

In This Issue

- **From the Desk of CEO, Shelia Triplett**
- **MYCAP holds Virtual Annual Board Retreat**
- **SOS Collaboration launched**
- **New Partnership Professional Development Center**
- **Community Health Workers Impacting Mahoning County**
- **Voter Registration Drive Thru Event**
- **Senior Parade**
- **Census Deadline Changed**
- **Updates on Home Weatherization**
- **My Recalls – Marilyn Montes**

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Or visit our website at:

www.mycaphelp.org



From the Desk of CEO, Shelia Triplett

The last few months have been challenging for the Community Action network; but we have responded as we have since 1965 by mobilizing resources and quickly assessing what we needed to do to address the current crisis and its impact on our customers. COVID-19 has changed all of our lives for the foreseeable future. It has changed how we operate, how we provide services and how we interact with our customers. The pandemic has required that we create new processes and procedures to meet our customer's needs while keeping customers and staff safe. None of the work we are doing now would have been possible without the strong support from our strategic partners who have stepped up in the gap to provide resources and additional funding to assist us in meeting the growing needs of the people who look to us for services and support.

We as an organization and myself would like to say thanks to all the companies, agencies, vendors, and individuals who reached out and provided help in more ways than I can mention. Special thanks go out to the following: CARES ACT funding, City of Youngstown, Mahoning County HUB, Direction Home of Eastern Ohio, United Way, Youngstown Foundation and Community Foundation of Youngstown

MYCAP held its 2020 annual board retreat virtually on August 14th and 15th. Our focus this year was not only on program updates and fiscal operations; but also on how we can engage, be involved and support the changes that we know will not only improve the quality of life for the customers we serve; but also strengthen the community in which we live.

Featured speakers at this year's retreat were:

Jaietta Jackson, Director and Owner of One2One Communication Consulting. One2One Communication specializes in meeting your communication needs, providing diversity training, and providing skills to enable them to implement multiculturalism within their environment; and:

Gwen Robinson, President of GL Robinson Consulting. With more than 40 years of experience with Executive Leadership in Community Action Agencies. Gwen is known for being a change agent for agencies that need redirection.

MYCAP in recent months has been focusing on social justice and issues related to the COVID 19 pandemic such as: rent and mortgage assistance, water arrearages, food distribution, shopping and prepared meals for seniors, the census count, voter registration, police reform, job training and employment, schools (education in the COVID-19 environment), healthcare disparities and racism as a social determinant of health

As we move forward, redefining our position and purpose in the community we want to EDUCATE, MOTIVATE, MOBILIZE and ACT.



S.O.S. (SENIORS OFFERING SERVICES) ACTION, MYCAP, and Christ Centered Church have partnered to present a 10-month program especially for senior men and women ages 65 and over.

Senior citizens are too often part of a forgotten demographic in our society. We need to remember that they have the wisdom and the experience to help us remember and learn from our past in order to help shape our future.

The S.O.S. program will feature Tuesday virtual cooking classes with Dr. Lashale Pugh;

Wednesday virtual activities by Accudose with games and prizes

Beginning October 6th there will be virtual entertainment on with meal delivery.

Pre-Registration is required:

Please contact:

Elisa Hosey, ACTION
(234) 232 9043,

Micki Colyar, Christ Centered Church
(330) 7887530

Crystal Robinson, MYCAP
(330) 747-7921 ext. 1766
for more information.

Professional Development Center NEW PARTNERSHIP

Flying HIGH Inc., and MYCAP will partner to develop a Professional Development Center (PDC) that will prepare qualified candidates for hire at local businesses and organizations. The goal is to have this center be the Hub for employers to fill open positions with the skill sets required to operate their businesses.

The PDC model will have many career pathways that will capture candidates at where they are in their skills and work experience, after an assessment at entry point. The program will also provide the training opportunities for candidates to qualify for local good paying jobs and it will have support services such as removal of barriers, case management, career coaching, job development, vocational orientation, and training.

The Professional Development Center of Flying HIGH Inc./MYCAP already provides accelerated training in areas such as Basic Welding, STNA, and Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant. Tuition Assistance is available through the PDC Scholarship Fund. The PDC also partners with other training provider for many other career options.

MYCAP and Flying HIGH Inc. are also partnering with the YSU IT Accelerator Pre-Apprenticeship Program and the Mahoning Valley Manufacturing Coalition in order to enhance and improve the lives of residents and families in Mahoning County. These programs promote the opportunity to earn wages and benefits that improve the lives of residents in the community.

