

Victories *Everyday*



Cincinnati-Hamilton County
Community Action Agency
We help make things happen

www.cincy-caa.org

May/June 2010

Health Center to Open at CAA

In an ongoing effort to form partnerships beneficial to Cincinnati's low-income community, CAA will welcome **WinMed Health Services** to its Jordan Crossing facility on July 7 when the clinic opens to the public. WinMed will offer primary medical care, minor emergency services, and dental care for both children and adults. Having access to regular medical care helps reduce expensive treatments that can be avoided with preventative measures.

First Graduating YouthBuild Class

CAA's **YouthBuild Construction & Training Program** honored its first class of graduates on June 13. Families and friends gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the 40 young adults, six of whom will attend college in the fall and twenty-seven who earned construction certifications. YouthBuild is a construction training program for 16-24 year olds who have dropped out of high school. It also provides supportive services and GED assistance.

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**Cincinnati-Hamilton
County Community
Action Agency**

Dates to Remember

**Summer Youth
Employment Program
June 14—August 6**

**CAA Closed —
4th of July Holiday
Monday, July 5**

**WinMed Health Services
at CAA opens to the public
Wednesday, July 7**

**2010-2011 Head Start
school year begins
Monday, August 30**



A Lesson in Never Giving Up

At 19 years old, Carla Goines was homeless with two young children and a third on the way. She still had dreams of continuing her education so that she could become a registered nurse and one day provide for her family. However, she needed help to reach her goals. So, she applied to CAA's **Roosevelt Townhouse**

Apartments program. She knew the program promised to provide not only a roof over her head, but numerous other services she would need to get back on her feet and take care of her family.

Two weeks after giving birth to her son in April 2007, Carla was accepted into CAA's Roosevelt Townhouse Apartments program and moved in. Things began coming together from there. Her caseworker helped her to discover and follow through on all the steps she needed to take to become a registered nurse. CAA's Community Store helped her to obtain clothing and household supplies. Her children are all enrolled in CAA's Head Start program, receiving nutritious meals and a quality preschool education.

Currently, Carla works part-time as a licensed practical nurse and is enrolled in school full-time to become a registered nurse. She will receive her Associate Degree in Nursing from Fortis College (formerly Bohecker College) in November of 2011. She is grateful for all of the assistance CAA provided in helping her reach her goals. "Moving into the townhomes gave me the cushion and support I needed to push off and achieve something. I can now imagine the day that I buy a house with a backyard for my kids to play in and can move my mom from a nursing home into my home," said Carla.

CAA Expands Summer Opportunities for Youth

CAA's **Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)** has more than tripled the number of teenagers and young adults that it will employ this year, providing approximately 1,000 youth with professional training and development. The City of Cincinnati awarded stewardship of Mayor Mallory's Summer Youth Initiative to CAA, which will allow the agency to place 375 youth, ages 14-18, in summer jobs throughout the city. The agency also received funding through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act to provide another 125 young adults, 18-24 years of age, with employment and job skills training. Finally, Hamilton County will fund an additional 500 positions, for teens and young adults, ages 16-24.

The SYEP helps youth find entry-level summer jobs at community-based organizations, government agencies, corporations, law firms, health care facilities, and other local businesses. However, the program provides far more than a summer income. Staff also work with participants to create individualized career development plans and provide guidance on topics such as interviewing, resumes, and developing interpersonal skills.

Every year CAA provides tax return preparation services at no cost to individuals who qualify for the **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)**. This year, CAA helped 1,411 individuals avoid paying high fees to commercial tax preparers. Taxpayers received nearly \$2.3 million in refunds. The EITC initiative is the largest federal anti-poverty program for working families, lifting more children out of poverty than any other federal program.

Setting record numbers this winter, CAA's **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)** worked in overdrive to ensure that 38,000 families stayed warm this winter. The Emergency HEAP program disseminated \$2.9 million to help families pay their utility bills, compared to \$1.4 million last winter. HEAP provides financial utility bill assistance to individuals who have been disconnected or have received a disconnection notice. Now that Emergency HEAP is over, CAA is gearing up for its Summer Crisis Program, providing fans, air conditioners, and financial assistance to eligible families.

What's New at CAA

Over 1,800 children will enter kindergarten this fall after completing CAA's **Head Start** preschool program. Head Start is administered at over 160 sites throughout Hamilton County and prepares both children and parents for kindergarten. Teachers focus on the child's entire skill set development including cognitive, social, and emotional skills.



Over 100 fathers, fatherhood practitioners, and advocates gathered at CAA in May for the agency's **3rd Annual Fatherhood Forum**. Participants attended various educational seminars covering topics relevant to parenting, including smart communication, visitation, and financial literacy. Senator Eric H. Kearney joined the forum, serving as the keynote speaker. Wallace Johnson, named "Father of the Year" (*pictured*), and others received awards for their participation in CAA's Directions for Dad and Involved Males & Fathers programs. Both programs are part of CAA's Fatherhood Initiative which provides a sense of community and support for men involved in the life of a child.