

What's Happening at HAPCAP



HAPPY SPRING!



Can you believe it's already Spring? I don't know about you, but to me it felt as though this past winter would never end! I'm so excited for the warm weather! Time to get the garden ready and plan some weekend adventures to Hocking Hills!

We have a lot to look forward to at HAPCAP in the coming weeks! This year we are celebrating 50 years of serving Hocking, Athens, and Perry Counties! We have said goodbye to a couple of dear members of the HAPCAP family who've went on to enjoy their much deserved retirement, and welcomed some fresh new faces!

I hope you enjoy the updates from around the agency, and HAPPY SPRING!

-Amanda

Child Development

Head Start and Early Head Start enroll and recruit all year long but this is the time of year we hit the streets hard to begin recruiting for the 2015-16 school year! We could use your help reaching out to any families with young children that you may know or meet during your work with the agency. Detailed information and our application are available on the website. We can also provide you applications and brochures to hand out to families. If you would like some please give Debbie a call at the main office.

Staff Changes

We would like to welcome new staff Twana Ventola, center based teacher in New Lexington; Dora Daines and Virginia Van Oort, bus monitors in Athens; Destiny Hooper, janitor in Athens; and Rebecca McCormick, Family Day Care Mentor. We would also like to welcome back Tammy Jordan who is helping out as Home Visitor in Athens for the remainder of the school year.

Congrats!

Congratulations to Amber Teel on the birth of her daughter Kiri, born January 19th. She weighed 8.7 pounds and was 20 ½ inches long. For those of you who have been around a while the proud grandma is Roberta Fouty who was a long time employee of the agency.

-Debbie Lowery



Food & Nutrition

Foodbank

Please help us in welcoming Claire Webb as our new Foodbank Coordinator! Claire has an extensive background in logistics and warehousing and we are excited to have her join us.

We are planning on participating in OU's annual Move Out extravaganza. Donations sites will be set up throughout the city/campus to reclaim usable items such as furniture, clothes and food. We will be collecting all usable food to redistribute to those in need.

We now have a 28ft scissor lift to use in the Foodbank to clean, change light bulbs and do general maintenance on the building. The purchase of this piece of equipment was made possible through a grant from AEP.

Kitchen

Through a collaborative effort with Head Start the Kitchen has started distributing fresh produce to the families of the Head Start children on a monthly basis. We have served around 400 families through this program. The families have received potatoes, sweet potatoes, apples and cheese. We are also distributing fresh produce to our

Meals-On-Wheels clients.

Hickory Creek Nursing Home has started to provide deserts to our Meals on Wheels clients.

We are planning for a big party to celebrate Senior Day at the Athens and Glouster sites on May 19th. More details to come.

Job Openings

The Foodbank is hiring three full-time, one-year VISTA members. Two VISTAs will be hired to promote the use of PantryTrak, a data collection system that increases the capacity of Ohio foodbanks to support their member agencies and respond to client needs in increasingly diversified, effective, client-centric and dignified ways. A third VISTA will be charged with assessing our current Summer Feeding Program and expanding the program into our other six counties. VISTAs will receive a living allowance, choice of education or end of service stipend, health coverage, paid leave, sick, and holidays, and if eligible, child care assistance and relocation allowance. Appli-

cations must be completed through the VISTA website (link on the HAPCAP website) and submitted by April 27th. Please spread the word.

Fundraising

Walmart's *Fight Hunger Spark Change* campaign will run from April 6th – May 3rd with the Logan, Athens, Marietta, Gallipolis, and Jackson Walmart stores participating. For every participating item purchased at one of these stores, Walmart will donate one meal directly to our Foodbank. Customers may also donate at the register, with all proceeds benefiting the SE Ohio Foodbank. Finally, during this time frame, share a picture on social media with six people committed to fight hunger with the #WeSparkChange and Walmart will donate \$10.00 to be shared among all Feeding America Foodbanks.

HAPCAP is a designated "reason" for this year's Race for a Reason on April 25th. Sign up for the 3k walk, 5k run, 4 mile mud run, duathlon, or triathlon, designate HAPCAP as your reason, and we will receive \$10 of every registration. The Race for a Reason will also be holding a food drive at race packet pick up on the Friday before the race and after the race during Fitness Fest. The food collected at the event will then be sorted by student volunteers at the inaugural Sort for a Reason on Sunday, April 26th. This event will take place on Ohio University's campus at River Park on South Green.

