

# WHAT'S {HAP}PENING

SUMMER 2019



## LOOKING AHEAD

**JUNE 29** Fare on the Square

**JULY 1** Summer Crisis Begins

**AUG 1** Line 7 Pilot launches

**AUG 3** Bounty on the Bricks

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

### WEATHERIZATION

**ATHENS** - Rehabilitation is a key theme in one Athens County project. HAPCAP has partnered with Serenity Grove, a women's recovery program, to weatherize the program's home and improve its energy efficiency. Owned and operated by Women 4 Recovery, a non-profit focused on addressing substance abuse, Serenity Grove is a home nestled in the hills of central Athens County. The program welcomes women from Southeast Ohio who have been released from addiction treatment or incarceration.

The home offers a safe, stable environment for women who are seeking structure to maintain sobriety, and actively supports women seeking to pick up their lives after the devastation of addiction. This includes transporting residents to social service appointments, job training, GED classes, and 12-step meetings. There are also household activities such as chores and movie nights. The organization was founded entirely by women and has been in operation since April, 2018.

"As a grassroots nonprofit, we found ourselves pinching pennies for bills," notes Anderson. (CONT'D)



“But we have an environmentally conscious board of directors. Getting the home weatherized seemed like the perfect solution.”

Tom Calhoun knew of Serenity Grove and HAPCAP’s history of weatherizing shelters in the area, including My Sister’s Place and the John W. Clem Recovery House. Calhoun is the Housing Programs Manager for the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD), a non-profit, community-based organization comprised of seventeen Community Action Agencies in Appalachian Ohio. He knew Serenity Grove and HAPCAP would be a worthwhile connection.

“Serenity Grove is a good service that will aid the community,” he said. “Most of the folks there are from our community. When we first went out to their location, we conducted an energy audit and were able to zero in on the gaps in efficiency.”

According to the Department of Energy, which oversees the Home Weatherization Assistance Program, Home Energy Audits provide a thorough assessment of a home’s energy use. The audit can be used to find leaks where heat is escaping, if insulation is working properly, and if the ductwork, windows, and doors need sealed. Energy-efficient lights are also installed to help lower electricity costs.

Once the energy audit is completed, the weatherization work begins. Within the first year of weatherization, a homeowner can expect to see a savings of approximately 20-30% in energy costs.

Thanks to Serenity Grove’s environment and HAPCAP’s Weatherization services, those staying in the house can expect to feel comfortable throughout their treatment and transition. The women at Serenity Grove are supported in an environment that is now supported through energy efficiency.

“The more we interact with the community, the more we chat with the people like your Weatherization team, I think that goes a long way towards helping us all better understand one another. I know understand what HAPCAP does, and then I can share the important work that we do,” says Anderson.

Calhoun couldn’t agree more.

“We’re able to raise consciousness about energy efficiency and also learn about the impact Women 4 Recovery has in our community. It’s a great opportunity for us to collaborate about new ideas in the future.”

For more information about Women 4 Recovery and Serenity Grove, visit [www.women4recovery.org](http://www.women4recovery.org).

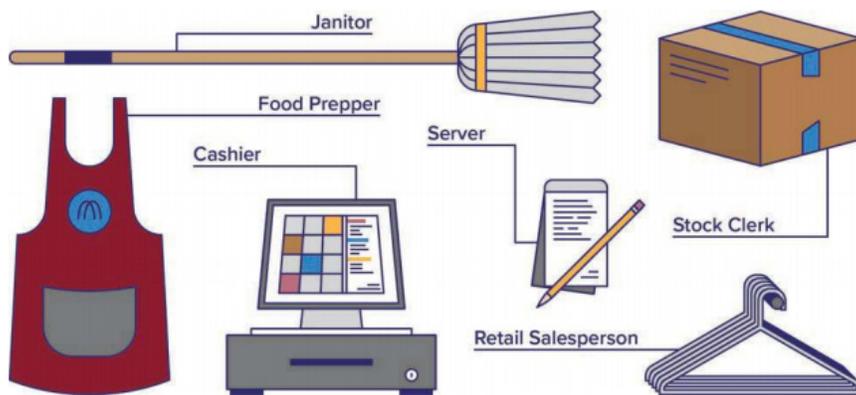
# HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This spring, we will be working closely with the Hocking & Perry county commissioners to target the villages of Laurelville, Crooksville, and Corning for Neighborhood Revitalization Grant program requests. These funds allow eligible communities to perform improvement projects such as parks & recreation, infrastructure, and sidewalk & street repairs. Funding levels are \$750,000 per award and grants are due mid-June!

