

Our Community In Action

A Quarterly Publication of Green Hills Community Action Agency
Volume 6, Issue 2 - Spring 2011



May is Community Action Month!

Every year in May, the 1,100+ member agencies of the Community Action Agency network celebrate National Community Action Month by highlighting the new and innovative ways Community Action helps people and changes lives. Many agencies use this month to also encourage the entire community to advocate on behalf of the 37 million Americans living in poverty.

Community Action Month 2011 is rather bittersweet, however, as recent cuts to the federal budget have forced many Community Action Agencies to restructure the way they help those in need or to close their doors entirely.

So, we took to heart that we, as an agency, must grow and be continuously flexible in order to keep pace with the ever changing face of poverty in America. Green Hills Community Action Agency must begin to engage in high-impact strategies to bring about true change within our communities. In 2010, GHCAA made it our mission to build vibrant communities.

Some of the things we are proud to have accomplished in 2010 are:

- 6,767 individuals and 2,953 families received services from GHCAA in 2010
- 218 unemployed individuals obtained a job
- 571 families received rental assistance
- 925 families enrolled in educational & skill-building workshops
- 818 women and children received Shelter services
- 2,230 people accessed health services

So, during Community Action Month 2011, GHCAA vows to continue to serve the residents of northern Missouri the best way we possibly can. As budgets and funding continue to shrink, each Community Action Agency must serve more and more people with less and less resources. We need your support now more than ever. Together, we CAN make an impact on poverty in this area!

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How Can You Help?

There are many ways you can help your local Community Action Agency during Community Action Month this May.

Consider volunteering! Volunteers are always welcome at GHCAA, we have many things you can assist with as a volunteer - most right in your own county. Contact your local office to learn about opportunities they may currently have available for volunteers.

Consider donating! If you are unable to donate yourself and your time, please consider making a monetary or in-kind donation to your local CAA instead. As a private, non-profit agency, every penny counts in the battle against poverty.

We are always eager to visit with members of the community and hear their suggestions about how we can improve our services! Call us: 877-611-7600

Recent Changes at GHCAA

Due to recent Federal budget cuts, Green Hills Community Action Agency is restructuring its staffing patterns and implementing several cost saving measures. This has resulted in several substantial changes at GHCAA over the past few months.

One of the biggest agency changes became effective on March 18th, 2011. The Daviess County Service Center, located in Gallatin, and the Mercer County Service Center, located in Princeton, both discontinued services at their locations. Again, we assure you that the full docket of services offered by Green Hills are still available to residents within Daviess and Mercer counties, clients now simply visit a different office location to receive services.

In order to provide the best possible service to our clients, GHCAA asks that Daviess County residents now seek assistance at the Caldwell County service center, located at 101 South Frame in Hamilton. Individuals can reach Paula at the Caldwell County office by dialing 816-583-2022. We are also requesting that residents of Mercer County contact Debbie or Theresa

at the Grundy County Service Center for assistance by calling 660-359-6863 or stopping by the office at 1506 Oklahoma Ave, in Trenton.

Putnam County's Service Center also experienced a change, when the office hours were reduced from Monday thru Friday to Tuesdays and Thursdays only. Services are still offered full time via the Sullivan County Service Center in Milan. Please call them at 660-265-4510 for assistance or to schedule an appointment with Margaret.

The Linn County Service Center has relocated to 565 South Main in Brookfield. The new office location can be reached by telephone at 660-258-7412 or 877-611-7600 ext. 1224.

Questions regarding the changes at these service centers should be directed to Tyson Otto, Community Development Director at 660-359-3907 ext 1034.

Concerned citizens are also encouraged to contact Congressman Sam Graves and Senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt and tell them how vital the Community Services Block Grant and Title X funding are to northern Missouri.



Yes! I would like to help the Green Hills Community Action Agency! Please accept my donation & use it to further your mission.

\$50 \$25
 \$10 \$1

Please apply my gift toward the following:

- Health Services
- Women's Shelters
- Employment & Training
- Housing Programs
- Weatherization
- Energy Programs
- Most Needed Area

Green Hills Women's Health Services

Green Hills Women's Health Services needs your help! Funding for this valuable program is still being threatened with cuts from the federal government.

