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**Great Job and Thank You
 HWAP Staff**

Mr. John C. writes:

Martha,

I want to sincerely thank you and your staff for the recent assistance I've received.

Every person I dealt with from Jim, Steve, Thompson Mechanical, etc. were all professional and helpful.

Thanks Again!
 John C.



From the Desk of CEO, Shelia Triplett

Thank you and God Bless you to everyone who sent flowers, food, gifts, well wishes and prayers my way during my recovery. I'm also thankful to everyone within MYCAP and in the community for stepping up to work together during my absence. I'm grateful to be back at work and as busy as ever. I think that being dependent on someone else for help for a period of time has given me a new perspective and understanding of what some of the people we serve are going through; so, I'm more determined than ever to do the best that I can to assist in making life better for our clients in every way possible.

One group in particular, our senior citizens, have experienced major changes due to the reduction and/or elimination of COVID funding and many have not fully recovered from the power outage earlier in the year that resulted in people losing food; and then there's constantly increasing price of food.

Food has become a huge need in the area. People are hurting period in our community; but for seniors, in just six months, MYCAP has given out over \$4000 in food vouchers. During the pandemic MYCAP received an influx of funding used to supply food to this same population. Now the funding is gone, SNAP benefits have been greatly reduced or eliminated, and the price of food is soaring. Seniors now received approximately \$16 a month in food stamps. These factors have exacerbated the food insecurity problems for our most vulnerable sectors of the community.

It was stated in a combined press release from MYCAP and OUCAN (Ohio Urban Community Action Network), that "Seniors' Difficult Choices Would be Worse under Senate Budget Proposal". Seniors in Mahoning County make difficult choices every day; and the advocates supporting them say the results of the budget battle at the Statehouse will demonstrate whether those seniors are a priority in Ohio.

A member of MYCAP's Seniors Out for Action (S.O.F.A.) group, Vinnie Kelly, was interviewed recently and she stated "They don't give you enough to buy the things you need. I'm a diabetic also and I have to eat healthy. I have a choice to either eat healthy or stay alive". The need for expensive medications creates yet another barrier for Ohio seniors.

Yvonne Cherell, CEO of OUCAN, is urging Ohioans to contact their state lawmakers to protect Ohioans and enact a budget that treats them with dignity and provide resources they need to prosper in their everyday lives.

MYCAP Senior Services News

The Senior Services Department recognized World Elder Abuse Day on June 15th and provided many resources for prevention and intervention.



Senior Staff Celebrate Elder Abuse Awareness Day

There are many programs and services offered by the Senior Department. We can assist income-eligible seniors with minor plumbing and home repairs, and emergency food assistance. We provide supportive services and help to connect seniors with other agencies to get the help/care that they need.

We offer virtual activities such as cooking and crafts, and Bingo games in which seniors participate without leaving the safety and comfort of their homes with the S.O.S – Seniors Offering Service program.

In addition, there are weekly in-person outings to various locations such as restaurants, city park and shopping centers to name a few; and the newly added “Get to Steppin” fitness class offered weekly.

Please call (330) 747-7921 ext. 1766 to learn more about our programs and services.

The Mobile Market is a year old already!
MYCAP has partnered with ACTION and Grow Urban Farms on this venture and we are proud of how successful and worthwhile the project has been.

A colorful poster celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Mobile Market. It features a sun, balloons, a mobile market van, a birthday cake, and picnic items. The text reads: "JOIN US TO CELEBRATE ONE YEAR OF SERVICE! THE MAHONING VALLEY Mobile Market JULY 15 PARTY IN THE PARK 1 PM - 5 PM MARKET: 1 PM - 3 PM MARKET VOUCHERS, FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES, FELLOWSHIP, & MORE MUSIC PROVIDED BY 94.7 WEAN PARK 201 S PHELPS ST YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503 SPONSORED BY A.C.T.I.O.N. Pastor Richard Kidd, President Grow Urban Farms Jeff Magada, Director".

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE
ONE YEAR
OF SERVICE!

THE MAHONING VALLEY
Mobile Market

JULY 15
PARTY IN THE PARK
1 PM - 5 PM
MARKET: 1 PM - 3 PM

MARKET VOUCHERS,
FOOD, GAMES, PRIZES,
FELLOWSHIP, & MORE
MUSIC PROVIDED BY 94.7
WEAN PARK
201 S PHELPS ST
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503

SPONSORED BY
A.C.T.I.O.N. Pastor Richard Kidd, President
Grow Urban Farms
Jeff Magada, Director

Thank You and Best Wishes to Jim Echement on His Retirement from the Board

The following is a brief synopsis of my term as a member of the Board of Directors of MYCAP.

