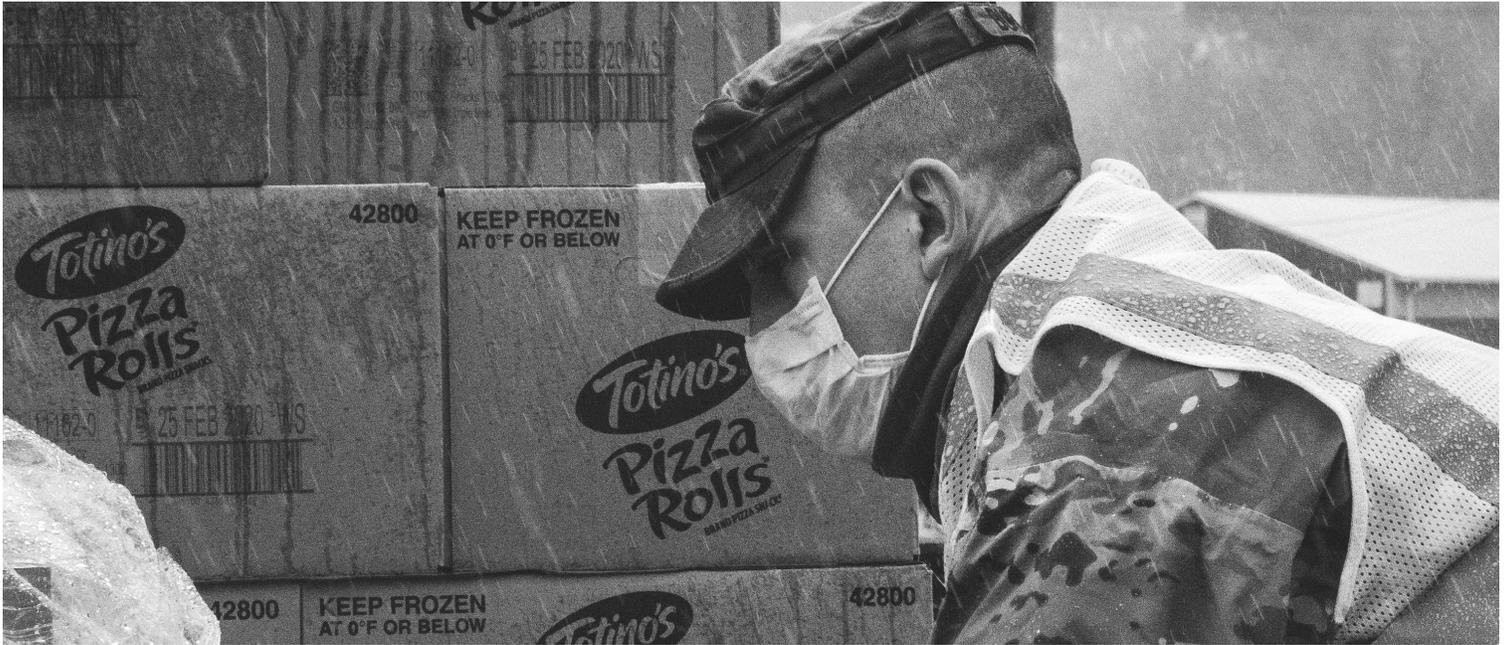


WHAT'S {HAP}PENING

FALL 2020



THE PANDEMIC

In December, the world began whispering about a mysterious virus appearing in China's Wuhan province. Like a game of telephone, the virus spread and manifested itself throughout the globe into a pandemic like no nation had ever experienced. Even the most isolated communities felt the shockwaves of COVID-19, and the towns and villages of Southeast Ohio were not immune.

According to the Center for Disease Control, COVID-19 stands for "Coronavirus Disease 2019."

Coronaviruses are named for the crown-like spikes on their microscopic appearance. Though the pandemic has gripped our world for almost nine months, still, little is known about the effects and the spread of this contagious disease.

