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TAKING ACTION.
Improving Lives.

Indiana Community Action Network
Newsletter

Double Issue: February/March 2010

Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana Hosts Fourth Annual Community Baby Shower

Community Action Program, Inc. of Western Indiana (CAPWI) hosted the fourth annual Community Baby Shower on March 13, 2010 at the First Church of Christ in Covington. The primary goal of the event was to reach pregnant women and expectant parents with educational information on a variety of relevant topics. CAPWI had several programs involved in the event including: WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), Head Start and Early Head Start, Housing (Lead Poisoning), and the Fountain/Warren Co. Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Program. Other organizations that participated in the shower through educational presentations or displays were: Fountain/Warren Health Dept., Purdue Extension (both Fountain and Warren counties), St. Vincent North Clinic (Dr. Sharma), Wabash Valley Outpatient Clinic (Domestic Violence Program), Health Emergency & Lifecare Programs (HELP), Inc., First Steps, and the Childcare Resource Network.

"It was great to have such a collaboration between all these organizations. We have a huge need in our counties to help educate expectant parents about all aspects of pregnancy and early childhood. We had fifteen different topics that were presented in some format either as a thirty-minute presentation or as a display. This event helped to reach families with the information they need to make good decisions and enhance the overall health of their children and families." said Kathy

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About the Indiana Community Action Network

The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (EOA) established over 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) at the local level to

enhance the overall health of their children and families," said Kathy Walker, chairperson of the event. "All of the topics were of interest to participants but Money Management with today's economic situation was very popular as was Infant/Child." Lori Bonebright, certified childcare provider, as well as several youth from Warren County, provided childcare during the event.

Many organizations donated some wonderful door prizes, which were given out at the end of the shower. Fountain/Warren Co. Health Dept., Head Start/Early Head Start, WIC, Childcare Resource Network, Old National Bank, Fountain Trust Bank, Purdue Extension, and several of the presenters themselves donated items. Many of these door prizes were large items such as a stroller, Pak'n'Play, highchair, bassinet, and car seat. Every participant went home with something thanks to the efforts of the planning committee and donations from the community. Generation's Catering & Café provided a fabulous lunch for all who attended. CAPWI provided funding for the luncheon.

Thirty-seven individuals attended the Community Baby Shower from the two counties. On evaluations completed by all participants one attendee commented, " I thank you all so much for today. It helped me in so many ways and I thank you."

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis Receives \$200,000 Grant

Community Action of Greater Indianapolis (CAGI) receives a \$200,000 grant to Common Goal,

a Greater Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce initiative that is helping increase graduation rates in Marion County schools. The money will be used to hire a graduation coach at Manual High School beginning this semester, and support the graduation coaches currently working in the 12 other area public high schools for the 2010-2011 school year. To learn more, please visit: www.commongoalindy.org.

Mayor's Gala Ball Benefits North Central Community Action Agencies and Other Local Charities

The Michigan City's Mayor Gala Ball 2010 was held at the Blue Chip Casino's Starlight Event Center. Tickets to the event were \$100 per couple and the event sold-out with more than 650 attendees. Since 2004, \$127,000 has been raised for local charities through the gala events. This year three charities were chosen to benefit from the proceeds including North Central Community Action Agencies (NCCAA), The Salvation Army, and Reins of Life. NCCAA helps low-income residents with utilities, housing, and WIC, The Salvation Army provides food to the homeless and hungry residents, and Reins of Life provide equestrian therapy to children with disabilities. NCCAA staff and board members attended as honored guests.

implement EOA programs. EOA programs included: VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America); Job Corps; Neighborhood Youth Corps; Head Start; Adult Basic Education; Family Planning; Community Health Centers; Congregate Meal Preparation; Economic Development; Foster Grandparents; Legal Services; Neighborhood Centers; Summer Youth Programs; Senior Centers; and others.

CAAs vary widely, with some being non-profit groups, others being city agencies, and some being community-controlled groups. Many CAAs vary greatly in how their agencies are organized and in the type of services they provide to their local communities. In fact, the number of CAAs has increased and it is now estimated that CAAs serve over 80 percent of all U.S. counties. Although CAAs were established over 40 years ago, they have a rich history of advocacy for and service to low-income people and remain important in domestic social policy to the present day.

We have 24 Community Action Agencies that serve all 92 counties of Indiana. Each Community Action Agency periodically analyzes community needs to identify strategies that will work best in attacking poverty. Each CAA is different because its programs reflect the needs of their local communities. These agencies are unique in their ability to deploy diverse program activities



Back row left to right - Sheree Allison (Clerical Assistant), Reggie McGee (board member), Willie Milsap (board member), Karen Wienhorst (Wx staff), Melvin Meriweather (board member) and Mark Swistek (board member).

