

# VICTORIES EVERYDAY

SUMMER 2017

## From the President/CEO

A lot of people think about vacations and taking it easy when summer rolls around, but we're staying busy here at your Community Action Agency!

As we've done for the past few years, CAA is partnering with the Su Casa Hispanic Center to offer classes for Spanish-speaking children. The program is known as "Vacaciones Útiles" — which means "Useful Holiday." Su Casa uses some of our Head Start classrooms to create a warm, nurturing learning environment where students can improve their skills before the school year begins.



More than 50 children from preschool age through second grade are spending the summer preparing to be better students with hands-on learning exercises to boost critical thinking skills, and extra study to improve their reading and math competency.

CAA is also partnering with the Freestore Foodbank this summer to offer our first-ever Mobile Food Pantry. More than 100 individuals and families received fresh fruits and vegetables from the Mobile Food Pantry at its launch in July. Free produce is provided to our low-income friends and neighbors to give them an affordable way to eat better and achieve healthier outcomes. CAA looks forward to offering this service on a monthly basis moving forward.

Many of our CAA employees are using the summer to improve their skills at professional development conferences. These opportunities are important as it helps us stay up-to-date with the latest trends in our respective fields, and improve the quality of service received by our customers.

Enjoy your summer!



Gwen L. Robinson



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## CAA Helps Area Residents “Beat the Heat” this Summer

Summer is here and temperatures are on the rise in Hamilton County. Fortunately, help is available for residents who cannot afford to cool their homes during hot, humid weather. CAA is once again offering assistance to eligible residents through the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP). HEAP's Summer Crisis Cooling



Program runs from **July 3 until Aug. 31, 2017**. The program can provide 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.

CAA is now accepting appointments for the Summer Crisis Program. Those wanting to schedule an appointment for emergency assistance should call the hotline at 513-569-1850, and press option 2. Assistance will also be available through CAA's outreach sites including St. Vincent de Paul in Winton Terrace, Churches Active in Northside and the Freestore Foodbank.

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

## CMC Graduation

Workforce Development's Cincinnati Manufacturing Certificates (CMC) program trains low-income workers in skills needed to enter the manufacturing and distribution industries, preparing them for entry-level jobs and full-time employment. The latest training course concluded in late June with a job fair and graduation celebration for 10 CMC students, their families and CAA staff. Workforce Development is recruiting for the next CMC class to begin in the fall. For more information or to make a referral, please contact LaVerne DeArmond at [ldearmond@cincy-caa.org](mailto:ldearmond@cincy-caa.org).



## Head Start CDA Program Hosts

On June 10, another 16 graduates received their Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials at the Community Action Agency. CDA is the most widely recognized credential program in early childhood education, and is a key stepping stone on the path of career advancement in the field.



The graduation featured music, inspirational poetry and a keynote address by CAA President & CEO Gwen L. Robinson-Benning. A special moment in the ceremony



## CAA Celebrates Red Nose Day

On May 25, the Community Action Agency staff joined millions of people around the world by wearing red noses in support of projects that help make kids safe, healthy and provide a quality education. The mission of the project aligns with the vision of our Agency to service and protect children and families in need.

## Graduation

took place when Dan Meyer received an honorary certificate for attending all of the classes while assisting his daughter, Baylee Meyer, in completing the program.



Congratulations to this year's graduates: Tasheena Bennett, Nikisha Cousins, Demetria Davis, Naomi Dumas, NiJa Edwards, Ottisha Fleming,

Marguerite Goodwin, Andrena Hall, Creshay Hutchinson, Ruby Killings, Juancara Martin, Baylee Meyer, Nikkia Morris, Patricia Planitz, Sandra Thomas and Calia Tudor.



## GCMI Provides Support for Emerging Entrepreneurs

Restaurants, clothing retailers, specialty foods, and health & beauty businesses are quietly being helped to get off the ground. Since 1998, the Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative, (GCMI) fills an important gap for entrepreneurs who may not otherwise be able to secure traditional bank funding and who need help understanding how to develop a viable business model, which is essential



to running a successful company. GCMI has helped emerging entrepreneurs open their doors, including popular restaurants like Mazunte and Revolution Rotisserie, and trendy retailers such as Nove Décor, Tia Wallace, the Cincy Duchess and Green Box Gift Wrapping.

GCMI's programs allow entrepreneurs to develop and structure their business or accelerate the startup of their new or existing concept. The programs are designed to provide an interactive and in-depth entrepreneurial experience taught and coached by



skilled instructors and industry professionals in areas of business development, marketing, financial planning, concept exploration, social media and information technology.

GCMI has another six-week Startup and Validation course running from July 18 to Aug. 22, held from 6–9 p.m. on Tuesdays. For more information, call Tracey Hayes at 513-569-4816, ext. 2412, or visit the online calendar at [www.gcmi.org](http://www.gcmi.org) to learn more about upcoming training dates and times.

## Head Start hosts 2017 P.E.R.K.S. Conference



Head Start parents and delegates packed the Community Action Agency on May 15 for a day of empowerment at the Parents Engagement Reassuring Kids Success (P.E.R.K.S) Conference. Attendees took advantage of an onsite resource fair, giveaways, informative workshops, kid's activities and a panel discussion. The event featured an interactive presentation for children with Jennifer Ellis Music.





**Community  
Action Agency**

CINCINNATI | HAMILTON COUNTY

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**VICTORIES  
EVERYDAY**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**Community  
Action Agency**

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**53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Luncheon**

Thursday, November 9, 12:00 PM  
Westin Hotel • Downtown Cincinnati