

# Our Community In Action

A Quarterly Publication of Green Hills Community Action Agency  
Volume 7, Issue 1 - Winter 2012



## In this issue

Headline P.1  
Headline P.2  
Headline P.3  
Headline P.4

## Women's Health Still Offering Clinics

Green Hills Community Action Agency Women's Health Services is still offering clinics to women in northern Missouri. While the locations of some of these clinics may have changed with the closing of our county offices, the level of quality service remains the same.

GHCAA's Women's Health Services schedules about 170 clinics a year where women can receive their annual breast and reproductive system examinations, family-planning information and other related services. The health clinics also provide limited services to men, most often related to STD screening and reproductive health. While the staff of Women's Health Service focuses mainly on reproductive health, they do refer patients to other medical and mental health providers when needed. These services are available to everyone regardless of income, and will be billed to a client's insurance.

GHCAA's Women's Health Services schedules clinics in Caldwell, Carroll, Chariton, Grundy, Harrison, Linn, Livingston, Putnam and Ray counties. Most clinics are conducted during business hours, but some evening and weekend clinics are scheduled. For information or to schedule an appointment for a clinic in Caldwell, Grundy, Harrison, Linn, Livingston and Putnam counties, call the GHCAA office at 660-359-2855 or toll-free 1-877-611-7600. For clinics in Carroll County, call 660-542-3247; Chariton County, 660-288-3675; and in Ray County, 816-776-5413.

For more information, or to view a calendar of upcoming clinic dates, please visit the WHS web site at <http://greenhillswomenshealth.org>. The web site also features an online, anonymous survey you can complete regarding the level of service you received at your appointment. If you're a customer of GHCAA's Women's Health Services, we'd love to get your feedback on the program!



## New Toll Free Number

In order to better serve clients throughout the nine county area, Green Hills Community Action Agency has added an additional toll free line for clients to utilize in the counties of Linn, Livingston, Putnam, Sullivan, Mercer, Harrison, Daviess, and Caldwell. Grundy County clients are asked to call the agency using local number 660-359-3907.

The agency is still actively providing services to residents in all of our 9 county region - only our "base of operations" has changed, our services have not!

The new toll free number is **855-290-8544**. Local numbers for each county are no longer being used.

**Call Us**  
**855-290-8544**

# Energy Assistance Simply Explained



The Green Hills Community Action Agency's Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP for short) is currently providing heating help to many households in northern Missouri this winter season. People do not need to schedule appointments to start this process, just call our office at 855-290-8544.

The winter program, which officially began October 1st for the elderly or disabled, and November 1st for all others, has already provided energy assistance funding to over 1600 households in need, helping them stay warm and avoid heating or electrical disconnections.

How does the program work? In the instance of an EA (Energy Assistance), a client visits, calls, emails, or faxes our office requesting energy assistance, completes an application, and provides the required supporting documents (such as proof of income, copies of social security cards, and utility bills). Applications are categorized based on the severity of the applicant's emergency - households with shut-off notices are given priority over those who are not in imminent danger of disconnection.

Once the paperwork is received, our processors go to work entering the required information into a state maintained computer program which calculates if the applicant qualifies and what the amount of their energy benefit will be.

Once the application is processed and verified, the LIHEAP processors at GHCAA notify the utility company with a "pledge" that the awarded EA amount will be paid. The state takes the lead from there, contacting the applicant's utility company, who must then confirm the applicant as a customer, once confirmed, the state

will cut an energy assistance check and mail it to the vendor.

ECIP (Energy Crisis Intervention Program) funds are emergency monies provided to households who have already been approved for EA and currently have a new or secondary disconnection notice.

Pledges are submitted in the case of an ECIP as well, with processors contacting utility companies mid-afternoon, generally around 3pm - 4pm. ECIP checks are then processed, cut, and mailed out by GHCAA directly to utility companies.

The LIHEAP processors do their best to help each household as quickly as possible and to the best of their ability, so please be respectful when speaking with them.

What can't this program do? As helpful as this program is, it does have some limitations, and there are several things the funding will not cover. LIHEAP funds cannot be used for:

- Deposits
- Water Bills
- Telephone Bills

If you would like to apply for energy assistance, or know anyone who might benefit from this program, please feel free to call, visit, email, or fax our office. Due to a high volume of calls and faxes, you might not always reach a real person, but please leave a message when prompted and someone will contact you as soon as possible. To download a copy of the application directly from our website please [click here](#).

*This project/program is funded 100% with federal funding received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division.*

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  
 Other Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please apply my gift toward the following:

- Health Services
- Education/Employment
- Housing Programs
- Energy/Weatherization
- Most Needed Area

Please send your donations to:

GHCAA  
1506 Oklahoma Ave  
Trenton, MO 64683

**Thank You!**



## Housing Assistance Helps

The Housing Choice Voucher Program is assisting many elderly, handicapped, disabled, and families of low income to obtain housing they can afford. The Program utilizes existing rental housing that is in decent, safe, and in a sanitary condition and passes our inspection. Because of the increasing cost of new construction, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has encouraged the use of existing housing to meet the demand.