We also attended an event at the Ohio Statehouse to meet with local legislators about weatherization and energy efficiency. We advocated for programs that may be jeopardized by House Bill 6 (HB6), which would financially support nuclear and other carbon free generation. The bill is still in discussion, but if it passes, we will have to wait and see what kind of impact it may have on utility-funded weatherization programs.



## MORE FROM THE STATEHOUSE...



***Six of the top ten most common occupations in Ohio have a median wage low enough that a family of three would qualify for food assistance even though they are working full-time***

The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies (OACAA) has released its 2019 State of Poverty Report. In this report are new findings about the cost of living for low-wage workers in Ohio, gaps in metropolitan transportation services, housing, and much more. You can view the report [here](#).



*A minimum wage worker would need to work  
57 hours per week to afford a one-bedroom residence,  
or 74 hours per week to afford a two-bedroom residence*

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Our regular Head Start Program for 3 – 5 years olds has ended another great year and planning for the fall. This means we need your help!!! As an agency employee please take the time to let people know we have openings for Head Start and are now taking applications. Word of mouth goes a long way in spreading the information. People can contact the main office or any of the Head Start Centers for more information. The application is also on our web site.

Early Head Start is continuing services through the summer and planning some fun activities for the families.

Our 4-week Summer Camp started June 10th and the children are looking forward to some great summer educational fun activities and field trips.



# COMMUNITY SERVICES



All CCMEP programs in each county have started their summer employment programs. In total, our counties are serving close to 120 participants this summer through these employment programs.

Athens CCMEP and Learn & Work programs have engaged in a variety workshops and activities.

- Recently, we have invited the OSU-Extension to lead SNAP-Ed workshops which focus on healthy eating in a practical way. We are appreciative towards Patrick Tegge for providing this experience to our participants.
- We were able to attend the Annual Athens County JFS Job Fair at the Athens Community Center. Our participants did a stellar job and have received numerous requests for interviews out of that experience.
- In order to expand our participants' knowledge of community resources, our programs attended the 1st Annual Athens Connect Resource Fair.
- In keeping with tradition, the CCMEP and Learn & Work programs planted the HAPCAP Community Garden. Items planted include potatoes, beans, onions, tomatoes, watermelon, and peppers. We're hoping for a large bounty this year to donate to our community members in need.
- Athens CCMEP and Learn & Work partnered with Hocking County CCMEP to provide valuable professional development workshops to participants. These workshops included topics related to resume and cover letter building, job retention strategies, as well as interviewing techniques. As a special mention, our participants were able to engage with local hiring managers in a Q&A session to get a better sense of what hiring managers are looking for.

As for Athens CCMEP in specific:

- In May, we took 3 participants to tour the Ohio Statehouse, as well as sit in on a Senate Legislative Session.

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- This served to be a valuable experience for our participants to become more interested in state and local government, as well as get a better sense of their representatives work at the state level. We plan on arranging another experience of our 27 summer participants in the coming weeks.
- As a result of the increase in civic engagement, we had 3 participants register to vote. Additionally, these participants have aspirations to create a bill to propose to their congressional member in the coming months.
- We had 1 participant earn their First Aid and CPR Certification.

For Learn & Work...

