



# Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies

Breaking News from Ohio's Poverty Fighting Network

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## Highland Brings in Mobile Foodbank

Highland County Community Action Organization and the Highland County Board of Realtors cosponsored a visit to Hillsboro by the Cincinnati Freestore Foodbank's Mobile Pantry.

Times are still tough in the county, officials say and despite 95-degree heat, hundreds of residents lined up to take home as much as 50 pounds of food each.

"The Board of Realtors approached our agency about sponsoring the Freestore Mobile Food Pantry," said Highland County CAO Executive Director Julia Wise. "They sent volunteers to join our staff to distribute the food."

The mobile pantry provides an array of food, including meats and canned vegetables. Volunteers said seeing the people the pantry serves made helping much more meaningful.

"When you see the faces of the hungry, that means a whole lot more than just simply giving money," said Brad Barber, an account executive with the Board of Realtors. "I'm a human being and but for the grace of God, that could be me."



Photo courtesy of Highland County Press

## Lancaster Agency Partners in Housing Rehab

A multi-partner project in Lancaster improved affordable housing for families and seniors.

Lancaster-Fairfield Community Action Agency worked with Fairfield Homes and the Ohio Housing Finance Agency to rehabilitate 101 units at Hunterwood Park. A grand re-opening celebration was held last weekend.

"Our partnership in the development of affordable housing greatly enhances

## Summer Conference Only Two Weeks Away



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur will be joining us at OACAA's 2011 Summer Conference in Toledo.

The Conference is scheduled for June 29 through July 1 at the Crowne Plaza Toledo.

The Congresswoman will speak at Thursday's lunch. This year's conference will also feature both National Community Action Partnership President and CEO Don Mathis and National Community Action Foundation Executive Director David Bradley.

The revised agenda can be downloaded [here](#).

Registrations are still being accepted. Rates are \$305 for members and \$339 for non-members. Click [here](#) for a registration form.

See you in Toledo!

## National Entrepreneurship Awards



our overall mission to serve struggling households in Fairfield County," said CAA Executive Director Kellie Ailes.

The rehab work included upgrades to receive Energy Star certification. Workers also installed playgrounds, a gazebo, garden and walking path. Senior units were rebuilt to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The work was possible thanks in part to a federal tax credit of \$585,000.

"We're looking to see what we can do to make our country stronger," Congressman Steve Austria said at the grand reopening. "This tax credit is a good way to do that."

The federal tax credit program provides a dollar-for-dollar reduction in income taxes for developers of affordable housing in exchange for providing below-market rents for at least 15 years. The tax credits are sold to investors who provide equity for the projects.

Others involved in the Hunterwood Park project include: Ohio Department of Development, Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development and Kontogiannis & Associates Architects.

The complex includes 51 units for seniors and 50 units for families. Occupancy is available to those who earn up to 60 percent of the area's average income.



low-income individuals and families in urban, suburban and rural communities.

Winners receive, among other recognition, \$2,500. Agencies must be a current member of the Community Action Partnership to be eligible.

The deadline is July 1, 2011.

For detailed information and forms, visit the Partnership's [website](#).

### Job Postings

[Check out the latest job postings in the network!](#)

Send your job postings to [OACAA](#)

## Cincy Receives Healthy Kids Grant

Thanks to a grant from General Mills, Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency will be able to make sure the Head Start its students get is also a Healthy Start.

The agency is one of 50 national recipients of the Champions for Healthy Kids grant from the General Mills Foundation. The \$10,000 grant will help fund the new Healthy Start initiative at the agency's Head Start sites beginning this fall.

"We're making sure our Head Start families leave CAA with a solid foundation and understanding of healthy living," said Gwen L. Robinson-Benning, Cincy CAA's President and CEO.

Through Healthy Start's animal-themed curriculum, preschoolers at Cincy CAA will learn how being active and eating nutritious foods can be both fun and easy. The children will also engage in physical activity and motor skill development through songs, games and stories. Additionally, they will learn how to make conscious food choices by using their senses and learning how to recognize low fat and high fiber foods.

Understanding that education begins at home, staff will also engage Head Start parents, holding monthly meetings and providing take home activities to encourage new habits. The goal is to help preschoolers understand that how they treat their bodies affects how they feel and grow.

## Save the Dates for OACAA Fall Training

OACAA/OCATO will offer several targeted mini-conferences this August and September to provide specialized updates and instruction to members of the Community Action Network.

Since many employees wear several hats, conferences for Planners, Developers and Fiscal employees are timed for the same week. Planners and Developers will gather on August 10. Internal Controls will be discussed on August 11 and other Fiscal topics will be the focus on August 12.

All three days of training will be at the Holiday Inn Downtown Columbus Capitol Square. Details and registration information will be released later this summer.

A Communications Conference will be held at the same venue on September 8 and 9. This day and a half event will include topics such as social media, writing tips, messaging for a larger audience and legal topics in nonprofit communications. Details and registration information will be released later this summer.

Watch [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org) for training opportunities or [email us](#) to suggest a topic.