In March, it was as if the needle was ripped off the record of our everyday soundtrack. Commutes were halted, students were sent home from in-person instruction, and businesses were shuttered. The economy completely changed shape, and we are now left holding our breath for science to form a safe solution.

In the meantime, "action" has never left HAPCAP's name. We have over 50 years of experience (CON'T'D)



New Lexington Head Start Staff assist the Southeast Ohio Foodbank at a food distribution

in bringing our communities their basic needs on a shoestring budget. We took our Head Start buses and filled them with food boxes from the Regional Food Center, then dropped them off to every family served by our centers. We called, emailed, and faxed every single water municipality and advocated for leniency in shutoffs. We kept our foot on the gas for every transportation program to keep people on the move, whether for essential employment or essential services.

We didn't just "spring into action." We didn't just "show up." We didn't just "answer the call." The phone, the alarm, and the doorbell have been ringing for over 50 years, and HAPCAP has answered the calls every time in Southeast Ohio. There was a crisis before the crisis, and no organization knows this better than Community Action.

What HAPCAP has done is make space for the thousands of additional residents who have needed and will need our help. It is not easy. It takes creativity, it takes sacrifice, it takes radical love, and it takes a fight. What has made Community Action so successful in Southeast Ohio is the conviction that lies within each and every one of our staff: no one should be too poor to live.

Thank you to all of you. The courageous leadership you all have shown within your communities is what helps keep this country together and moving forward.

For more information on Community Action and COVID-19, visit communityactionpartnership.org and click "Tools and Resources."

COMING UP

Stay tuned for our 2019 Annual Report, which is scheduled to publish in September!

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Our Neighborhood Initiative Program (NIP) just completed the demolition of five blighted structures (1 in Nelsonville and 4 in Glouster). We are also closing out the Neighborhood Revitalization Grants (NRG) for the City of Nelsonville, which includes security lighting and cameras at Polley Field Park, crosswalks, bike lanes, sidewalks, street paving, and fixing a collapsed man hole, and in Chauncey, which includes a new parking lot, driveway, and restroom facility at the park, sidewalks, and street paving.

We are ramping up for a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) demolition project in the Village of Trimble which is working to possibly remove six or more structures within the floodplain. We have also been hard at working on the Carbon Hill/Murray City/Nelsonville Sewer project while currently trying to help folks in the Village of Carbon Hill connect their residential sewer lines.

We have renewed our contract for the Electric Partnership Program (EPP) for AEP Ohio customers that are PIPP eligible to help reduce energy bills. We have also renewed our contract for the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) for Owners and Renters at or below 200% of the poverty guideline. This program has a goal of 72 units in our 3 county area.

We are still accepting applications for our Emergency Housing Assistance Program within the Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP). This is available in our three county area. Please let people know that this funding is available and to call the housing office if interested!

We have just submitted a new Athens County CHIP application for the 2020-2022 program year. This application is requesting \$1,050,000 for home repair, home rehabilitation, new construction in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, and down payment assistance in Athens County, City of Athens, and the City of Nelsonville. Our fingers are crossed as this is a highly competitive grant.

- *Jeremy Boggs*



HAPCAP Board Member and Athens County Commissioner Chris Chmiel works with a Trimble resident to clean up a blighted property.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Our 2020 COVID camp was a resounding success. Families, children and staff all reported a high degree of satisfaction with camp and its structure. We are using feedback from participants and staff to tweak our plans for fall.

The current uncertainty with the infection rate in Ohio means that our plans for fall remain tentative. Current licensing rules restrict us to 9 children in a room, (verses our 18 for full day or 17 for part day typical class size.) We currently hope to operate a 2 day per week program for 6hours each day at our centers in Athens, Nelsonville, Laurelville, Corning and New Lexington. Each child would receive 12 hours of face to face instruction each week compared to 30 hours per week pre COVID.