The greatest step toward saving this program will be made when our area representatives in government hear directly from the people this program serves. Please contact them today and let them know how important Women's Health Services is to your health and the health of your family.

Rep. Sam Graves
Phone: (202) 225-7041
<http://www.house.gov/graves>

Sen. Roy Blunt
Phone: (202) 224-5721
<http://blunt.senate.gov>

Sen. Claire McCaskill
Phone: (202) 224-6154
<http://mccaskill.senate.gov>

For the latest news & updates, you can find GHCAA on Facebook and Twitter!

Please send donations to:

GHCAA
1506 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, MO 64683

Thank You!

~ Caldwell & Daviess Counties in Action ~



Service Center

101 S. Frame
Hamilton, MO
816-583-2022



Paula McCoy
Community Services
Representative I

“Think Outside” with the State Park Youth Corp Program!

Thanks to a program funded by the Workforce Investment Act, Missouri youth can gain valuable work experience this summer while “thinking outside”. The State Park Youth Corp. program is a jobs program offering temporary employment to youth across Missouri in any one of the state’s 85 parks and historical sites.

This temporary employment program provides our area youth with excellent opportunities to improve their career readiness, gain real-world work experience, and earn their own income. By placing these young people with local employers GHCAA is able to provide a much needed boost to the local economy as well.

To be eligible for this program, applicants must be Missouri residents, 17 –

21 years of age, and be willing to work an average of 400 hours throughout the duration of the program. There are several types of positions available, including duties ranging from research, media, and light cleaning to landscaping, playground maintenance, minor building repair, and trail building.

For more information about this program, please contact GHCAA Central Office at 877-611-7600 or visit <http://www.thinkoutside.mo.gov>!



Help Us “Go Green”

Since many of our programs focus on “going green” we’re trying to reduce our office paper usage! And YOU can help!

If you have an email address, and would prefer to receive your quarterly copy of the Green Hills Community Action Agency newsletter via email, please send your name and request to farmerj@ghcaa.org

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FAMILY SUPPORT making a difference!



Green Hills Community Action Agency offers a Family Support program designed to help families in a variety of ways to overcome the conditions of poverty and help them eliminate barriers to their success. The main goal of the program is to help family members set goals in education and employment.

A Green Hills Family Support Staff Member visits with each family for at least one hour per week. Goal setting and achievement is the focal point of the Family Support program. Staff is trained to help families determine the strategies needed to improve their current conditions. Visits are arranged to be informal and allow for creativity and personal growth. This personal posture helps create an atmosphere of trust in which the family will be more likely to participate in an honest and open manner.

If you and your family are interested in enrolling or learning more about the Family Support program offered by GHCAA, please contact the Caldwell County Service Center by calling 816-583-2022, and one of our staff will be happy to assist you.

~ Grundy County in Action ~



Service Center
1506 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, MO
660-359-6863



Debbie Cribb
Community Services
Representative II



Theresa Miller
Community Services
Representative I

Community Garden Gets a Boost

Green Hills Community Action Agency is the recipient of funds to sponsor gardens for county senior citizens. The Grundy County Senior Citizen Tax Fund Board recently gave a grant to GHCAA. Members of the board are: Russell Joiner, President; Brooks Sethman, Vice President; Diana Hoppe, Secretary; Sharon Ferris, Treasurer, Max Dickerson, Jim Moore, and Tara Blackburn. Proceeds from this grant will provide seeds, plots, planting and harvesting with produce going to area senior citizens. Additional funding will be provided by Green Hills Community Action Agency, as well as donations from individuals, organizations, and businesses.

Interest is running high by gardeners of all ages for the Grundy County Community Garden Project. Land, which has been leased to Green Hills Community Action Agency for \$1 annually, is being provided by the First Christian Church. This garden is for low income persons, as well as members of the general public. Low income persons will receive seeds free of charge. A family of one can make \$13,613; family of two can make \$18,388; a family of 3 can make \$23,163; while a family of four can make \$27,938 to qualify for free seeds. Those not interested in qualifying based on income can pay a small fee for seeds to cover garden costs. Last year, gardeners from all income level participated as one common community. According to project manager, Terri Henderson, it was "great to see everyone come together regardless of income growing healthy, local food."

