

# VICTORIES EVERYDAY

FALL 2016



**Cincinnati-Hamilton County  
Community Action Agency**

## From the President/CEO

Can you believe it's fall already? Time to break out those sweaters and coats.

It's been a year of ramping up new programs here at CAA and reorganizing ourselves so we can face new challenges. I'm proud of all of you for helping in this ongoing effort to make our agency more effective.



I especially want to recognize and thank the hard work of Head Start's Life Learning Center. The staff there recently completed all the required documentation for state regulators in preparation for an inspection in which we will hopefully achieve a 5-star "Step Up To Quality" rating. It's important for CAA to achieve this distinction as the community continues the important conversation about early childhood education.

Also, I must give a shout-out to Mason Gray, who became our new Community Services Director earlier this year. In his new role, Mason has done a great job in streamlining the Community Services Department. As part of his work, Mason recently created the new Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program, or CCMEP. A collaborative partnership between Talbert House, Easter Seals, Urban League and CAA, the new program has an ambitious goal of connecting 1,000 youth, ages 18-24, with the resources they need from multiple providers to achieve their dreams with education and employment.

CAA had an employee outing this summer at the Farmers' Market located at Mercy Health's headquarters, just down the street on Reading Road. Those who went got the chance to sample and buy produce, jams, home-made desserts and other goodies. As many of you know, Mercy Health is a valuable partner to CAA. Together, in conjunction with Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, we've also offered free State Tested Nursing Assistant classes. I want to thank Mercy Health for being a good neighbor!

Gwen L. Robinson

### In This Issue

- Congratulations GCMI Graduates!
- Annual Luncheon
- CAA Launches CCMEP
- HEAP Updates Policies for Customer Convenience
- Partner Victories

[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](mailto:kosborne@cincy-caa.org)*



## Congratulations GCMI Graduates!

The Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative is the lifeline for some early entrepreneurs and small business owners who need resources to help them become a stronger and more vibrant business in our community. GCMI entrepreneur education training, coaching and loan programs make developing a business easier to manage and connects entrepreneurs with the local resource ecosystem that makes Cincinnati a great place to start and grow a business.

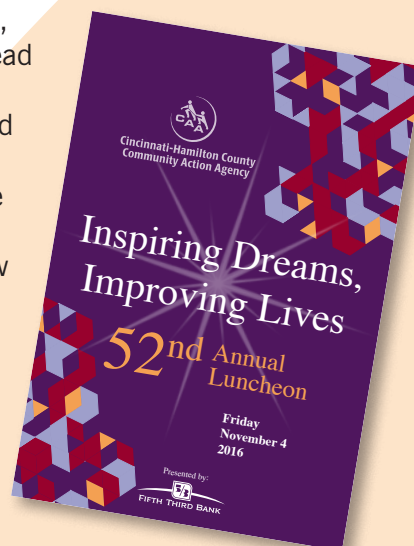


On, Aug. 18, we honored seven graduates of the ETA Entrepreneurship Training Program - Business II Class #16. This course is designed to provide an interactive and in-depth entrepreneur experience that allows participants to develop, grow or structure their business or accelerate the startup of their businesses. Their experience included sessions taught by industry professionals (marketing, product development, information technology and social media), one-on-one consultations and concept presentations. This opportunity provided our entrepreneurs a chance for business skill development, concept exploration and business coaching from our class instructors, staff and validation team.



## Annual Luncheon

CAA will celebrate 52 years of service at its Annual Luncheon on Friday, November 4, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at The Westin Hotel in downtown Cincinnati. The Annual Luncheon is a time to reflect over the past year of service so we can celebrate successes, better understand challenges that lie ahead and reaffirm our commitment to serving low-income families. This year's featured speaker is Ambassador Michael Battle, Executive Vice President & Provost of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Tickets and sponsorships are now available. Visit [www.cincy-caa.org](http://www.cincy-caa.org) or call Randi Kamp at (513) 569-1853 for more information or to reserve your seat. We look forward to seeing you on November 4!



## Local Partners Offer STNA Training Program

CAA has partnered with Mercy Health and Cincinnati State to offer a new State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA) training program. This new program provides hands-on medical aide training and provides an entrance to the field of nursing with guaranteed employment once completed. Over 200 interested individuals attended the two information sessions held this summer. From those interested, 30 were chosen to participate in the program's first class, which concluded in October. The STNA training program has drawn the attention of local media, and was featured in a segment on WKRC-TV in August.



