

Our Community In Action

A Quarterly Publication of Green Hills Community Action Agency
Volume 6, Issue 1 - Winter 2011



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MFA Oil Donates to Domestic Violence Shelter

Green Hills Community Action Agency is the proud recipient of a major donation from MFA Oil Company, headquartered in Columbia, Missouri. The donated funds of \$89,000 will be utilized to complete the acquisition of the home used as the Cameron Women's Shelter. Additionally, the donated funds will be used for renovations and future improvements to the facility.

"MFA Oil Company is honored to provide funding for a safe place in the community for victims of domestic violence," said Jerry Taylor, president of MFA Oil Company. "We believe in giving back to the local communities that we serve and we do that through several ways, such as our high school scholarship program, grants from the MFA Oil Foundation and donations like we are giving today."

In receiving the donation, Green Hills Community Action Agency CEO Scott Long vowed that the investment made by MFA Oil "will show its 'return' every time an abused woman and/or child leaves this shelter; feeling safe, feeling secure, and being empowered to take on life without fear of their abuser."

Cameron Mayor Dennis Clark provided MFA Oil President Taylor with a Proclamation passed by the City recognizing the company for their commitment to assisting the abuse shelter and being such a good corporate citizen.

MFA Oil Company is a farmer-owned cooperative with more than 40,000 members. The company supplies fuels, lubricants and propane to customers in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Indiana, Kentucky and Iowa. Through a subsidiary, MFA Oil operates Break Time convenience stores in Missouri and Arkansas and Jiffy Lube and Big O Tire franchises in central Missouri.

Green Hills Community Action Agency works to build vibrant communities in the counties of Caldwell, Daviess, Grundy, Harrison, Linn, Livingston, Mercer, Putnam, Sullivan, Clinton, DeKalb, Ray, Chariton, and Carroll.

Consider Volunteering!

At Green Hills Community Action Agency, volunteers are a precious commodity. They give hours and hours of their time to help those less fortunate than themselves. But who are these less fortunate? Let me give you some real examples; the family whose house burnt to the ground the week before Christmas and got out with only the clothes on their backs, the mother who lost her job due to cut backs and now is struggling to make ends meet for her two children, or the elderly man whose heat source broke during one of the coldest days of the year. These are but a few examples of the lives in need of your help.

So if you have a little extra time to share, all you need to do is call (660) 3549-3907 or 1-877-611-7600 and tell the person who answers the phone you would like to volunteer some of your time.

Taylor Assumes Shelter Duties

Tammy Taylor has recently been named Program Director for the Domestic Violence Prevention program at Green Hills Community Action Agency's Green Hills Women's Shelters. Taylor, who has been employed with GHCAA for the past several years as Community Services Director, is very excited about the move.

The Green Hills Women's Shelter got its start in 1996, with the opening of the original Women's Shelter location in Trenton, Missouri. 2005 saw the expansion to a second site in Chillicothe, and only one year ago in December of 2009, a third location was opened in Cameron. Serving a 13 county area of Northern Missouri, the Green Hills

Women's Shelters help survivors get their lives back together by providing services including a 24 hour hotline, safe shelter, crisis intervention, case management, legal advocacy, relocation services, housing/utility assistance, job location assistance and training, if necessary, transportation, personal advocacy and referrals. All three shelter facilities operate 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, year-round.

If you, or someone you love, is involved in an abusive relationship, there is help! Please call the Green Hills Women's Shelter hotline at 800-942-0649, or visit the Shelter website at www.greenhillswomensshelter.org



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

Please send donations to:

GHCAA
1506 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, MO 64683

Thank You!

Otto Named to Director Position



December ushered in an exciting change to the organizational structure of Green Hills Community Action Agency. Tyson Otto, former Employ-

ment and Training Director for GHCAA, has recently been named Community Development Director for the Agency, and will now oversee the newly formed Career Development and Family & Community departments.

"I am very pleased to see Tyson assume this Director's role. His experience will prove to be very important toward the success of these core agency programs," commented Scott Long, CEO of GHCAA.

Previously, the two departments of Community Services and Employment & Training were separate within the

agency, with departmental lines being determined mainly by funding rather than function. The recent internal agency realignment combined projects and programs that are similar in nature, while renaming these groups to better represent the agency's transformational vision and goals. Bringing these two similar departments together under one Director will ultimately allow GHCAA better control of budget functions, operational activities, and integration of services.

"This is an excellent opportunity for our agency to provide better service, become more efficient, and build vibrant communities. I am excited to be a part of this transformation at GHCAA and look forward to our progress." said Otto.

If you are interested in learning more about Green Hills Community Action Agency and its services, please visit www.ghcaa.org or call 877-611-7600 to speak with a member of our friendly staff!

