

Connections



Ohio Heartland Community Action Commission (OHCAC)
March 2015

From the Desk of Our Executive Director
Andrew J. Devany

Agency Directors

Joe Devany
Executive Director
740-387-1039 ext. 150

Karen Wise
Deputy Director
740-387-1039 ext. 103

Jim Lavelle
Chief Fiscal Officer
740-387-1039 ext. 104

Alexandra Linder
Fatherhood Director
740-387-1039 ext. 118

David Wirick
IT Manager
740-387-1039 ext. 133

Debbie Schuster
Head Start Director
740-387-1039 ext. 128

Robert Foreman
HEAP Director
740-387-1039 ext. 101

Tracey Rector
Marian Clark Director
740-383-2154 ext. 706
Morrow County Director
419-946-2009 ext. 706

I would like to take this opportunity once again to express my appreciation for the Board and staff's recognition of me through the commissioning of a portrait in my honor. It is something that I never really expected, but greatly appreciate.

I would also like to express my appreciation, this year particularly, for the beginning of spring. It has been a long hard winter for all of us. Through it all OHCAC staff did a great job in keeping up with our responsibilities in all four counties. Whether it was weatherizing a home in sub-zero temperatures, delivering meals in conditions where it was neither safe to drive or walk, watching over Head Start children when the playgrounds remained blanketed with snow for weeks (forcing us to resort to our inside play areas), working late to insure that HEAP applications were taken, providing prescriptions, clothing and/or food, or assisting with income tax preparations, you all performed professionally and continually served those in need.

With the coming of spring, we can take stock in what improvements we can make in our facilities this summer as well as considering what we can do to strengthen our already successful programs. We are already beginning registrations for children and families for Head Start next September. We are getting calls regarding our Summer Cooling Program and it is only March – the program generally begins the first of July. We are hurrying to complete our multiple weatherization program goals. We have 5 unique weatherization/energy programs. We try to operate these individual programs in a manner where they complement one another and give the customer the ultimate in benefits and savings. This is a constant challenge for both staff and management and we are fortunate that both the planners and practitioners have the clients' and agency's best interest in mind.

So with spring we utter a sigh of relief along with a look of determination. Our determination is to complete our various program years according to the established program goals and client needs. Good job, and keep up the good work!

Thank you.



Tim Donnellen,
Executive Director
of the Dayton CAA
and former
National Partnership
Board President



Rev. Samuel Buehler,
former Board President



Phil Cole, Executive
Director of OACAA



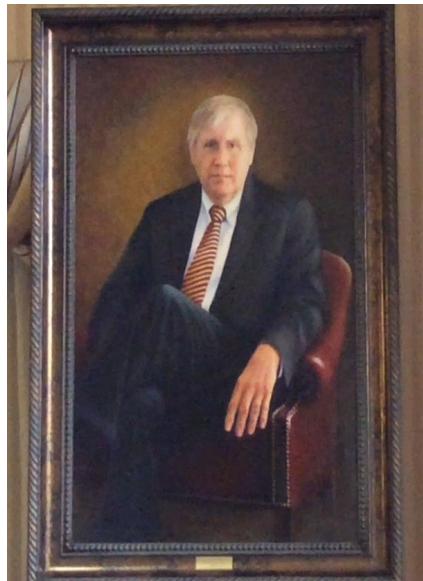
Jim's impression of
Joe always SAYING
NOOOO!.



Fawn Mollenkopf,
Board President



Krissy speaks on behalf
of the family.



It is very hard to be the
center of attention.



Thank You



Jack tests the delicious family recipe brownies



Board member Sue Yazel and Joe visiting



Mrs. Devany visits with the guest speakers



Joe greets some of the guests



Board member and incoming Board President Rev. Richard Genzman



Mayor Scott Schertzer Stopped by to show his support of Joe.



Friends and family came out to support Joe.



Inside this issue:

Agency Directors	Page 1	Tornado Safety	Page 6
Executive Director's Desk	Page 1	Morrow County	Page 7
Photo Page	Page 2	Emergency HEAP	Page 7
Photo Page	Page 3	Marian Clark Center	Page 8
Head Start	Page 4	Egner Center	Page 8
HWAP	Page 5	Quarterly Birthdays	Page 9
Fatherhood Program	Page 5	Services OHCAC Offers	Page 9
Safety Committee	Page 5	Board Member	Page 10

Head Start

We are currently at full enrollment in all of our Head Start centers. We have a waiting list of 19 children in Crawford County, 33 children in Richland County, 16 children in Morrow County and 31 children in Marion County.