Because we currently have double session classrooms in Logan and our concerns about being able to adequately clean the classrooms between sessions, we will offer a day per week to each child for 6 hours. While not ideal, we believe this gives us the opportunity to provide at least some services in the center to all center based children. We continue to provide outdoor “porch” services for our home based model and have allowed some visits in the center when the temperature and availability of shade at a family’s home makes an outdoor visit impractical. We will continue this model for the next few weeks as we await guidance from the governor’s office and the department of health.

We are still enrolling students and hiring for positions throughout our division, so please share this information with families!

- *Chris Delamatre*



Food and supply boxes for families loaded on a Head Start Bus in April.

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Just a few of our many thousand books we received from the Molina Foundation!

HEAP: The Summer Crisis Program started on July 1st and will continue until September 30, 2020. We have processed over 500 applications and over 250 air conditioners. This is a one-time benefit to assist with the household's residential electric account. All HEAP programs are phone interviews only. We would like to welcome 3 new full time Community Services Workers: Barbara Dennis in the New Lexington office, Sara Mataszuk in the Glouster office, and Desiree Stinchcomb in the Logan office.

Community Resource Navigators: We have been very busy over the last couple months with water bill assistance. We are hoping to be able to continue our water bill assistance program through the end of the year. We received a grant of over 34,000 books from the Molina foundation and we are working on distributing those books throughout our programs and into the community. We also received a grant for over 2200 National Geographic magazines that we were able to distribute through head start, CCMEP, and MOW programs. Perry County?

Athens and Perry Flood Programs: This fall will be the end of the Athens and Perry Flood Programs, and the crew is hoping to finish all of the remaining projects. Township Trustees have sent letters of gratitude and appreciation for our clean-up efforts, as many of the Villages and Townships in Athens and Perry counties do not have the resources required to complete flood debris clean-up.

Since September 2019, the Flood Programs have removed over 240 tons of brush and 625 tons of firewood. Nearly all of the firewood was cut up and donated to local families in need of this resource. We are excited to announce that Justin Hutchinson has recently been promoted to Crew Leader for Athens Flood. He has been with the Flood program since March and has been a valuable asset to the program. Perry Flood has recently had four participants leave the program for full-time permanent positions outside of the agency. This is one of the main goals of the program, so we are pleased to see these individuals retain gainful employment. Both counties are currently hiring crew members to help finish out the grants.

Hocking Flood: Hocking Flood is continuing to work hard to repair damages from the February 2019 floods. In 2020, the program has worked in 5 townships across Hocking County and pulled out 47.67 tons of brush, 148.65 tons of firewood and 69 tires. Of the 8 participants served in 2020, 5 have left the program in the last few months, so they are actively hiring for the end of summer and fall. The crew is currently working in Benton Township where the community members are happy to see them as the area has a lot of places that need attention. The crew is a close-knit team and even work together to improve themselves after hours by meeting up at a local gym.

Perry CCMEP: Perry CCMEP is wrapping up the bulk of our 2020 Virtual Summer Youth Employment Program. Participants have been working on improving their leadership and financial skills, digging deep into Career Development, and completing various work including holiday and birthday cards for HAPCAP Meals on Wheels recipients. Some participants received their OSHA-10 cards and others increased their healthcare knowledge. This fall we plan to extend our virtual employment to offer more opportunities for our older youth who are not returning to secondary school. We will be distributing more Chromebooks to participants so those without access to a computer can participate in our Fall Cohort of Virtual Employment, use video conferencing for case management, attend virtual workshops, and apply for jobs!

This Spring, 19 Perry CCMEP seniors obtained their high school diplomas. During the months of June and July, 23 participants gained unsubsidized employment.