~ Caldwell County in Action ~

Service Center

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



Paula McCoy
Coordinator

Housing Development in Hamilton

The Green Hills Community Action Agency Housing Development Department is pleased to announce that it will soon begin work on two new construction projects in Hamilton this year.

Green Hills Community Action Agency has been designated as a "CHDO", (Community Housing Development Organization) by Missouri Housing Development Commission. This designation is one of only 21 given to agencies in Missouri and GHCAA is one of the few CHDO's who remain active in developing affordable housing.

Funding for homes and apartments consists of grants, loans, and investments secured from the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) and other sources as available.

Current projects funded and under development or those completed provide housing for 113 families. Housing consists of 50 apartments, 63 single-family homes, and 50 partnership units consisting of 36 Senior units and 11 Supportive Housing units.

Assistance to individuals may simply include consultations enabling them to secure the best home at an affordable cost; or it may involve the agency becoming the building/ homeowner providing an affordable rental home to persons in need of housing.

If you are interested in learning more about the GHCAA Housing Development Department, please visit us online at www.ghcaa.org or call our central office at 877-611-7600.

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Building Vibrant Communities

Green Hills Community Action Agency has entered a transformational era, one in which the agency has made it its mission to build vibrant communities.

So what exactly IS a vibrant community? Vibrant is defined as "*pulsating with vigor and energy; exciting; stimulating; lively*". Very simply, a vibrant community is one that doesn't just scrape by, but thrives.

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Strong and vibrant communities begin with strong families.

~ Daviess County in Action ~

Service Center

Clay & Jackson
Gallatin, MO
660-663-3211



Janna Barton
Coordinator

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~ Grundy County in Action ~

Service Center

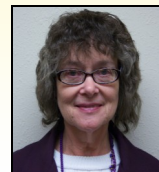
1506 Oklahoma Ave
Trenton, MO
660-359-6863



Debbie Cribb
Director



Theresa Miller
Coordinator



Diana Hoppe
Coordinator

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GHCAA Gets Growing!!

Green Hills Community Action Agency is beginning its second year sponsoring a large scale community garden project in Grundy County. Last year over 130 families participated! Some of them planted gardens in their own back yards, while others planted on a plot of land that is leased to GHCAA by the Trenton First Christian Church.

First Christian Church has utilized the space around their building for mission work that has offered thousands of families help through projects such as the Church Women United Thrift Store, an activity center, the Grundy County Food Pantry, and now the Grundy County Community Garden. While both the food pantry and the thrift store have independent boards and dozens of volunteers to run them, the First Christian Church has provided

land at a very reduced cost to make these dreams become a reality.

In addition to planting a plot, the program could also use volunteers to help package seeds when they arrive in April. Last year, agency staff and volunteers packaged over 7000 seed packets.

If your business, organization, or family is not interested in participating with a garden plot of its own, please consider sponsoring a family annually instead. A one year, one family sponsorship is only \$150. These funds go toward seed purchase, on-site garden assistance for the elderly and disabled, equipment, and maintenance of the site.

To get growing with us, please give Terri Henderson a call at 359-3907!

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~ Harrison County in Action ~

Sherry Parkhurst
Community
Services Manager



Service Center

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



Ann Pettit
Coordinator

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Second Chance Program Seeks Mentors

One of the most influential bonds in life are between someone in need and their life coach or mentor. Mentoring is a shared opportunity for learning & growth.

Help us build a more vibrant community through a professionally supported, 1 on 1 relationship as a caring mentor.

You will assist your mentee in reaching their highest potential as they grow into a more responsible person.

Making the decision to become a mentor means being a committed volunteer, expressing leadership, & helping people in need become more productive members of the community.

Possible Mentors/Life Coaches must

complete a Mentor Application which includes a Criminal Background Investigation conducted by Green Hills Community Action Agency.

A selection committee will review all applications to determine eligibility. Future mentors must then complete a Training Module, provided through GHCAA.

GHCAA will pair Mentor with Mentee through completion of the Interest Inventory to achieve maximum compatibility & compliance.

For more information on this program, please contact Courtney Whitney, Program Case Manager, Harrison County Service Center by calling 660-425-3755 or by emailing whitneyc@ghcaa.org!

~ Linn County in Action ~

Service Center

105 W John
Brookfield, MO
660-258-2211



Monica Baker
Coordinator

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Housing Development in Brookfield

The Green Hills Community Action Agency Housing Development Department is pleased to announce that it will be making some renovations around Brookfield this year.



and Missouri Housing Development Commission to provide communities across the state with access to technical and financial assistance for downtown revitalization.

Brookfield was named a DREAM community in 2009.

In addition to these home repairs, GHCAA will also be starting construction on one new home in Brookfield with assistance from the Brookfield Building Trades class in association with the Career Center.

