

# VICTORIES EVERYDAY

SUMMER 2016



**Cincinnati-Hamilton County  
Community Action Agency**

## From the President/CEO

Hello, everyone! Are you ready for summer?

We've had a busy and productive spring here at CAA, and I want to thank you all for your hard work. In May, we joined with our sister organizations across the nation and celebrated "Community Action Month."



Each year, we take this opportunity to reflect on where we've been and plan about where we're going. President Lyndon Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act in 1964 that created a variety of programs, including Community Action Agencies. Ever since that time, day in and day out, CAAs have played a crucial role in improving the lives of low-income people.

Despite all the serious issues we deal with, it's important to take time for some fun and recharge our spirits. That happened when the agency held the Staff Olympics May 28. Thanks to our Human Resources Director Brenda Calhoun and her helpers for organizing this great event.

On a more somber note, we should pause to remember the victims of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando. This horrible act caused so much pain and sorrow. Let's remember, though, that when groups pull together and use our collective power, we can make real progress in reducing problems like poverty and violence. We must stand united.

Gwen L. Robinson



*Congratulations to our CAA Olympics Champions, Team Jamaica.*



*Mayor Cranley and Gwen Robinson celebrate Community Action Month at the Annual Legislative Coffee event held on May 27, 2016.*

### In This Issue

- HEAP Updates Procedures for Summer Crisis Program
- CAA Director Updates
- GCMI Launches Ice House Entrepreneurship Program
- Summer Youth Employment Program
- Client Victories: Chanel Wood

[www.Cincy-CAA.org](http://www.Cincy-CAA.org)  
513.569.1840



@CincyCAA



Cincinnati Hamilton  
County Community  
Action Agency

Chandra Mathews-Smith  
Board Chair

Gwen L. Robinson  
President/CEO

*Send comments or questions to  
Kevin Osborne, 513-569-4342 or  
kosborne@cincy-caa.org*



## HEAP Updates Procedures for Upcoming Summer Crisis Program

On June 1, 2016, the HEAP Department announced updates to their process for services. The updated procedures have been put into place prior to the upcoming Summer Crisis Program for the safety and convenience of CAA clients. The updated processes are:

- Customers with appointments will be seen from 8:00 am to 10:30 am, Monday through Thursday. Customers must call 1-866-747-1039.
- The first 40 walk-in customers will be accepted at 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. These customers are asked to arrive no earlier than 15 minutes before 1:00 pm.
- The first 20 senior citizen walk-in customers (ages 60+) will be seen at 9:00 am, Monday through Thursday.



The Summer Crisis Program will kick off on July 1, 2016. The program provides up to \$300 in utility assistance to qualified applicants and targets households with seniors (over age 60) or with individuals who have a medically diagnosed chronic illness or disease. Assistance can include supply of a new air conditioner or fan, monetary assistance, or a combination of both.

## CAA Director Updates

Long-time veteran of CAA, Mason Gray, has been named as the new Director of Community Services after serving as CAA Community Relations Director for more than 10 years. As the Community Services Director, Gray will now be responsible for the development of all core grant proposals and managing the staff and operations of key agency programs including Career & Job Services, Family Support and Community Engagement.



Mason Gray



Kevin Osborne

Kevin Osborne, former Director of Communications for Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley, has been named as the new Community Relations Director. In this role, Osborne will promote all CAA initiatives, services, programs and events through Community Awareness and assorted media and marketing tools. In addition to his role with the Mayor, Osborne has an extensive media background that includes jobs at *The Cincinnati Post*, *CityBeat* and *WCPO Insider*.

## Head Start Partners with Reds Organization for "Fun at Bat"

CAA Head Start is proud to announce the new "Fun at Bat" partnership with the Reds Urban Youth Academy. "Fun at Bat" began in April and is a six-week experience for 105 students and more than 20 parent volunteers. The program teaches those students to be active and learn more about baseball at an earlier age through baseball fundamentals, social interaction skills and a love for the game. Head Start and the Reds organization consider this a successful partnership and look forward to expanding it during the next session.



## CAA Welcomes New Mercy Health President & CEO

President/CEO Gwen Robinson welcomed new Mercy Health President & CEO John M. Starcher, Jr. to Bond Hill and Roselawn on behalf of CAA. The agency will be partnering with Mercy Health on various projects in the coming months.