Green Hills Community Action Agency will seek members of the general public to sponsor needy families for \$150/year to plant individual, small gardens. GHCAA will teach gardening skills to interested persons. Each gardener will be required to pay \$1 membership fee, sign by-laws, a media release form, and a liability waiver form. Garden seeds will be provided for participants.

GO GREEN with Green Hills!



To learn more about the upcoming green projects GHCAA has in store for 2011, please visit our Put a Little Green in Your Life website!

www.putalittlegreeninyourlife.com



Two of the jobs from last year for this project will be retained. Craig Latham will again be working the project. The second position has been filled internally by Kim Brashear who will serve as garden manager.



Persons who wish to sign up or obtain more information should call Kim Brashear at 660-359-3907, ext. 1020

Pictured Left to Right: Brooks Sethman, Vice President, Grundy County Senior Citizens Services Tax Fund; Russell Joiner, President, Grundy County Senior Citizen Services Tax Fund; Kim Brashear, GHCAA Garden Manager; Diana Hoppe, Secretary, Grundy County Senior Citizen Services Tax Fund; Terri Henderson, Project Manager for GHCAA; and Craig Latham, Garden Site Worker. Not pictured is Sharon Ferris, Treasurer for Grundy County Senior Citizens Services Tax Fund.

This project/program is funded in whole/or part with funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division. The funds received from the Family Support Division are all federally funded.

~ Harrison & Mercer Counties in Action ~



Service Center

4114 Miller St.
Bethany., MO
660-425-3755



Melissa Galbreath
Community Services
Representative II

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Think Outside!

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21 years of age, and be willing to work an average of 400 hours throughout the duration of the program. There are several types of positions available, including duties ranging from research, media, and light cleaning to landscaping, playground maintenance, minor building repair, and trail building.

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If you and your family are interested in enrolling or learning more about the Family Support program offered by GHCAA, please contact the Harrison County Service Center by calling 660-425-3755, and one of our staff will be happy to assist you.

~ Linn County in Action ~



Service Center

105 W John
Brookfield, MO
660-258-2211



Linda Allen
Community Services
Representative I



Monica Baker
Community Services
Representative I

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If you and your family are interested in enrolling or learning more about the Family Support program offered by GHCAA, please contact the Linn County Service Center by calling 660-258-7412, and one of our staff will be happy to assist you.

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~ Livingston County in Action ~



Service Center
511 Elm St.
Chillicothe MO



Sherrie Wohlgemuth
Community Services
Representative I



Rachele Taylor
Community Services
Representative II

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If you and your family are interested in enrolling or learning more about the Family Support program offered by GHCAA, please contact the Livingston County Service Center by calling 660-646-3379, and one of our staff will be happy to assist you.

~ Putnam & Sullivan Counties in Action ~



Service Center

101 E. Second St
Milan MO
660-265-4510



Margaret Salisbury
Community Services
Representative I

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If you and your family are interested in enrolling or learning more about the Family Support program offered by GHCAA, please contact the Putnam or Sullivan County Service Centers by calling 947-2471 or 265-4510, and one of our staff will be happy to assist you.

Non-Profit Organization

Permit No. 227
Trenton, MO 64683
PAID
U.S. Postage

Trenton, MO 64683
1506 Oklahoma Ave.
Community Action Agency
Green Hills



Green Hills Community Action
1506 Oklahoma Ave.
Trenton, MO 64683

Scott Long
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longs@ghcaa.org

Sandi Williams
Deputy Director
wiliamss@ghcaa.org

Tyson Otto
Community Development Director
taylort@ghcaa.org

Deena Smith
Director of Communications & Resource Development
smithd@ghcaa.org

Phone: 660-359-3907
Fax: 660-359-6619

If you have information about projects or efforts that you would like to see highlighted in future issues, or if you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list, please contact:

Jennifer Farmer
Communications & Resource Development Coordinator
Green Hills Community Action Agency
1506 Oklahoma Ave.
Trenton, MO 64683
660-359-3907, ext. 1049
farmer@ghcaa.org

Our Promise

Community Action changes people's 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.