Having joined MYCAP in February 2012, every day has been an adventure and years have made it quite a journey, right up to my retirement in May 2023. Beginning with the State appointed CEO Marylyn and CFO Dave, the organization was under fire from diverse directions. The MYCAP TEAM at the time faced the flames with ever constricting resources and ultimately overcame those painful, troubled times.

That was then but this is now. There remain a few residual issues from those times past that the current MYCAP TEAM handles with clear confident action, backed by resources one could only dream of then. Today's MYCAP TEAM still faces the fluid nature of the everyday challenges presented to those of any non-profit in the social service realm. However, through the judicious and forward-thinking collaboration of Board, Management, Staff and Volunteers, the navigation through those every day issues seems almost effortless. Knowing it is anything but effortless, the MYCAP TEAM executes. It is a Stand and Deliver overcomers ethos!

As the Apostle John puts it in 1:5 "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." As well as Paul in Romans 12:21 "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good."

It has been a complete privilege and joy to serve with all the past and current members of the MYCAP TEAM! Please know that you all have my prayers and best wishes for a prosperous and joy filled future as you continue to overcome all the barriers and roadblocks you will face in your noble effort to serve those in need. Truly, I will miss you all.

Cheers,
Jim Echement

Best Wishes to You and Your Family Jim. Enjoy the Grandkids!

IMPORTANT! ISSUE 1

- Increases constitutional approval to 60%
- Increases number of signatures for citizen-initiated amendments
- Removes second chance period to collect additional signatures

PROTECT MAJORITY RULE
PROTECT VOTER RIGHTS



Voter Identification Requirements / Types of Valid ID

- Ohio driver's license;
- State of Ohio ID card;
- Interim ID form issued by the Ohio BMV;
- A US passport;
- A US passport card;
- US military ID card;
- Ohio National Guard ID card; or
- US Department of Veterans Affairs ID card

VOTING DAY
IS

AUG
08



Pictured above: President Lyndon B. Johnson signing Civil Rights Act – July 2, 1964

The Economic Opportunities Act, the 1964 Civil Right Act, and Community Action Agencies Where Are We Now?

Community Action originated with the passage of the Economic Opportunities Act (EOA) of 1964 as a part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's "War on Poverty." He spoke these words on January 8, 1964, "This administration today, here, and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America. ... It will not be a short or easy struggle, no single weapon or strategy will suffice, but we shall not rest until that war is won. The richest nation on earth can afford to win it. We cannot afford to lose it". —

Fifty-nine years have passed since President Johnson first declared a War on Poverty in his 1964 State of the Union address. While many of the programs that emerged from this national commitment are now taken for granted, the nation would be unrecognizable to most Americans if they had never been enacted.

The act established a federal Office of Economic Opportunity headed by Sargent Shriver, and created organizations called Community Action Agencies (CAAs) that would develop strategies to solve local issues of poverty. Thus, the Community Action movement became a part of the national policy "to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty." CAAs serve as an administrative umbrella for several programs that would be unable to stand individually. The system has proven to be a very cost-effective method of delivering services at the local level. Flexibility in programs, responsiveness to community needs, and local control make CAAs increasingly attractive to address communities' social needs.

Civil Rights Act of 1964 was also enacted that same year on July 2, 1964) as a landmark civil rights and labor law in the United States that outlaws discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, and national origin. It prohibits unequal application of voter registration requirements, racial segregation in schools and public accommodations, and employment discrimination. Community Action Agencies continue to operate using the principles of fairness and non-discrimination in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Where are we now? CAAs continue to be a lifeline for America's low to moderate income population by delivering program services through the federally funded Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Community Action Agencies have never deviated from striving to fulfill the Promise of Community Action.... Community Action changes peoples' lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community; and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

**Finer Things Academy Works
Partners with Rayen Early
College**



MYCAP's is proud of our support of Finer Things Academy through our Youth Programming. Finer Things Academy's Soft Skills Workshop is located at Southside Academy. Student will participant in a variety of social-skills-building activities such as etiquette, self-esteem, communication, conflict resolutions.

Finer Things partnered with REC (Rayen Early College) for the 2022/2023 school year.

Their mission is to teach underserved, under-resourced, marginalized youth the necessary skills and mindsets needed for success. We are excited about this partnership states CEO, Kathy Hammond.