Eligible households are those whose incomes fall within HUD established guidelines as determined by the size of the family. Single elderly (62 or over), handicapped of any age or disabled of

any age qualify if they meet the income guideline. All other participants may be single or a family unit.

To learn more about this program, and to see if you qualify, please call us toll free at 855-290-8544 or [find us on Facebook](#).

## Chalfant Joins GHCAA Team

Cathie Chalfant has recently joined the Green Hills team as the agency's new Community Development Director in charge of Community Services Block Grant, Second Chance Offender Empowerment Program & AEL.



Chalfant has a Bachelor's degree from Northwest Missouri State University in Public Relations, and formerly worked in Workforce Development for 9 years, working with customers and as a funder/monitor of programs and 2 years at Community Services, Inc in Maryville as an Employment and Training Counselor. Most recently, she worked as a Human Resources Coordinator for a large manufacturing plant.

Please help us in welcoming Cathie to the Green Hills Community Action Agency staff! If you have questions about any of our Community Development programs, give us a call, toll-free, at 855-290-8544.

## GHCAA Continues Green Projects in 2012

Green Hills Community Action Agency has plans to continue several of its highly successful green programs again in 2012.

The **Community Garden Plus** program, which first got growing in 2010, provides free or low cost seed to hundreds of residents in our nine county service area. Families in Grundy County also have the option of utilizing our large scale community garden spot located near the 1st Christian Church in Trenton. We also have plans in the works to offer educational sessions for novice gardeners without much experience. Green Hills is seeking 25 families from each county who are interested in receiving a variety of seeds this spring. ([View Photos](#))

**Put a Little Green in Your Life** is a broad spectrum program that addresses several key issues in northern Missouri that contribute to poverty, such as lack of education, employment, and quality housing. One aspect of the program offers presentations and educational classes for both children and adults on green living. Another component of PALG is that of green business and marketing. A minimum of ten area businesses will receive marketing support with the intent of increasing sales and exposure of green items

via the [Put a Little Green](#) website.

2012 will also see the continuation of our third green project - **Fire Your Clothes Dryer**. This program will offer 25 families installation of a high quality outdoor clothesline at no cost to them, qualified families will also receive a wooden indoor drying rack. According to our estimates, this solar solution to doing laundry can potentially save a family of four over \$27,000!

The overall goals of our green initiatives are to teach families how to save money on their energy bills, consider growing healthy food at home or as part of a community garden, better understand recycling, save fossil fuels, & lessen dependence on the electrical grid.

If your household income falls below 125% of the federal poverty level (\$13,613 for 1 person or \$27,938 for a family of 4), you may qualify for one or more of these programs. Please call our central office toll-free at 855-290-8544.

This project/program is funded 100% with federal funding received from the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided by the Missouri Department of Social Services, Family Support Division.

# Home Repair Program - Changing Lives

A resident of Brookfield has certainly received a positive change in his housing conditions in 2011 thanks to Green Hills Community Action Agency and the DREAM Home Repair Opportunity (HeRO) Program, granted by the Missouri Housing Development Commission.

To learn more about this awesome program, or request an application, please contact GHCAA by calling us toll-free at 1-855-290-8544, and asking for Mary Garcia.

Program income guidelines have been provide below.



**BEFORE - A home in Brookfield prior to renovations provided by GHCAA's Home Repair Program**

**AFTER - The same home after renovations by GHCAA**

## Home Repair Income Guidelines for 2012

| Household Size | County          |                |               |                 |             |                   |               |               |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
|                | <u>Caldwell</u> | <u>Daviess</u> | <u>Grundy</u> | <u>Harrison</u> | <u>Linn</u> | <u>Livingston</u> | <u>Mercer</u> | <u>Putnam</u> | <u>Sullivan</u> |
| 1 Person       | \$41,100        | \$26,800       | \$26,800      | \$27,200        | \$27,850    | \$31,000          | \$26,800      | \$26,800      | \$26,800        |
| 2 Person       | \$46,950        | \$30,600       | \$30,600      | \$31,050        | \$31,800    | \$35,400          | \$30,600      | \$30,600      | \$30,600        |
| 3 Person       | \$52,800        | \$34,450       | \$34,450      | \$34,950        | \$35,800    | \$39,850          | \$34,450      | \$34,450      | \$34,450        |
| 4 Person       | \$58,650        | \$38,250       | \$38,250      | \$38,800        | \$39,750    | \$44,250          | \$38,250      | \$38,250      | \$38,250        |
| 5 Person       | \$63,350        | \$41,350       | \$41,350      | \$41,950        | \$42,950    | \$47,800          | \$41,350      | \$41,350      | \$41,350        |
| 6 Person       | \$68,050        | \$44,400       | \$44,400      | \$45,050        | \$46,150    | \$51,350          | \$44,400      | \$44,400      | \$44,400        |

Green Hills Community Action Agency works to build vibrant communities.

If you have particular programs that you would like to see highlighted in future issues, or if you know someone who would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact:

[Green Hills Community Action Agency](#)  
 1506 Oklahoma Ave. Trenton, MO 64683  
 Phone: 660-359-3907 | Fax: 660-359-6619



**Terri Henderson**  
 Acting-CEO  
[hendersont@ghcaa.org](mailto:hendersont@ghcaa.org)