- Participants volunteered at JFS for both their annual Flower Planting Day, as well as their food distribution efforts.
- 2 L&W participants received permanent jobs within the last 3 months.
- 5 participants earned their First Aid and CPR Certifications.

- Lyddia Dippre

# SUMMER CRISIS PROGRAM

## 1 (844) 625-8777

### Scheduling begins JUNE 24.

### Appointments begin JULY 1.

We are still accepting appointments for our Water Bill Assistance Program! If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program, please have them call (740) 767-4500 and ask to speak to the Water Bill Assistance staff. We also will begin our Summer Crisis Program on July 1. Walk-ins are EXTREMELY limited, so please share the IVR number to let people know to schedule their appointments (beginning June 24).

# FOOD & NUTRITION

Net revenue for our 2019 Winter Ask brought in \$20,563.93. March for Meals 2019 raised over \$1,000 and 230 pounds of pet food this year.

Fare on the Square has been set for June 27th. This fundraising event, provided by the Rocky Community Improvement Fund, is expected to raise \$40,000 to fight hunger across Nelsonville and the surrounding communities. Tickets are available at rockybrands.com.

Our Rural Summer Meals and Summer Weekend Meals programs have begun! Our plan is to serve 600 site meals during the week and 1,600 weekend meals, with 1,000 of those being applied to our traditional Summer Feeding sites.

We also have promoted our Operations Specialist, Phil Melillo, to the new of Foodbank Coordinator. Phil will be responsible for oversight of all our foodbank programs including CSFP, OFP, ACP, TEFAP, and the Purchase Program. Phil has been an employee with HAPCAP for two years and we are excited to have him in this new position!

We served over 19,000 meals through our After School Meals program. So far this year we've sent out over 3500lbs of pet food. Our clients really appreciate the pet food. Pets can be a huge asset to seniors who are facing isolation.

We are starting to get our garden ready. Raina has been working to clear weeds and get the garden ready for plants. We are ready to harvest oregano. We've planted potatoes, and we are looking forward to seeing our crops grow and blossom. We are looking forward to planting more fruits and vegetables and using fresh locally grown food for our Summer Feeding Program, Meals on Wheels, and our Congregate Dining Sites.

*- Andrew Mayle*



# TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

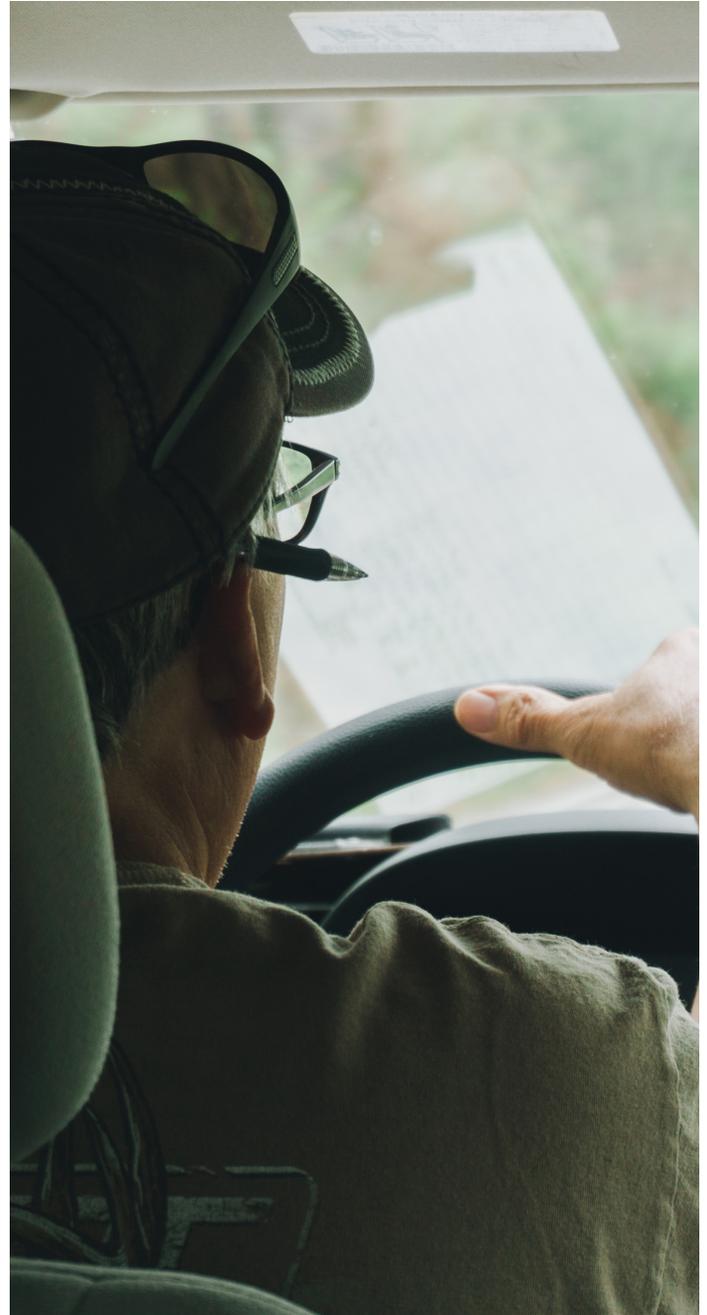
**Expansion Plans.** Starting August 1, Line 7 will run between Nelsonville, Athens, and Albany on an hourly schedule. With the help of several local and regional partners, we are pleased to announce we reached our fund raising goal of \$90,000! We will hold a ribbon cutting on July 31st – details to follow!

