

# VICTORIES EVERYDAY

FALL 2015



## Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

### From the President/CEO

Everyone deserves the best life possible and our staff helps to make that reality for thousands of local residents each year. Still, Cincinnati owns the dubious distinction of being ranked second in the nation for child poverty. As a leading provider of Head Start for thousands of preschool-aged children, we have always understood the long-term impact that early childhood education can have — particularly as it pertains to breaking generational cycles of poverty.



Moving children and families out of poverty, in significant numbers, is to transform our community for the better and it requires a concerted effort from the broader community. This is why I am encouraged to see that the Preschool Promise campaign, an effort to ensure that every child regardless of income can receive preschool education, is gaining serious momentum. I am also elated that Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley has pledged to tackle child poverty in a major way.

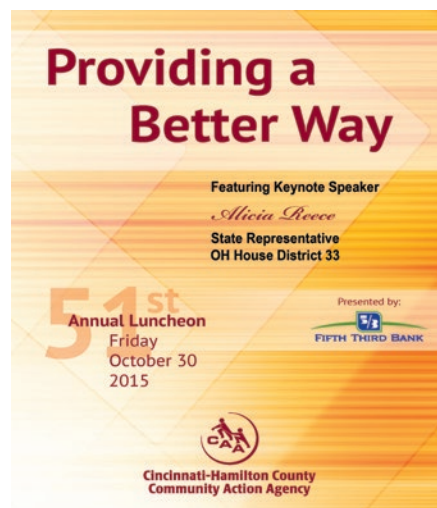
CAA welcomes one and all to the fight against poverty and the devastating effects it can wreak on families and communities. Cincinnati is better for it. And it cannot be done without the continued support of people like yourself.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwen L. Robinson".

Gwen L. Robinson

### Join Us for Our 51st Annual Luncheon!

CAA's 51st Annual Luncheon will take place on October 30th at the Westin Hotel in Downtown Cincinnati. We are excited to announce our keynote speaker for 2015, State Representative Alicia Reece. Registration for seats and sponsorships is now open for this event at [www.cincy-caa.org](http://www.cincy-caa.org). Make plans to join us in celebrating 51 years of service to our community.



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[www.Cincy-CAA.org](http://www.Cincy-CAA.org)  
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## Youth Services Offers Commercial Drivers License Training

In May, Mayor John Cranley announced that CAA would be one of several organizations that would receive contracts for his Hand Up Initiative, a city partnership that funds and promotes job readiness programs to address the issues of unemployment and poverty. CAA received \$100,000 to implement a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training that will help participants gain employment and become self-sufficient.



A Plan to Combat Poverty and Joblessness in Cincinnati

CAA partnered with one of the Midwest's most respected CDL training facilities, Napier Truck Driver Training, Inc. Students who enroll in the new program attend a 5-week training course to obtain their license and begin a new career as a truck driver. Napier and CAA also work with program participants on job placement through partner companies looking for new drivers.

To be eligible for the program, applicants must be 21 years of age or older, in good physical health, have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation to Napier in Fairfield to attend the course full-time for 5 weeks. Additionally, students must meet financial eligibility requirements.

Anyone interested in the new CDL training course should contact Tim Johnson at 513-569-1840 ext. 2417 or [tjohnson@cincy-caa.org](mailto:tjohnson@cincy-caa.org). A second class is scheduled to begin in October.

## Helping Households Beat the Heat

Our Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) has concluded another successful Summer Crisis Program. The program, which began on July 1st, provided up to \$250 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 included a new air conditioner or fan, monetary help, or a combination of both.

Between July 1st and August 31st, the 2015 Summer Crisis Program distributed more than 92 air conditioners, 58 fans, and has allocated nearly \$70,000 in utility assistance.

HEAP staff are now gearing up for the Winter Crisis Program which will launch November 2nd and run through March, or until funds for the program run out. The winter program assists eligible households threatened with disconnection, but cannot afford to pay their utility bill. To make an appointment for the Winter Crisis program, call 1-866-747-1039. Winter Crisis assistance is available at CAA, as well as outreach sites including St. Vincent de Paul Winton Terrace, Churches Active in Northside and Freestore Foodbank.



HEAP's programs are designed to assist Hamilton County residents with their utility bills and are federally-funded and administered across the state by the Ohio Department of Development. For more information on HEAP, please visit [www.cincy-caa.org](http://www.cincy-caa.org).

## CMC Graduation

Workforce Development's Cincinnati Manufacturing Certificates (CMC) program concluded in late July with a graduation celebration for CMC students, families and staff. This challenging 140-hour curriculum is composed of 4 modules, with a certification test at the end of each module. Workforce Development is recruiting for the next CMC class to begin in early November. For more information or to make a referral, please contact LaVerne DeArmond at [ldearmond@cincy-caa.org](mailto:ldearmond@cincy-caa.org).