-Asti Payne

Housing & Community Development

We would like to welcome the addition to the Housing Department of six new weatherization laborers:

Donald Hooper
Richard Phillips
Richard Bolin Jr.
Brian Boggs
John Steinbrink
John Dayton
Edward Cottrill II

Welcome back!

We would also like to welcome back David Freeman who is coming back to the Housing Rehabilitation Specialist position.

Energy Audits

We are currently waiting on the contracts to be signed for the AEP-CAP program and once received will continue to be scheduling for energy audits for AEP customers.

We would also like to wish a farewell to Anita Six. Anita has worked here 11.5 years and will be leaving us on May 29th.



Community Services

Perry County After School Program

We continue to deliver After School Programming to youth in Perry County through this program. Spots are still available for the site in New Lexington operated by the Perry County Opera House and Cultural Arts Center; this site is open to TANF-eligible Perry County youth in grades 6-12 and is open on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Learn & Work

We are very proud of our Learn & Work participants as 12 of them have secured employment since our new contract began in November 2014!

Stephanie Russell, the Operations Specialist for the program recently attended Motivational Interviewing training and is beginning to integrate it into our case management approach.

Home Energy Assistance Program

As of March 23rd, we have served 3,459 households in Hocking, Athens, and Perry counties. We also have started to deliver services to Hocking County residents with the TANF funding we received from South Central Ohio Job and Family Services. This funding is very flexible and can be used to supplement WCP funds for families who have a remaining bal-

ance on their bill after the WCP benefit has been applied, among other areas for assistance. We are also continuing to make appointments for the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP Plus) and State HEAP programs. This has been a demanding program and I want to extend a big thank you to all HEAP staff and staff who help HEAP clients at the front desk day in and day out as well!

-Kelly Hatas

Transportation

We have great news! GoBus started a new service – connecting Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Marietta, Athens, and many more Ohio locations in-between! GoBus now offers a daily service to Northeast Ohio from Athens as well other southern and eastern Ohio destinations. Tickets are \$25. We hope to announce and start more of our expansion routes soon! Keep an eye on the ridegobus.com website for more up to date information or reach out to Carolyn Conley- the voice of GoBus (ext 2147)-! Anyone up for a trip North?

APT/LPT

Athens Public Transit unveiled the new Route 6 on Monday, February 2nd. Route 6 is an hourly loop serving Union Street, The Plains/S.R. 682, Chauncey and the JFS County Home, State Route 13 and Columbus Road. It runs hourly, weekdays from 7am to 7pm and Saturdays from 9am-5pm. APT also expanded Route 5 to operate 7:30am – 7:30pm weekdays. The

two loops will complement each other and provide service every half hour for the entire route. Congratulations to Michael Lachman for this very exciting expansion of services!

Logan Public Transit is providing transportation for people who are on Medicaid through a partnership with South Central Job and Family Services. If you know of anyone that has trouble with transportation for medical appointments and are on Medicaid please have them call 740-385-6999 for more information! Also, please help us to continue to spread that word that we serve Rockbridge and Haydenville in addition to the City of Logan and 2 miles beyond.

Athens On Demand Transit

The Athens on Demand Transit program and staff were recognized with a special award during the Athens County Board of Disabilities March Awareness event. In addition, all of our transportation programs were represented at a booth at the event.

GoBus

GoBus has added a new position as part of the expansion efforts. A big welcome to Amy Renner who joined our team in February. Amy has come at a time of tremendous change and we already can't imagine what we were doing without her!

Cliff Warren, Transportation Services Supervisor for Athens On Demand Transit, left to take a job with Lakefront Lines, one of our service providers. We are very excited to announce that Jody Hart, a longtime agency employee in the Head Start program will be joining our transportation team and filling this key position. Thanks for all of the hard work that Lantz Repp and Kathi Embry have been doing as well as the rest of the AODT transit staff as we worked through this transition period!

Rumors are spreading that the transportation division may be starting a band! Did you know that we have a guitar player, pianist and lead singer in our midst? Our pianist has even been asked to play at our state association's yearly conference in June. More to come!
-Jessica Stroh

We would like to extend a BIG

THANK YOU & FAREWELL

to Diana Campbell, Anita Weed, and Anita Six (retiring May 29th)!)

We will miss each of you dearly and wish you a happy retirement!

Diana Campbell

1 month shy of 43 years as the Agency Controller



Anita Six

11.5 years as our Senior Housing Clerk



Anita Weed

26 years as our Staff Accountant



Thank you for reading!