## Growing Up Great

The PNC Grow Up Great Mobile Unit rolled into the CAA parking lot on October 13th. Head Start families, teachers and staff had the opportunity to go through the interactive display to learn about needs versus wants, word of the day and career goals by dressing up in their future professions. Thank you, PNC, for your partnership and creating memories that will last a life time for the CAA Head Start family.



## Head Start Hosts College Fair for Parents

Head Start parents enjoyed a College Fair at the Life Learning Center in September. The College Fair featured representatives from Chatfield College, Cincinnati State, Antonelli College, UC Blue Ash, Union Institute & University and Indiana Wesleyan. It was a great event for our parents looking to further their education and advance their career path. A special thanks to all of the college recruiters that came out to share valuable information on their programs with our families.



## Fall Kicks Off Annual Head Start Soccer Program

This year's Head Start soccer program took place throughout September. During the three-week season, Head Start children were given the opportunity to work on their fine motor skills and social development. The soccer program provides a fun approach to teaching these life lessons while on the soccer field. This year, 300 kids participated in the program. Special thanks to program organizer Robert Cummings and all of the volunteers and coaches that made it a memorable season for parents and kids.



## CAA Launches CCMEP

### *Think. Dream. Connect.*

CAA recently launched the Comprehensive Case Management Employment Program, or CCMEP. This program is a collaborative effort between the Ohio Department of Job & Family Services, ResCare and four area partners: CAA, Easter Seals, Urban League and the lead partner, Talbert House. The CCMEP Collaborative began receiving customer referrals from ResCare in late August.



The intake process is thorough and requires an application, assessment, educational testing and an individualized opportunity plan for each customer. CCMEP coaches provide supplemental support to ResCare, who will refer customers to each partner agency respectively.

Our CCMEP team consists of a program manager, a supervisor, three case managers, an AmeriCorps Youth Success Advocate, and an administrative assistant/retention specialist. CCMEP case managers or coaches will help guide customers into an educational or career path that connects with their "big dream" or life goal and gives their hard work of overcoming life barriers (i.e., transportation, child care, education, disabilities, etc.) true meaning.

To this end, CCMEP will engage other CAA programs in GCMI and Career & Job Services, when appropriate.

We are excited about the opportunity to be a collaborative partner in this effort and look forward to helping community members achieve their employment goals and move closer to realizing their personal dreams.

## HEAP Updates Policies for Customer Convenience

HEAP's Winter Crisis Program will begin soon, and this year clients seeking emergency assistance with home heating expenses will no longer have to stand outside in the cold.

Under CAA's new policy, which launched in October, those wanting to schedule an emergency appointment are able to call the hotline at 513-569-1850 to make a same-day appointment.

Calls are taken from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Monday through Thursday in order to receive a walk-in timeslot on that same day between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Hotline appointments will be available to customers whose service is shut-off or in disconnect status, are transferring or applying for new services or customers who have 25 percent or less supply of bulk fuel.







## Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

1740 Langdon Farm Road  
Cincinnati, OH 45237

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## Partner Victories

Waverly's Hope Child Care LLC is one of eight Early Head Start Child Care Partnership (EHS CCP) sites. Since becoming an EHS-CCP site, the center has seen many positive changes through partnership funding, improving the quality of the center in many areas:

### **Staff Professional Development & EHS Staff Support**

*Through the Child Development Associate (CDA) training provided by CAA Head Start's Staff Development Team, all teaching staff have either obtained CDA credentials or are enrolled in a CDA class, leading to pay increases and higher staff retention.*

*The funding also provides for education coaching from the Assessment and Development Coach who provides one-on-one training with classroom observations, role-modeling and child development assessment tools.*

### **Improved Classroom Environments**

*This partnership has allowed for the purchase of academically aligned, research-based classroom curriculum and updated classroom equipment and materials, resulting in an increase in stars awarded to the facility on Ohio's Quality Rating and Improvement Scale.*

### **Increased Parent Engagement**

*With support from the EHS-CCP Family Service Workers, parent involvement and child physical exams have increased. The FSW assists the family with enrollment paperwork, well-baby health checks and immunizations and child care subsidies recertification. The workers also inform families of parent involvement opportunities, including parent workshops and events available for the students and families.*

Since becoming an EHS-CCP site, Waverly's Hope owner and director, Ryan Caldwell, attended the National Head Start Association 2016 Winter Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. to advocate for the continued funding of the EHS-CCP partnerships, which provides continuous improvement for child care centers.

Ms. Caldwell states, "The Community Action Agency has helped our center become a better child care facility. No longer are we simply caring for children, we are now educating them and their entire family."