**Transportation Funding for Athens County.** In an effort to expand public transportation to all parts of Athens County, HAPCAP Transportation is exploring a possible countywide sales tax levy. The increased revenue would help leverage more federal dollars and enable Athens Public Transit and Athens On Demand Transit to permanently expanded to serve more residents of Athens County. The revenue could also support other transportation initiative in the area.

**GoBus Needs Assessment and Request for Proposals.** The long awaited GoBus Needs Assessment is wrapping up and the final draft should be released this summer. The report is not recommending any expansions for GoBus at this time. However, it is recommending working with existing rural transits to provide feeder service to GoBus in rural areas of the state.

**Ohio DD Council Funding.** Ohio DD Council staff has recommended and it was approved by their committee to continue to fund Athens On Demand Transit through 2021. Ohio DD Council has helped to fund AODT since it began in 2012. The funding was supposed to come to an end after this year, however, Ohio DD Council sees the value in the work we do and will continue to fund the project for two more years. We are extremely grateful for their continued support.

**Improved Technologies.** Athens Public Transit will soon have updated real-time GPS tracking and automated stop announcement system. The upgrade is part of a federal transportation grant, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER), aimed at improving the communications, scheduling and dispatching of more than 30 rural transit operators located in Ohio. We anticipate having the new system in place later this summer.



*-Carolyn Conley*



*From Left: Nate Simons, Zach Reizes, and Sean Brooks observe the demolition of the former Sam & Ellen's Wonderbar.*

## EMPLOYEE FEATURE: ZACH REIZES

A new face is walking the halls of the Glouster Office, but he's no stranger to Athens County.

Zach Reizes is a recent graduate of Ohio University and our new Community Development Specialist. He hails from the East Side of Cleveland, and earned his degree in Global Studies - War and Peace. He wanted to stay in the area, because "why not?" Zach wanted an opportunity to invest in Southeast Ohio, and through his connections with city and county officials through his work at Ohio University, learned of an opportunity with HAPCAP.

Zach works closely with the Athens County Land Bank. Nate Simons and Sean Brooks have been developing the processes for the program for the last year. The Community Development Staff works as a team dedicated to improving the quality of life for neighborhoods in HAPCAP's Service Area.