If you are interested in learning more about the GHCAA Housing Development Department, please visit us online at www.ghcaa.org or call our central office at 877-611-7600.

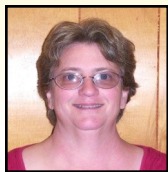
The department recently received notice that it has a green light to begin on home repairs for five homes with the help of the Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) Initiative.

The DREAM Initiative is an innovative partnership between the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Missouri Development Finance Board

~ Livingston County in Action ~

Service Center

511 Elm St.
Chillicothe MO
660-646-3379



Sherrie Wohlgemuth
Director



Linda Allen
Coordinator



Rachele Taylor
Coordinator

GHCAA/GRT Partnership Energizes Missouri

Green Hills Community Action Agency is the recipient of nearly \$300,000 ARRA funds for weatherization of homes in Livingston County. The program, called *Energize Missouri*, showcases innovative projects throughout the state funded with federal stimulus monies passed through the Missouri Department of National Resources Division of Energy. *Energize Missouri* is an initiative made possible by funds from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Additional weatherization monies have been awarded to the agency through the U.S. Department of Energy DOE and ARRA. The *Energize Missouri* project is being managed by Terri Henderson, Energy Services Director for Green Hills Community Action Agency.

GHCAA has partnered with Grand River Vocational Technical School to weatherize 40 homes in Chillicothe. The crew, led by Joel Farris, long-time area contractor, and Terri Henderson, also includes two students - Nicholas Koenig and Terrance Smith, as well as Elisha Daniel, Certified Building Performance Institute energy auditor.

The crew has nearly completed 14 homes, with more slated to be weatherized between now and March of 2012.

Homeowners interested in applying for the service may call the Livingston County GHCAA office at 660-646-3379 for an appointment.

During the 20 month program, stu-

dents will learn the skills to become certified energy auditors and weatherization professionals. It is estimated that job growth in the area of weatherization and energy efficiency will grow over 30% in the next decade.

Green Hills Community Action Agency, in its 45th year of operation in northern Missouri, has been a long time weatherization provider under the direction of the Missouri Department of National Resources. Persons who are interested in having a home energy audit, but do not fall within income guidelines, may still receive an audit for a fee. Any questions regarding weatherization services by all members of the general public are encouraged to call Elisha Daniel at 660-359-3907.



Pictured Left to Right: Nicholas Koenig
Crew Member, Joel Farris Crew Leader,
Terrance Smith Crew Member

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~ Mercer County in Action ~

Service Center

606 W Main St
Princeton MO
660-748-3565



Sherry Parkhurst
Community
Services Manager

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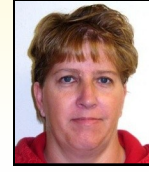
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~ Putnam County in Action ~

Margaret Salisbury
Community
Services Manager



Service Center
117 S 16th St
Unionville MO
660-947-2471



Dianne Hendee
Coordinator

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~ Sullivan County in Action ~

Margaret Salisbury
Community
Services Manager



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



Andrea Luper
Coordinator

Offender Re-Entry Team Meets in Sullivan County

Recently, Sullivan County began efforts to offer support and solutions to help keep ex-offenders on the path to productivity. The Sullivan County Re-Entry Committee Team met for the first time this past December, with eight founding members in attendance.

The Committee will act as a sort of think-tank, offering insights and resources to participants of the Green Hills Community Action Agency's Offender Empowerment Program.

At each meeting, committee members are presented with a case for review, and a list of barriers to self-sufficiency that particular client faces. The panel then provides ideas for the best way to overcome those barriers.

The Committee is open to new members, and each participant is asked only

for a one hour per month commitment.

For more information about this and other Career Development Programs, please contact GHCAA Career Development Director, Tim Rockhold at 877-611-7600 or via email at rockholdt@ghcaa.org



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Building Vibrant Communities

Green Hills Community Action Agency has entered a transformational era, one in which the agency has made it its mission to build vibrant communities.

So what exactly IS a vibrant community? Vibrant is defined as *"pulsating with vigor and energy; exciting; stimulating; lively"*. Very simply, a vibrant community is one that doesn't just scrape by, but thrives.

GHCAA has set a goal to improve the lives of not only our clients, but the lives of everyone living in the Green Hills area.

2011 promises to be a very exciting year in Community Action, we hope you will consider partnering with us to bring about positive progress within our communities.

If you are interested in learning how to make your community a more vibrant place to live, work, and raise a family, please contact Green Hills Community Action Agency and speak with a member of our friendly staff!

Strong and vibrant communities begin with strong families.

Check Us Out Online @ www.ghcaa.org

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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:

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Our Promise

Green Hills Community Action Agency positively impacts people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes our region a better place to live. We care about the community, and are dedicated to empowering people to help themselves and each other.

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