

OACAA *briefing*

News from Ohio's Poverty Fighting Network • March 2010

Grants to fund urban garden, IDAs in Cincy

Greater Cincinnati residents hungry for self-sufficiency have more resources available thanks to two grants from JP Morgan Chase to the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency.

The CAA will use a \$90,000 grant to create the Avondale Community Kitchen and Greenhouse in collaboration with the Episcopal Diocese of the Southern Ohio Church. The new initiative is designed to combat childhood obesity in Avondale while providing fresh fruits and vegetables.

The Community Kitchen will also provide training in food service, preparation and nutrition to encourage low-income businesses and individuals interested in creating a product for public consumption.

The Greenhouse will serve as a community garden and staff members will educate the public on how to grow and prepare fresh produce.

The urban community garden is timely in Ohio where Gov. Ted Strickland recently launched the Ohio Neighborhood Harvest Initiative. In the coming months, the Ohio Food Policy Advisory Council and the Ohio Department of Agriculture will be working to identify areas in the state that lack access to fresh, healthy food such as the locally grown produce CAA's Community Kitchen will provide in Avondale.

The Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative (GCMi) also received \$35,000 from Chase to create an Individual Development Account program. The aim of the program is to promote self-sufficiency through employment and financial freedom.

GCMi will provide clients with the tools and resources to save for the purchase of a vehicle or to pay off delinquent debt. Having reliable transportation increases access to employment opportunities. Reducing debt improves credit.

For every dollar saved into an IDA, GCMi will match either \$1 (credit recovery) or \$2 (vehicle). Each client will also receive one-on-one financial counseling and participate in a series of financial and consumer education courses.

For more information on programs at Cincinnati CAA or GCMi, visit www.cincy-caa.org.



JP Morgan Chase presented two grants to the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency and its Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative (GCMi). Pictured from left to right: Ed Burdell from St. Michael's Episcopal Church; Willie Hill, GCMi; Patricia Milton, Avondale Community Council; Cinnamon Pelle, Chase Bank; Bill Witten, Avondale Community Council and United Way Place Matters; and CAA President and CEO Gwen L. Robinson.

OACAA calls for summer conference sessions

Wanted: Your ideas and presentations!

In its 45 year history, Community Action in Ohio has discovered that knowledge is the best weapon in the fight against poverty.

Share your knowledge by presenting a workshop at the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies' 2010 Annual Summer Conference.

Presenters receive free registration to

the conference and free accommodations. Visit www.oacaa.org to download a Presentation Proposal Form. Presentations are due by April 21, 2010.

OACAA also welcomes your suggestions for workshop topics and presenters you may have seen elsewhere.

Call Lorie McClain at 614-224-8500 or email lorie@oacaa.org.

Send completed presentation forms

to Ms. McClain at: Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1616, Columbus, Ohio 43215, or by fax to 614-224-2587. Forms must be received by April 21 and presenters will be contacted if selected.

OACAA's 2010 Annual Summer Conference will be held June 16 through 18 at the Kalahari Resort, 7000 Kalahari Drive, Sandusky, Ohio 44870.

Visit the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies online at www.oacaa.org.