



Agency Happenings

Community Action Leader Remembered



The Community Action Organization of Scioto County held a solemn, yet celebratory event Monday, November 26, 2012 to dedicate its central office facility to the memory of its late Executive Director Bob Walton.

Walton began working at the CAO in 1968 as an educational specialist and became the executive director in 1972. As the *Portsmouth Daily Times* said, “He was a pioneer in community development, job creation, and acquisition of resources for Scioto County. Walton’s influence transcended Scioto County, becoming state-wide, and reaching as far as Washington, D.C.” He passed away on April 27 at the age of 70 after battling lung cancer since 2005.

The occasion on November 26 was marked by the unveiling of a bronze plaque commemorating Bob’s long years of service to the citizens of Scioto County. Bob’s widow Mary Walton and his daughter Sarah unveiled the plaque and each spoke to the love Bob had for his community, its people and for his colleagues at CAO. “It is a thank you, I believe it is a thank you for Bob,” Mary Walton said. “This shows how much of his life he devoted just into this one agency, all of their departments, and to the community. He gave so much.” His daughter Sarah said, “It shows how it was my dad’s mission in life to work for Scioto County, New Boston, Portsmouth and the surrounding area. I lived out of town many years, and I would often try to get him to move, he would always tell me that he would never leave here because he needed to stay to do what he felt needed to be done, and he never gave it up, but continued up until the very last days.”

Executive Director Bill Thacker stated that he wished all who entered the building would take note of the plaque and reflect on what he or she can do to continue the work Bob Walton so faithfully performed. “It is up to us to make sure that his vision and commitment to the poor and to the working men and women of our community lives on,” Thacker said.

CAO staff and board members, area elected officials and members of the Southern Ohio Port Authority - through which Bob accomplished great things in bringing jobs and industry to the area - attended the ceremony.

As inscribed on the plaque, Walton was a “Tireless advocate for economic justice and opportunity for all,” and his memory will live on in the work done at the CAO of Scioto County.