoring environmental concerns and meeting customer needs.



## OACAA News Continued



### Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission – Backpack Program

Ohio Heartland coordinated the services and resources of more than ten agencies and businesses to provide a much-needed backpack lunch program for school children, providing over 100 kids with enough food to hold them until their next school-provided meal.

### Community Action Wayne/Medina – Non Fed Committee

Rather than struggling to meet the required non-federal match for Head Start each year, CA Wayne/Medina chose to take a proactive approach, enlisting over 600 parents, staff and community volunteers in the effort, providing them with training, encouragement and status reports.



### Lifeline, Inc. – Dancing Under the Stars

Lifeline partnered with another agency to increase their fund raising. The end result was several smaller events and their signature fundraiser, Dancing Under the Stars, based on the popular television show utilizing local celebrities. It has raised over \$60,000 for the two agencies.

### Community Action Commission of Erie, Huron & Richland Counties, Inc.

In 2010, CACEHR was asked by the Ohio Department of Development to provide Community Action services to Richland County. CACEHR was able to provide Community Action services in Richland County while maintaining their capacity and growth during the transition.



“These programs showcase outstanding achievements in Community Action,” stated Philip E. Cole, Executive Director of OACAA. “They aid low-income people in becoming more self-sufficient and are practices that other CAAs can learn from. Congratulations to all of this year’s winners.”

