Family Fun Day

On Saturday, June 16th, the Wesley House Shelter held its annual Family Fun Day. The event was sponsored by Sisterhood for Women in Motion and included a DJ, a bounce house, great food and lots of fun. It helped start off the summer right for the homeless children staying at the shelter.

Community Outreach Project: Our Partner for Over 20 Years

Community Action Agency of Delaware County, Inc. has partnered with the faith-based Community Outreach Project since opening its Life Center homeless shelter in 1995. The Community Outreach Project provides dinner on a daily basis, 365 days a year including holidays, at the Life Center for its homeless residents, other homeless persons and needy families from the community. The Life Center is located at 6310 Market Street in Upper Darby. Before serving meals at the Life Center, the Community Outreach Project for years served the homeless at the 69th Street Transportation Center.

The Community Outreach Project is comprised of churches, synagogues, mosques and other community groups. Currently there are 50 participating groups. Each night a different group prepares a full meal for over 150 needy persons. On holidays the amount of meals served can sometimes double. There is no cost involved for the Life Center as the food and time are all donated from these amazing groups. Last year over 63,000 meals were provided with a value over $1,080,080. Since the Life Center opened, over 1,900,000 meals have been served.

CAADC’s CEO Edward T. Coleman stated, “This project is such an amazing effort by these faith-based and community groups. The Community Outreach Project shows what can be accomplished by a community that cares for its own. We are truly grateful to all of these groups and their volunteers.”

The Community Outreach Project is led by Ann Shiffer, who is also a member of CAADC’s Board of Directors. The Community Outreach Project is always looking for new groups to serve. If you are interested in helping or making a donation to the Community Outreach Project, Ann can be reached at (484) 995-1751 or copmeals@gmail.com.
Now Accepting Applications for Lead Paint Hazard Control Program

Community Action Agency of Delaware County is now accepting applications for the Lead Paint Hazard Control Program. In this program, qualifying families who have a child age 5 or under may qualify for new windows and other repairs to help remediate lead paint hazards. Once an application is received, CAADC staff meets with the applicant to explain the program in detail and discuss the hazards. A report is prepared showing where lead paint exists in the home. CAADC then provides a Scope of Work detailing the steps that will be taken to reduce or remove the lead to acceptable levels. This may include replacing doors and windows, installing new drywall, replacing trim and moldings. When the renovations are complete, another lead audit is performed to be sure that all lead has been removed or reduced to acceptable levels. A copy of the final report, along with educational materials relating to lead hazards, is then given to the family. To qualify, applicants must:

1. Meet certain income guidelines.
2. Have a child age 5 or under at the time of application.
3. Be a homeowner (renters are not eligible at this time), and
4. Be a resident of Delaware County (not all communities are eligible).

For more information or to receive an application, call (610) 833-4442. This program is funded by the Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development and Lawrence County Community Action Partnership.

New Support Service: Housing Locator

Community Action Agency of Delaware County, Inc. has added a new support service to help our clients find and establish affordable housing. Recently CAADC added a Housing Locator position to its staff. While CAADC is able to address many critical issues by providing case management, emergency shelter, financial literacy, etc., the emphasis on rapidly housing homeless families and individuals is made difficult due to many of these residents having negative credit reports, previous evictions and a criminal history. The Housing Locator helps to locate affordable and decent housing. The Housing Locator will develop relationships with community landlords and local landlord associations in order to develop a database of housing resources. In fact, the Housing Locator recently hosted an “Open House” at our Boothwyn Office for local landlords to familiarize them with our programs, services and staff. The core focus of the Housing Locator will be housing identification and linking potential homeless residents and landlords. Our new Housing Locator, Kimberly Jamison, can be reached at (610) 874-8451.

Weatherization Program Moves to Boothwyn Office

The Weatherization Assistance Program has moved to CAADC’s Boothwyn Office. The Weatherization Assistance Program was previously in Easington but now joins CAADC’s Administrative Offices and Social Services Program at 1414 Meetinghouse Road in Boothwyn, PA 19061. CAADC is creating a One Stop Shop of available social services for low-income families in Delaware County. Consolidating in programs will allow CAADC to more efficiently and effectively serve its clients.

The goal of the Weatherization Assistance Program is to help low-income families permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. The program provides quality energy education and home conservation modifications. The program can help reduce heating bills by 20-30%. All services are free of charge. Residents in need of Weatherization can call (610) 521-8770.

Community Action Agency Receives Award From Congregation Beth Israel

Community Action Agency of Delaware County, Inc. (CAADC) was recently honored by receiving the 2018 “Friend of the Community Award” from Congregation Beth Israel. As part of its commitment to “Tikkun Olam,” the Hebrew phrase meaning “Healing the World,” the Social Action Committee of Beth Israel and Senior Rabbi Linda Potemkin presented the award to CAADC’s Chief Executive Officer, Edward T. Coleman, on May 4th, 2018. Congregation Beth Israel also donated $500 to help economically disadvantaged families. The event occurred at Congregation Beth Israel, located at 542 South New Midtowner Road, PA 19063. The award recognizes CAADC’s key role in reducing poverty and offering assistance in housing, employment and social services.

Recent Development Activity

CAADC has been fortunate to receive the following private contributions from the community during the last quarter. County Savings Bank supports the Agency annually with a donation of $3,000. CAADC received $5,000 from Boeing to support our Annual Meeting. The First Presbyterian Church of Springfield donated $292 for the Life Center homeless shelter. The Lion’s Club Foundation provided a grant of $3,000 for our Case Management Program. CAADC received a donation of $500 from Congregation Beth Israel to support our efforts to help economically disadvantaged families. Astron Service Center supported the Agency with a donation of $250. Congregation Ohev Shalom provided a grant of $4,300 for our Recreation Therapy Program. Iron Workers Bank supports the Agency annually with a donation of $2,400. And please remember CAADC throughout the year during your United Way Campaign. CAADC can be supported by designating Agency Code 06914 on United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey forms.

Teen Helps Others for Her Birthday

Charlotte, an 8th grader at Drexel Hill Middle School, was about to turn 13. However, instead of hoping for gifts for her birthday, she had had better hopes for helping other homeless families from her community. She posted the following on Facebook:

For my 13th birthday, I want to help local homeless families. I believe everyone deserves a chance to get back on their feet. So that’s why I’m asking you all for assistance. I’d like to collect items to donate to the Communication Agency of Delaware County.

If you’d like to contribute any of the items on the list below, you can drop them off at the shelter (or we can come pick them up). We’ll be delivering the items to the shelter in the beginning of July. Thank you! I know we can make the world a better place, one step at a time!

- Charlotte ended up delivering a vanload of diapers, sheets sets, baby wipes, socks, toiletries, and more. Thank you to Charlotte for this amazing effort!