The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus

The Ohio Legislative Black Caucus will hold its convention in Cincinnati July 15th–17th, the first time it's ever been held in the Queen City. The free, nonpartisan event will feature workshops on important topics such as Justice Reform, Voting Rights, Education and Jobs & Wealth Gaps. Registration is free, and includes admission to the Women's Empowerment Luncheon being held at The Westin Cincinnati on July 16th. To register or learn more about the OLBC, contact [olbc-convention@gmail.com](mailto:olbc-convention@gmail.com) or call (800) 344-9724.

## Big Turnout for Big Top Yard Sale

A huge thank you to the planning committee, vendors and everyone in the community who participated in the Big Top Yard Sale and Head Start Enrollment Fair on June 11th. It was another successful year with over 120 vendors, live music and entertainment, activities for the whole family... and lots of shopping! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



## GCMI Launches Ice House Entrepreneurship Program

GCMI was recently awarded a grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) to provide entrepreneurship education through GCMI's new entrepreneurship curriculum called the Ice House Entrepreneurship Program. The Ice House Entrepreneurship Program (IHEP) brings "Eight Life Lessons from an Unlikely Entrepreneur" in an experiential problem-based learning format that will engage participants in the "entrepreneurial mindset." The IHEP is designed to equip participants with the perseverance and determination needed to become more successful. It engages and empowers them to take ownership of their future while developing knowledge skills and behaviors that will enable them to succeed and overcome poverty and/or the obstacles of poverty.



The GCF grant allows GCMI to focus on four (4) key target segments utilizing their Entrepreneurial Education and Mindset training: Workforce Development and Apprenticeship programs, Youth Development programs, Re Entry/Ex-offender programs, and GCMI traditional entrepreneurship programs. This partially online curriculum allows flexibility in its delivery method and can be used in various formats from workshops to a semester taught curriculum.

"We are excited to bring this curriculum to the Greater Cincinnati Region," stated GCMI Executive Director Willie Hill. "We feel the Ice House Entrepreneurship Program is a great program that will effect behavior changes and equip participants with entrepreneurship skills that will translate into them making better decisions that will positively affect their lives."

For information visit [www.gcmi.org](http://www.gcmi.org) or contact Willie Hill at [whill@cincy-caa.org](mailto:whill@cincy-caa.org) or 513-569-4816.

## Summer Youth Employment Program

In June, Youth Services kicked off the eight-week Summer Youth Employment Program which provides job readiness and life skills training to Cincinnati youth between the ages of 14–18. Youth will work between 20–30 hours a week from June to August, earning \$8.10 per hour (the current minimum wage for youth in Ohio). Employers include City departments, nonprofit organizations and private sector partners. Youth are placed in career-oriented employment opportunities such as law enforcement, fire and safety, horticulture, recreation, art, technology and administration.





## Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

1740 Langdon Farm Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45237

# VICTORIES EVERYDAY

## Client Victories: Chanel Wood

“Mindset,” says Chanel Wood, “That’s the most important thing I’ve gained from The Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative (GCMi). The instructors really make you think critically and become a more resourceful entrepreneur. GCMi helped me understand about my target market, and the people I’m serving.”

Chanel first considered going into business for herself in 2013, with seven years of prior experience and a gift for planning events such as community fashion shows, corporate events, birthday parties and weddings. Chanel completed her Communications degree and began her event planning business in November of 2014, but knew she needed business training to properly set herself on the entrepreneurial path. In the following months, she enrolled in GCMi’s 8-week Entrepreneurial Training Academy to learn how to expand her new microbusiness. Chanel successfully graduated from the GCMi ETA Business program in 2015.

Just Plan It!® Events is on the right path for success. “Chanel Wood is central to both client matching and delivering high quality event planning services, with her

magnetic personality and high energy just makes her a joy to work with,” stated Tracey Hayes, GCMi Program Coordinator. During her 6-week Advanced Business II Training with GCMi, Chanel was afforded the opportunity to work with seven different instructors who helped her build capacity in Product Development, Marketing, and Financial Management, and much more.



With a strong social media web presence, a glowing customer service attitude, and her humility to volunteer her time for others, our GCMi staff is confident that Just Plan It!® Events will flourish. Connect With Just Plan It!® Events at [www.justplanitevents.com](http://www.justplanitevents.com).