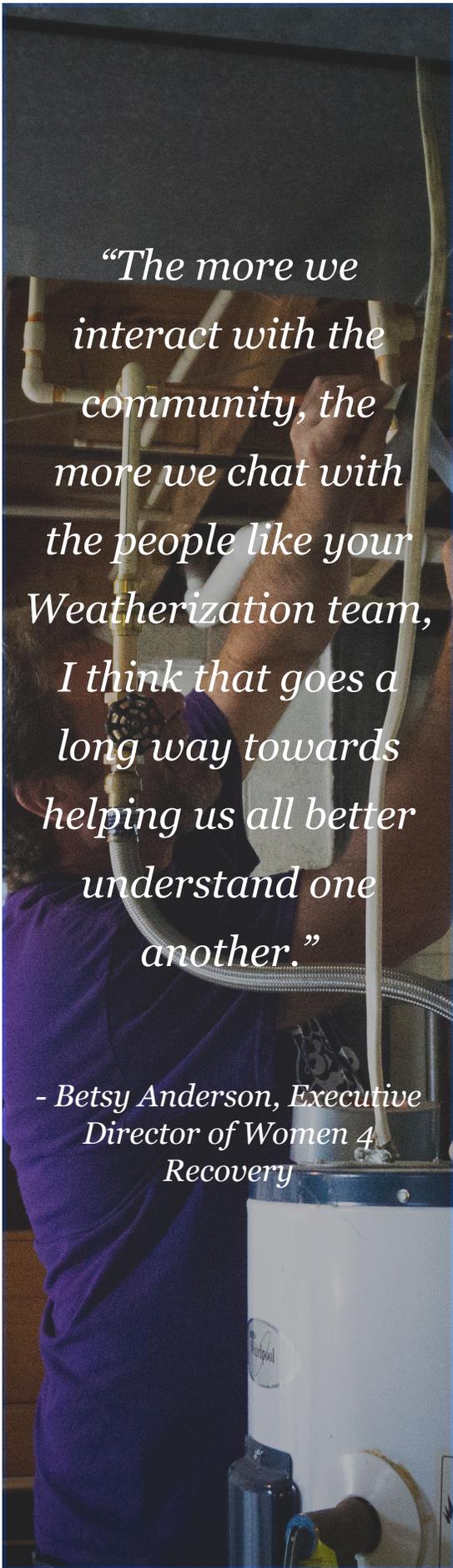
Recent Land Bank projects have include the demolition of a collapsed house as well as the demolition of Sam & Ellen's Wonderbar on High Street in Glouster. Zach's "Day in the Life" is currently administration work for the Land Bank and the Community Development Block Grant. His role communicates with neighborhoods, officials, the Land Bank, state services, and with any agency that wants to tear down a blighted home.

"I'm currently making things happen by connecting one person to another and moving the process along," says Zach.

When the Land Bank looks at tearing down a home, they first ask if it's a health and safety hazard. They also inspect the home to see if it is at risk for fire or collapse, and how it will affect surrounding properties. Though lots are often left in the places of torn down homes, Land Banks are a tool of community development. The development comes after the structures are torn down, once the property values and quality of life improves.

"Let's beautify our towns. These communities are awesome," says Zach.

If you have any questions about the Land Bank and what's coming up next, feel free to reach out to Zach, Nate, or Sean. More stories from the Land Bank will be featured in this summer's Annual Report.



*“The more we interact with the community, the more we chat with the people like your Weatherization team, I think that goes a long way towards helping us all better understand one another.”*

*- Betsy Anderson, Executive Director of Women 4 Recovery*



*Demolition of the former Sam & Ellen’s Wonderbar on High Street.*



*U.S. Representative Steve Stivers speaks with Chris Delamatre about HAPCAP’s Head Start Program. Click [here](#) for his editorial in the Logan Daily!*

## GET INVOLVED

For more information on giving or volunteering opportunities, visit our Web site at [www.hapcap.org](http://www.hapcap.org). We also encourage you to follow us on our social media accounts:



**Hocking Athens Perry Community Action**



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