The goal is to create a lasting relationship with not only Rayen Early College; but the students at large. Since we concentrated on 9th and 10th grader, we will have the same group for the next few years while adding groups as they come into 9th grade.

CEO, Kathy Hammond reported that they finished strong with an average attendance of 20-25 per day.

They celebrated the end of year with a luncheon provided by Finer Things.

REC is pleased with the outcomes and has invited us back again for the 2023-2024 school year. We are excited to continue and grow this relationship.

HEAP NEWS



Low Income Household Water Assistance Program - Ends Sept 30th

Customer may schedule for water assistance by calling the appointment line and scheduling under the Walk-in option at 2pm, Mon-Thurs. LIHWAP is for those who are in threat of having their water disconnected, already disconnected, needing to transfer service or establish new service. We can also now pay current charges if customer is unable to do so. This is a one-time benefit so if you have received assistance from Oct 2022 to present you are no longer eligible.

2024 PIPP/HEAP - Began July 1, 2024

Reverifications can schedule an appointment to be processed in front of an energy representative. PIPP/HEAP can also be completed by filling out and signing a HEAP application and dropping it off at the agency with all required documentation.

HEAP applications, which is a one-time assistance from the state toward the heating source, are required to be completed with all applications.



Summer Crisis - July 1st thru Sept 30th

Summer Crisis Program provides a benefit once per cooling season to an income-eligible Ohioan's electric bill, and/or for the purchase of fans and air conditioners. If you received AC or fans in 2019 or prior and meet other eligibility requirements, you would qualify to receive again this year. Eligible clients are those at or below 175% of the FPG with a household member over the age of 60 and/or a household member with a documented medical condition, a disconnect notice, have been shut off, first PIPP installment, PIPP default or are trying to establish new service on their electric bill or require air conditioning. The appointment line began scheduling for Summer Crisis appointments 6-27-23. Please call 330-778-2992 to schedule an initial appointment.

All of the above Home Energy Assistance applications require the same documentation for completion. Documents needed are: Photo ID for all household members 18 and older, proof of citizenship for all household members, which includes the actual social security card that provides citizenship as well as the social security number, current gas and electric bills or pending account numbers or bulk vendor bill, and any income to the household for the past 30 days, or last 12 months if seasonally employed, or a tax return transcript if self-employed or being supported by friends or family.

Highlights of Community Action Month Celebration in May

SAVE THE DATE

MYCAP will participate in
The 2nd Annual
OLDER ADULTS DAY OUT!
Senior Health and Wellness
Fair is scheduled for
August 23, 2023, from
11 am to 3 pm at the
Covelli Center
229 E. Front Street,
Youngstown Ohio.

This event sponsored by
Saving Our Seniors of
Mahoning Valley, a
collaborative group of
organizations with the
common purpose of assisting
older adults as they age.

Please call Crystal Robinson,
Senior Services Manager at
MYCAP, (330) 747-7921 ext.
1766 for more information.



Thank you to Keona White and
Nicolette for winning MYCAP's
first-time table decoration
award at the HOPE Conference
last month! We received our
certificate today!

IT IS A BIG DEAL. second place
out of 115 tables!!!...Great
Representation Ladies.



May was Community Action Month and MYCAP's staff came together and held some great events throughout the month that showcased what the agency is all about and our relationship with community partners which included each Departments being highlighted in various ways. Events also included a Fundraising Bus Trip to Washington, DC's National African American History and Culture Center as well as a Car Seat demonstration and giveaway in collaboration with Akron Children's Hospital and Sate Kids.



Then there was the Party in Wick Park of which CEO, Shelia Triplett writes: It is with sincere gratitude and pride that I say kudos to Cirell Howard and her team for a true demonstration of what the word Community means in MYCAP. If you missed MYCAP Community Action Health and Fun Day held on Friday, May 19th, you missed an opportunity to celebrate all that is good about Community and celebrating with our neighbors, friends, our co-workers and our amazing Community Partners

There was GREAT Health information and resources, EXCELLENT make-you-want-to-move Music provided by Rick Ward and Company; and food to make you smack your lips. Despite afternoon rain, it was a day that made me proud as the CEO of MYCAP to watch my staff at its best led by Cirell and her team turn MYCAP'S Parking lot and Wick Park into the place to be on a Friday. Thank you again for your hard work and for not just talking Community Action but showing it at its best. Can't wait to see what you come up with for next year's Community Action Month!!!

