

BIG CHANGES... Over the course of the last few months you haven't received a newsletter from EHCAC. Many things have happened in the interim. This series of small stories on this and "continued" pages will bring you some of the latest news, new funding and programs EHCAC has brought to Erie and Huron Counties during this very busy and exciting time!



CONVERSATION ON POVERTY: February, 2009

EHCAC hosted a Conversation On Poverty, at the request of the OACAA (the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies), in order to engage the public members in Erie County in a discussion about poverty. The Conversation was held at Sandusky High School and it started with the 25+ attendees working in small groups to create their vision of "What it takes to create a community without poverty." The groups also developed recommendations to fit this new vision and discussed what is working well locally and follow up for the next steps. The top two recommendations sent to the State of Ohio were...

BETTER JOBS WITH LIVING WAGE & FINANCIAL EDUCATION = LIFE SKILLS!



SEAVERS WAY DEDICATION: March, 2009

In March, the City of Sandusky and EHCAC celebrated the renaming and dedication South Depot Street to "Seavers Way" as a tribute to our long time Board member and beloved community activist, Mr. Clarence Seavers. Family members, local officials and EHCAC Trustees and staff attended the dedication ceremony. Family members of Mr. Seavers also spoke briefly about Mr. Seavers and told a few stories about the many contributions Mr. Seavers made to residents of the City of Sandusky. In this photo at left, EHCAC Executive Director Janice W. Warner talks to a guest at the dedication.

COMMUNITY ACTION DAYS: May, 2009

May is designated as National Community Action Month by Community Action Partnership to reinforce Community Action Agencies' role in helping low-income individuals and families achieve economic stability. In this photo, Katheryn Mueller, Community Volunteer, and Ryan Arnott, Safe Harbour Domestic Violence Shelter, pause for a picture with Executive Director Janice W. Warner and Administrative Assistant Annie Strausbaugh (Left to Right) during Sandusky's May 27 Open House.

Willard's Open House was held the same day, and Norwalk's was May 20th. *BIG CHANGES...continued on page 2.*





Message from the Executive Director:

Recently, I viewed the DVD “**Knights of the South Bronx**” which was directed by Allen Hughes. Ted Danson was the star actor in this inspiring true story of an inner-city teacher (Richard Mason) who taught his students to be champions. He taught them how to be champions by introducing them to the game of chess.

I was intrigued by this movie because of the fact one teacher took a classroom of 4th graders in a broken down school in South Bronx and transforms their lives. The children were faced with parents who are drug addicts, or in jail, or struggling to pay bills, or unable to provide a decent place to stay, or unable to provide food to eat. But, Mr. Mason took the ideology “that chess was not just a game but a set of mind skills that would enable children to face challenges they would encounter in their lives.” He taught them the game of chess and they went on to compete in events across the entire country. But more importantly, they became successful individuals once they graduated from high school.

While watching the movie, my mind kept thinking about the agency’s mission and the state of the economy, and how individuals are dealing with today’s problems such as unemployment and foreclosures. In the movie, when the children took their minds off the goal, they lost. When our customers take their mind off the goal, they drown deeper in the sea of poverty. We, as an agency, must ensure that we provide good quality service to develop the skills of our customers. We are to help keep them focused on the goal: self-sufficiency.



The stimulus funding is providing the opportunity to educate customers in basic life skills, in addition to encouraging them to continue on the path of self-sufficiency. But, their mind must focus on the goal. During the “**Conversation on Poverty**” that was held in February 2009 the group of participants determined that the top two concerns for our area were “jobs with living wages” and “financial counseling”. With the stimulus funds, we will have the opportunity to hire some additional staff along with partnering with others within our communities to enhance services to those in need. With the need for assistance increasing and the funding available decreasing, it is so important that we partner with other non-profits to maximize the efforts within our communities. And, what I found out about the game of chess is many pieces have partners and by doubling up, the pieces can get stronger than the sum of the individual pieces alone. ♞

EHCAC Board of Trustees

Pervis D. Brown, Jr.	Emma Moore
Heather Carman	Christina Raftery
Crystal Duncan	Jerry Shoemaker
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Teresa Henry	V. Janice Smith
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Clyde Keels	Mary L. Stewart
Pastor Lee Kent	Ann Stoddard
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GRANTS, GRANTS, GRANTS: Spring, 2009