Athens Subsidized Employment Programs: Athens SEP just wrapped up with an in-person summer employment program. We partnered with a total of seven incredibly accommodating worksites and employed a total of 26 participants in CCMEP, TANF SEP, and WIOA out of school youth programs. We are thankful to all of the worksites that were willing to host our participants and ensure their safety in such an unprecedented time. Without our worksites, we would not be able to run such a vibrant program! A big thank you to: L'Heureux Properties, City of Nelsonville, New-To-You Thrift Shoppe, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, The Dairy Barn Arts Center, Village of Trimble, Murphy's Farm.

We had several successes over the course of summer. 9 participants gained employment at a variety of places across the county, including the Bassett House, Lindley Inn, and Frog Ranch. Additionally, one participant successfully completed a construction class and a forklift operating class. As we move forward, we are transitioning back into year-round programming. We are looking forward to serving more participants, as well as continuing to provide meaningful services and learning opportunities, such as workshops and field trips.

Hocking CCMEP/WIOA Youth: Hocking CCMEP/WIOA Youth has served 63 youth in 2020. In 2020, four participants received their HS Diploma, 4 completed STNA coursework and are schedule to take their tests, and 7 participants are working towards a post-secondary degree. We have placed 6 participants in subsidized employment and assisted many others with resume, interviewing, and job searching. Of the 63 served, 39 have worked in 2020, with 16 of the 39 gaining employment this year. We are preparing to provide more virtual services during the fall in response to COVID-related restrictions and are actively recruiting new participants.

- Lydia Dippre, Tyler Dennis, Scott Fisher, Kay Johnson, Robin Hampton, Amanda Sawvel, Angel Schrader, Jace Jackson, Kathleen Vandervaart

FOOD & NUTRITION

**SEPTEMBER IS
HUNGER ACTION MONTH**



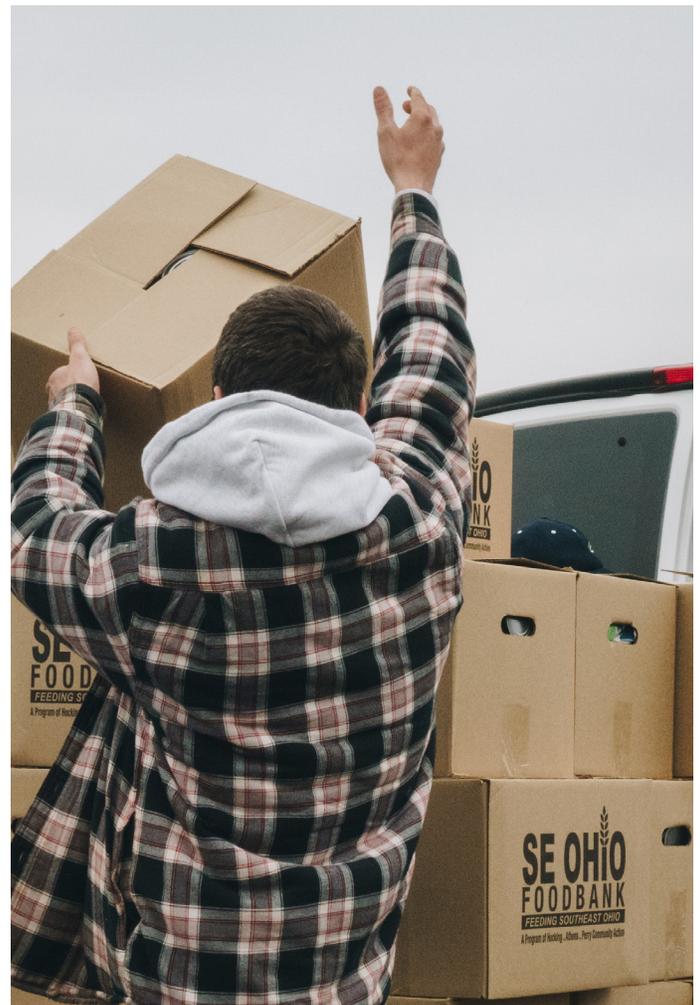
We are implementing a Meals On Wheels program with the help of Feeding America and Ohio Health Foundation funding to remove around 100 clients from the MOW waitlist and provide them meals for the next 9 months. We're currently hiring for two temporary MOW drivers, so please help us spread the word!