Front row left to right - LaTisha Falls (EAP staff), Sonja Lenior (Administrative Specialist), Cyndi Davis (Executive Director) and Linda Martin (Fiscal Manager).



Client Spotlight: Human Services, Inc. Assists Client with ARRA Funds

Cheryl came to the Homeless Prevention Rapid RE-Housing Program (HPRRP) as underemployed, literally homeless living in a motel. Her husband had a recent heart bypass surgery and was suffering from chronic COPD. Cheryl was working part-time through Goodwill Industries and due to low income had no way to come up with deposits or first month of rent needed to get stable housing.

By entering the HPRRP program, Cheryl and her husband were able to be housed, to begin working on budgeting, and eventually gained full-time employment. Since being in the program, Cheryl has been able to create a savings account, create and follow a workable budget, and is within a couple months of being fully sustainable and able to graduate the HPRRP as a SUCCESS! This program was the key to Cheryl and her husband being able to move out of homelessness and into housing and ultimately housing stability.

\$2.7 Million Available for Senior RSVP

The Corporation for National and Community Service is making \$2.7 million available for 70 awards for its Senior Corps RSVP Grants Competition. Governments, institutions of higher education, public/Indian housing authorities and nonprofits are eligible. The application deadline is April 6, 2010.

The Senior RSVP program engages people age 55 and older in a diverse range of volunteer activities that deliver valuable services to meet community needs while providing an enriching experience to those who serve. The volunteers choose how, where and how often they want to serve, with commitments ranging from a few hours to 40 hours per week.

The purpose of this grant funding is two-fold: (1) to establish new projects in geographic areas that are currently underserved by such projects; and (2) to expand the number of volunteers serving in existing projects.

and services in meeting their mission. They operate an array of programs which include, but are not limited to: Head Start; the Energy Assistance Program; the Weatherization Program; Individual Development Accounts; Homeownership Counseling; Owner Occupied Rehabilitation; Housing Development; Foster Grandparents; Child Care; and many more programs and services.

To find your local CAA or to learn more about the Indiana Community Action Network or State Association, please visit www.incap.org.

Applicants proposing to establish a new project must budget and raise 10% of the total project budget in Year 1, 20% in Year 2, and 30% in Year 3 and subsequent years, if the grant is renewed beyond three years.

For more information, please visit http://www.nationalservice.gov/for_organizations/funding/nofa_detail.asp?tbl_nofa_id=78.

2010 ITI Training Calendar

The Indiana Training Institute has scheduled several trainings to date for 2010. Please see the trainings listed below and many more to come. To register, please visit www.incap.org, click on the Indiana Training Institute, and click on Training Schedule, and then click on the training you wish to register for. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Travis, Program Manger at ltravis@incap.org or 1-800-382-9895.

April

- **Succession Planning and Developing Your Leadership Bench** - *Organizational Capacity Training* - April 8, 2010
- **Crystal Reports Training** - *Intake Worker Training* - April 22, 2010
- **Board Roles and Responsibilities** - *Board Development Training* - April 30, 2010

May

- **EAP South Meeting (Madison, IN)** - *Partnership Meetings* - May 10, 2010
- **EAP Central Meeting (Indianapolis, IN)** - *Partnership Meetings* - May 11, 2010
- **IHCDA Quarterly Meeting with Executive Directors** - *Partnership Meetings* - May 12, 2010 1-3 pm at IN-CAA
- **EAP South Meeting (Wabash, IN)** - *Partnership Meetings* - May 13, 2010

June

- **How to use ROMA to Track ARRA Programs** - *ROMA* - June 3-4, 2010
- **Stress Management and How to Avoid Burnout** - *Staff Development Opportunities* - June 7, 2010
- **Training to Become National ROMA Trainer** - *ROMA* - June 22-25, 2010

August

- **NEW USERS - Weatherization Assistance Program Database Training** - *Intake Worker Training* - August 5, 2010
- **EXISTING USERS - Weatherization Assistance Program Database Training** - *Intake Worker Training* - August 6, 2010

September

- IHEDA Quarterly Meeting with Executive Directors -
Partnership Meetings - September 8, 2010

November

- IHEDA Quarterly Meeting with Executive Directors -
Partnership Meetings - November 10, 2010

Indiana Institute for Working Families Releases Status of Working Families Report

The Indiana Institute for Working Families, a program of Indiana Community Action Association, released *The Status of Indiana's Working Families, 2009*. This report provides a statistical analysis on the status of working families in Indiana in 2008 and the economic conditions they faced. The report is organized into five chapters and highlights data pertaining to Indiana's jobs, wages, poverty rate, safety net of work support programs, and policy recommendations to improve the quality of life for Indiana's working families. To view the Executive Summary or full report, please visit

<http://www.incap.org/iwifRandP.html>.



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