The Professional Development Center is located at 6th Federal Plaza Central, Youngstown Chase Bank Bldg. 7th Floor.

Orientation dates are available –September 9, 23; October 14, 28; November 11, 25; and December 9th.

Orientation begins each day at 10:45 a.m., bring your I.D.

For more information please call Flying High at (330) 797-3995

MYCAP CARES ABOUT YOUR VOTING RIGHTS. DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU THAT YOUR VOTE DOESN'T COUNT



MYCAP in cooperation with the League of Women Voters held a Voter Registration Drive-Thru event on Saturday, September 5, 2020 from 12-noon until 2:00 pm in the MYCAP parking lot at 1325 Fifth Avenue

All participants were required to provide the following:

- Ohio driver's license or Ohio ID card number
- Date of Birth,
- Last 4 digits of your Social Security number
- Proof of Current Address.

All Mahoning Valley and area residents are invited to participate in this COVID-safe event.

For further information about this voter registration event, call Crystal Robinson (330) 747-7921 ext. 1766

Let us honor the late the Congressman, John Lewis, by exercising the right that he fought so hard to secure for everyone.

PLEASE VOTE!!!





A good time was had by all during the Senior Appreciation Parade in July which was held to recognize and honor our seniors here in Mahoning County. Senior Parade Part II is planned for early October.

Community Health Workers Tackle Social Determinants of Health

Community Health Workers can assist in areas of:

- Chronic Disease
- Pregnancy
- Addiction
- Housing Stabilization
- Transportation
- Nutrition
- Advocacy
- Domestic Violence
- Education
- Employment Skills/Training
- Medical Home – Stability
- Mental Health
- Fatherhood Support

Some of their recent activities include:

- Free COVID-19 testing with the National Guard
- Diaper Bank
- Continued work with GOALS program
- Infant Mortality program with Mercy Health
- Upcoming Community Baby Shower
- Boot and Shoe Giveaway

Census Ending Data Collection a Month Early.

The census is usually done by in-person methods; but due to COVID-19 and people being under quarantine, this is proving to be more difficult. Typically, door to door counting is done in under-counted populations. These efforts will end on September 30, 2020. So, groups like the Ohio Census Advocacy Coalition are now left scrambling to get Ohio residents counted, especially those minorities and young children who are already undercounted. It is very important to note that the 2020 Census will control congressional representation, federal funding, and state projects for the next decade.

Even though this is an unprecedented time, there will be no do-over. It is therefore imperative that every one of us go and check with family members, friends, church groups, etc. and make sure that they have been counted.



Home Weatherization Assistance Program and Community Connections

We are off to a great start this year.

Through the Enhancement program we have added two new services – minor plumbing and pest control.

Income Guidelines this year are at 200% of Federal Poverty Level



Thanks to ODSA the Weatherization Department was able to purchase two mini-cargo vans for our staff.

My Recalls by Marilyn Montes, Chief Operating Officer of MYCAP

As I watch the news and see the pictures of cruelty, pain and tears experienced by the families of color, as we are called; **I recall** the many racists situations I have lived through. This Youngstown community has seen it all, and as I look around, it seems like nothing has changed. I have to believe that it could change, maybe not in my lifetime; but I pray for my grandchildren and their children. The late Congressman, John Lewis who was a fighter and hero who stood for justice said in many of his speeches, “we can’t give up, we must keep fighting for justice for all. We need to keep getting into “good trouble”, were his inspiring words.

I recall experiencing racism when I was in school because of my hair and skin color; and when I went to buy a home in a certain neighborhood. Racism was shown in restaurants, and in the school district with my children during their school years. I took up the fight for them many times behind closed doors. **I recall** my elderly neighbor of 16 years telling me that she told the owner of a home that became vacant not to rent or sell to a Black or Hispanic family.

I recall when I started this job in my early 20’s that the government had put all citizens into categories; and mine was minority, which to me means less than. I realized that as a Puerto Rican woman I would be boxed into this category and experience racism because the category produced negative assumptions in the minds of some people about the people included in this category.

I recall writing a letter to President Bill Clinton objecting to the government categorizing people and putting us in a box that would basically define how they are perceived our entire lifetime, which is why this country is in such an uproar today. We should not be defined by our race, culture, or skin color.

Those in power in this country have the opportunity today to “fix what is so badly broken”; to create real solutions to real problems. They need to eliminate the negativity from tv, social media even government documents that delineate race and ethnic background. Should race or skin color really matter? No. Does it matter? Absolutely. We need to move forward towards a more diverse, inclusive, and racially just country where it won’t be necessary to say that Black Lives Matter.