The National Guard has been officially confirmed to stay with us through December 17th and we will continue to utilize them for distributions and box packing in lieu of volunteers.

We are expecting to bring in 10-12 National Civilian Conservation Corps members in October to work through December. They will help supplement the workload of the National Guard.

We are still providing plenty of food to agencies via our Bezos grant. A bunch of product is online for agencies to order now that we switched from our pre-packed box model back to the choice model for our pantries.

Lastly, our kitchen recently went "green" with the purchase of reusable hair nets for staff!



- Andrew Mayle

TRANSPORTATION UPDATES

Athens-Hocking County Mobility Management: The AHMM program will continue to provide PPE to providers, organizations, and community members with additional funding received from the CARES Act. So far AHMM has been able to provide 120 large hand sanitizers, 20 canisters of sanitizing wipes, 60 reusable gowns, 250 travel hand sanitizers, 300 reusable tote bags for PPE distribution, 100 face shields, and 5250 disposable face masks.

Logan Public Transit: Logan Public Transit continues to service Hocking County in the safest way possible. Utilizing CARES Act funding LPT has been able to purchase PPE and sanitizing supplies to ensure that drivers and community members are able to travel throughout the county safely, including the installation of protective barriers in LPT vehicles. Earlier this year LPT expanded their service area to include the entirety of Hocking County allowing them to service the community as a whole and reach community members living in more rural areas of the county by offering affordable and reliable transportation.

Athens on Demand Transit: Athens on Demand Transit continues to provide door to door service to the general public in Athens County. Partnering with The Athens Village and United Seniors of Athens County AODT will continue to provide food delivery to community members throughout the pandemic. AODT will also continue to provide deviation services for APT for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Athens Public Transit: After cutting service and limiting passengers in March to prevent the spread of COVID-19 the APT team is back to running all routes in full service and fare free for all. In 2021 an electric vehicle will be added to the fleet thanks to a Department of Energy grant awarded to Rural Action which will be a great window to viewing how electric transportation can work in rural areas of the state and country. APT is awaiting news of an FTA HOPE planning grant that will study regional Medicaid transportation, a larger electric fleet, and advanced ticketing systems.

GoBus: GoBus remains focused on maintaining the safest service they can. Partnering with Knox Area Transit, GoBus is working towards having smaller GoBus-branded vehicles operating on Route D, which services much of the North Central part of the state. These vehicles will be able to provide a wider reach into the rural areas of the counties in the area and will service as a great data collector for potential other areas of the state.

- *Jessie Schmitzer*





EMPLOYEE FEATURE: LINDSEY HACKWORTH

COVID-19 flipped the entire world on its head, and even through the chaos, the Southeast Ohio Foodbank has not stopped working. Thankfully, Lindsey Hackworth, the Foodbank's Community Relations Specialist, is fluent in keeping her cool.

Lindsey came to HAPCAP as a Caseworker from Integrated Services. She is passionate about improving the health and wellbeing of people who are struggling and underserved. She is an Athens native, but lived in New Orleans throughout her twenties.

Her time in New Orleans was a leap of faith. She and her sister chose the city at random, and moved down there with nothing but a few hundred dollars in her pocket. Eventually, she landed a job as a bartender on world-famous Bourbon Street.

"It was definitely a time of growth for me," says Lindsey. I began to realize that I was doing the opposite of what I wanted. Ultimately, I wanted to help people be happier and healthier."

She moved back to Athens and started her degree in Community Health, and then moved to Health Communications with a certificate in Gerontology. She has a passion for working with older people, which was a huge draw for her as she was applying for the position.

