

Connie Ballenger - News from Community Action Council

From: "D. Deepak Chadha"
To:
Date: 4/30/2009 12:11 PM
Subject: News from Community Action Council

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Community News from Howard County

April 2009

Dear Connie:

We are extremely grateful for the many donations and volunteer time from the community that enabled us to provide our clients energy, housing, and food assistance. With the looming budget deficits facing our community, your help is now, more than ever, needed and effectively utilized at Community Action Council (CAC).

We acknowledge the Gold Sponsor level gift from the P.J. Dick Company. This enabled CAC to provide food to over 300 families right here in Howard County. Corporate Office Properties, Janet C. Eveland, Harry Gudelsky Enterprises, LLC, Richard D. and Carol A. Heacock, St. John the Evangelist Baptist Church and Wal-Mart Foundation are acknowledged for Bronze Sponsorships. Thank you for your generosity.

CAC welcomes the Best Buy and GGP Columbia Mall joining as Corporate Volunteers. Thanks to Columbia Patuxent Rotary, Grace Community Church, National Pike District Boy Scouts and National Council for Jewish Women for their group volunteer services. During the first quarter of 2009, 84 volunteers sorted and packaged for 358 hours to enable the Food Bank to distribute 36,817 pounds of food to 1,526 individuals.

CAC has embarked on improving its processes and enhancing employee skills. All the community workers were cross trained in several program softwares. In a joint review, they eliminated thirteen of the seventeen forms that were being used. The Food Bank employees were trained in safe warehouse practices and have been certified for Safe Food handling. The latter is very significant as we increase the perishable and nutritious food offerings in the Food Bank.

Because of increased Federal funding for energy assistance, CAC was able to help 40% more clients than last year. As the utilities start cut-offs, we expect a very large increase in demand for energy assistance. Hence your support is even more crucial than ever.

The current economic crisis has changed CAC's client profile significantly. Many of our new clients had no knowledge of our agency or its services, because they previously had financial security and were not eligible for our services. We are very interested in reaching additional populations and ask you to arrange presentations of CAC offerings through your social and faith groups. To arrange a presentation, please contact dchadha@cac-hc.org.

Whether you volunteer at the Food Bank or at a Head Start Center, whether you donate money or food, every contribution counts and is used to help those who need it the most. As graduation time approaches, please consider honoring the accomplished graduate in your life by giving a tribute gift to CAC. I urge you to join us in helping people to help themselves. To make an immediate contribution, please [click here](#).

In the spirit of community, I am,

James B. Smith
President
JBsmith@cac-hc.org

CAC Helps Homeless Couple Get on Their Feet

Saying Sheldon and Vanessa Winters have had a rough last few months would be like saying the Arctic is a little bit cool. The Winters spent three months living in their 2001 Ford Econoline van.

"There were nights we couldn't get warm," said Sheldon of his homeless experience. For this story

[click here](#)

Upcoming Events

Join the Columbia Mall
food drive starting June 1, 2009

Save the Date

Holland Dinner On Thursday, October 8, 2009 at 5:30 PM

Sheraton Columbia Hotel
10207 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044

For Reservation, Contact Connie Ballenger at 410-313-6440 or cballenger@cac-hc.org

Closing Headline

Thank you Connie for allowing us to be part of your spirit of giving back to your community. For immediate contribution [click here](#).

Contact Information

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