These are just some of the new grants EHCAC has received:

■ **\$5,790** from Erie County Community Foundation to Strengthening EHCAC’s Capacity; ■ **\$13,330** in matching funds to customers for the ByCar Program from Finance Fund; ■ **\$30,000** for the Ohio Benefit Bank Grant from Ohio’s Office of Community Services; ■ **\$46,711** from Ohio’s Office of Community Services for Technology; ■ **\$7,500** for the Norwalk Emergency Shelter from the Norwalk Area United Fund; ■ **\$10,000** from CVS... **BIG CHANGES...continued page 4**



HEAD START HAPPENINGS!

Erie-Huron CAC Head Start Now Enrolling for 2009/2010!

For 3 to 5 years old, including children with disabilities.
Your income determines your child's eligibility.

Pre-school classes are full day Monday ~ Friday (must meet specific qualifications); or part day Monday ~ Thursday. Head Start serves both Erie and Huron counties!

For more information call:

Sandusky: 419-625-2218/2214 / 621-3966

Norwalk: 419-663-2623 / 668-9823

Willard: 419-933-3080 / 935-6481



When League Street Head Start Center received the Step Up To Quality Award, City of Norwalk Mayor Sue Lesch visited the children to read stores and help celebrate. Mayor Lesch visited both the League Street Head Start and Prospect Head Start Center that same day.

Erie-Huron CAC HEAD START Ahora Inscribiendo Para El 2008/2009

Edades De 3 - 5 Anos. Las ganancias determinan si son elegibles. Todo El Dia: Lunes-Viernes (para calificar hay requisitos especificos). Mediodia: Lunes-Jueves. Sirviendo A Los Condados De Erie Y Huron.

Para Mas Informacion Llame:

Sandusky: 419-625-2218/2214 / 621-3966

Norwalk: 419-663-2623 O 668-9823

Willard: 419-933-3080 O 935-6481

Our Spring Appeal to Support Summer Food Service & Feed Ohio a Success at \$3,395!

Like you, our food budget has been skyrocketing, but we didn't want to let that stop us from feeding hundreds of children and providing a Youth Enrichment program in Erie and Huron Counties this summer. So, this spring we sent out over 500 letters requesting financial support from churches, businesses and individuals. To date there have been 13 respondents who donated an astounding \$3,395. We raised more money in a worsening economy and we have more diversity in our funding base because of the generosity of local donors!

THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU ~ THANK YOU!



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED

to the Erie-Huron Counties Community Action Commission, Inc.
and the Lorain County Community Action Agency, Inc.

Huron-Erie-Lorain-Partnership Joint Annual Celebration & Awards Luncheon Saturday, October 10, 2009.

Tickets: \$25.00 per person. Lorain County Community College Conference Center, 1005 North Abbe Road, Elyria, Ohio. Registration begins at 10:30 AM; Luncheon & Program begins at 11 AM. For more information, contact LaTaunya Conley, Simply Elegant Affairs at 440-458-6748.

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for Head Start; ■ **\$100,000** from City of Sandusky for Emergency Home Repair and Handicap Accessibility Modifications; and ■ **\$570,100** from Ohio's Office of Housing & Community Partnerships for Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing for Erie and Huron Counties. All these news funds don't include the **ARRA STIMULUS FUNDING** of ■ **\$630,076** which EHCAC has also received for our Community Service Block Grant and Federal Head Start Programs. Stay tuned as we report on how these funds will be used to help families and individuals in Erie & Huron Counties and create or retain jobs!

BY CAR ~ FOR SCHOOL OR JOBS: June, 2009

The Finance Fund has provided funding for just five slots for this new program where eligible customers learn how to purchase a car for school or a job. Customers must complete a financial education course and first demonstrate the ability to save money consistently over a length of time.

Finance Fund provides match funding to the customers savings (up to \$2,666 per customer!) through EHCAC so they can purchase a car. It's a great deal as evidenced by the smile on our first customer ~ Ms. Carla Dennis, a Head Start Teacher and local Sandusky resident, who just loves her new car! Call EHCAC social services office at 419-626-4320 for information. 📞



Our Mission: "To promote self-sufficiency and improve the quality of life of those in need."