Lindsey is constantly calm and even-keeled. She has a strong degree of initiative which makes her a valuable leader at the Foodbank and in our community. On an average day, you'll find her running the Foodbank's social media, communicating with volunteers, and planning and running our mobile distributions. However, nothing is average in the era of COVID, but luckily we have people like Lindsey who step up to a challenge.

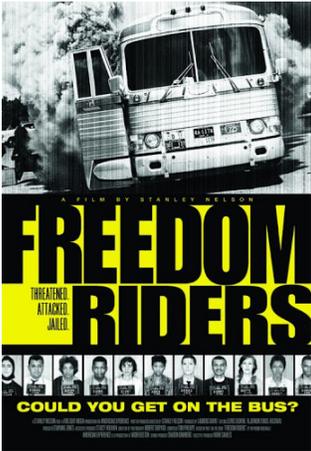
"My favorite part of my job is how much collaborating I get to do with different people in different areas. Ultimately, I do what I do to help people. But it's great to discuss ways to make our work even better."

If you are interested in volunteering with the Foodbank, Lindsey would love to hear from you! Send her an email at volunteer@hapcap.org.

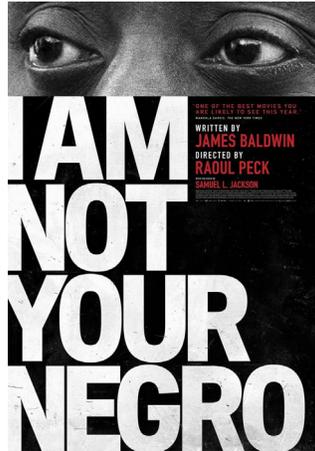
RACIAL JUSTICE: LET'S WATCH AND LEARN

Most if not all of these titles are available at our local public libraries!

FILMS



FREEDOM RIDERS

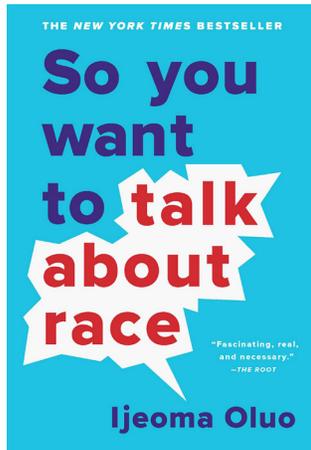


I AM NOT YOUR NEGRO

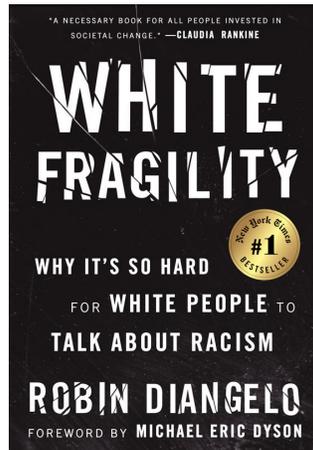


SELMA

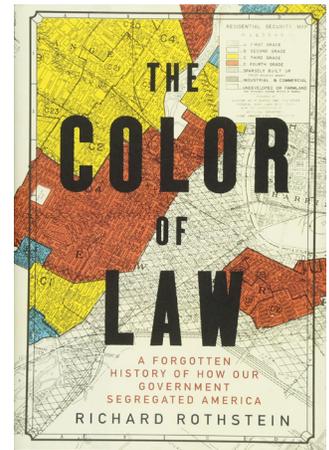
BOOKS



SO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT RACE by IJEOMA OLUO



WHITE FRAGILITY by ROBIN DIANGELO



THE COLOR OF LAW by RICHARD ROTHSTEIN

LOOKING AHEAD

SEPT Hunger Action Month

SEPT 30 Last day to respond to 2020 Census

OCT Head Start Awareness Month

OCT 5 Voter registration deadline

GET INVOLVED

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



Hocking Athens Perry Community Action



@HAPCAP



@hapcap.seo