## CAA Foundation & Cancer Support Community Outreach Event

The CAA Foundation has partnered with Cancer Support Community to bring awareness to urban communities. We will co-host a forum on Thursday, November 12th from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at Community Action Headquarters. This event will provide an introduction to cancer support services, conversations about community needs as well as providing a forum for networking. Dr. Keith Melvin, Mercy Health, will be the guest speaker. Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres will be served. This event is free, however registration is required at [www.cincy-caa.foundation](http://www.cincy-caa.foundation).



COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY  
FOUNDATION  
*Building a legacy for our community*

## Happening This Fall

For more information on these upcoming events, visit [www.cincy-caa.org](http://www.cincy-caa.org)

- Oct 30 CAA 51st Annual Luncheon
- Nov 2 HEAP Winter Crisis Begins (confirm date)
- Nov 2 CMC Fall Training Class Begins
- Nov 12 CAA Foundation Cancer Support Community Outreach Event
- Nov 14 Cardio for Community Action Fundraiser and Food Drive

## Building Bridges

In August, CAA partnered with The Cincinnati Human Relations Commission and National Underground Railroad Freedom Center for the "Bridges to Cross: Building Bridges" march across the Roebling Bridge to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Following the march, community leaders and legislators spoke in remembrance of that day in history and encouraged younger generations to stay vigilant and vocal as it pertains to voting rights and voter suppression.



## WinMed, Head Start & Molina Healthcare Partner for Women's Health Event

On September 29th, WinMed partnered with Head Start, Molina and Health Gap to present the Centering Women's Health Power Shower and Brunch. Over 65 women attended this year's event, held at CAA. Attendees participated in many activities and discussions regarding women's and baby's health. Activities included health screenings, fitness demonstrations, massage and stress reduction strategies and many discussions on important health issues such as insurance, Safe Sleep for Babies, quitting smoking, violence prevention and Centering Pregnancy & Parenting. Many of our Home School Education staff and mothers they serve participated in the event, and CAA presented information on Early Head Start and Home Educator Services offered. Because of WinMed's in-house partnership with CAA, participants were also able to take a tour of the WinMed Centering Room. CAA was proud to partner in such a successful event, and to be a part of empowering women to take charge of their health.



## Foundation Fundraisers

The CAA Foundation has kept busy planning numerous fundraising activities to raise money in support of the expansion and development of your Community Action Agency.

In August, the CAA Foundation partnered with third party vendor ELI Smart Solution to launch its first technology drive fundraiser. The community is encouraged to donate old, used smartphones and other technologies such as tablets, computers and laptops for recycling. All proceeds will benefit the Foundation and support CAA programs. This fundraiser runs through May 31, 2016, so please continue to clean out your clutter and donate to support the Foundation!



Recycling bins are located throughout both CAA and Ted Berry.

Throughout the month of October the CAA Foundation is partnering with Mike's Car Wash to sell \$8 car wash certificates as a CAA fundraiser. A portion of all money raised through the sales will be donated to the CAA Foundation. Certificates will be available online through the CAA website beginning October 1st, or you can purchase them at the CAA Annual Luncheon on October 30th.

You can also support the foundation by participating in the Cardio for Community Action fundraiser and food drive being held at the CycleBar on November 14th at 2 p.m. A donation of \$25 or more reserves your seat for the spinning class and includes the CycleBar royal treatment with amenities including shoes, towels, water bottles, fresh fruit, and more. Following the workout, participants are invited to join CAAF for a post-ride party in the Community Room. Reservations can be made through the foundation's website, [www.cincy-caa.foundation](http://www.cincy-caa.foundation).



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# VICTORIES EVERYDAY

## Client Victories: Rising Star Gives Back

In 2007, Kourtnie Daugherty graduated from Withrow International High School in Cincinnati, Ohio and planned to play basketball in college. After blowing out her knee and missing her opportunity for a collegiate athletic career, she began a new chapter in her life.

Kourtnie challenged the norm by enrolling into the Blueprint for Success Program at CAA, a program that provides classroom instruction and hands-on training to prepare individuals for a career in the construction industry. After graduating from the program, Kourtnie secured a position at Messer Construction and became one of the elite in an industry dominated primarily by men.

As a Messer employee, Kourtnie has become a rising star and is very involved with the company. She continues to demonstrate leadership and excel in her craft. In 2011 she traveled to San Antonio, Texas for the ABC National Craft Championship, where she competed with other apprentices from across the nation in con-



tests of knowledge and skill. Kourtnie also continued her education while working full-time, graduating from the Carpentry Apprenticeship Program in 2015.

Kourtnie volunteers in local public schools with Allied Construction Industries and is a member of the Messer Women in Construction Committee. This summer, she was the lead carpentry instructor for a popular youth program known as Rosie's

Girls, a 3-week summer day camp where girls entering grades 6-8 get hands-on instruction in STEM-related activities. It is a safe, supportive, girl-centered environment that emphasizes leadership, teamwork and healthy body image. Instructors chosen for Rosie's Girls are women professionals in their fields, as well as vibrant role models and mentors for girls.

Kourtnie desires to continue learning, and strives to advance into a leadership position at Messer. She also plans to continue giving back to the community and representing the success of Community Action.