During the Advisory meetings, we discuss issues and challenges that we have in specific areas and ask for suggestions. We network with the community representatives, parents and staff to meet the challenges and come up with better solutions to area issues.

All parents and guardians have received a family survey that we will use to determine whether changes need to be made in our program options for our next grant year that begins on July 1, 2015. All OHCAC Head Start staff and our community partners have also received a survey that we will compile to be part of our community assessment.

The Weather continues to result in the cancellation of classes. We are required to have centers open for 128 days. We will be sending home a schedule of make-up days that will be on Fridays. We will have transportation for the make-up days, whenever possible. We are waiting on confirmation of when those make-up days can take place because we have to arrange food service in some centers. Our average daily attendance is currently 79% and we are at full enrollment. When we are open with no transportation, it decreases our average daily attendance because our attendance is very low at centers when our busses are not running.

Debbie Schuster
OHCAC Head Start Director



Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)

We will enter the last quarter of the HWAP year in April and are on track to meet the yearly goal. We are fortunate that staff are flexible, cross-trained and can work on different programs as needed. All audits for AEP were completed and we have until the end of June to complete approximately 70 EPP units.

As a reminder: Please do not refer customers to the HWAP program for home remodeling. Customers are disappointed when HWAP staff explain that HWAP cannot replace roofs, rewire houses, repair floors and walls, etc. The purpose of HWAP is to lower fuel costs by insulation, caulking and stopping air infiltration.

Karen Wise, Deputy Director / Energy Coordinator

Safety Committee Members

Bev Kuenzli - Secretary/Assist Office Mgr. ext. 110

Bob Foreman - HEAP Director ext. 101

Cheryl Vance-Veely - HWAP ext. 300

Diane Howard - Head Start Family Engagement Director ext. 126

Paula Langenderfer - Head Start Child Health and Education Director ext. 120

Tammy Crabtree—Office Manager Crawford County Ext. 215

Tracey Rector - Marion and Morrow County Center Director ext. 706

SEE PAGE 5 FOR TORNADO SAFETY TIPS

Keep up the Good Work! Work Smart, Work Safe!

Report any safety concerns to any of the above mentioned Safety committee members

Fatherhood Program Crawford, Marion, Richland & Morrow Counties

We are doing very well! For those who may be new:

Fatherhood is a federally granted program. We operate from Oct 1 - Sept 31. We are in our fourth year. We work with fathers who have children under the age of 18 that they are emotionally and/or financially responsible for the children.

We serve Marion, Morrow, Crawford and Richland counties.

If you have any questions, please email or call me.

Alexandral@ohcac.org

740-387-1039 x 118

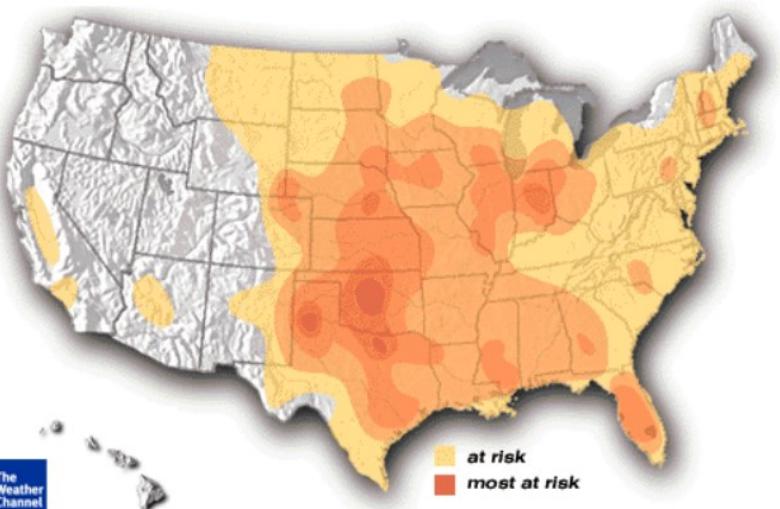
Tornado Season Safety

The months with the greatest number of tornadoes overall are April, May, and June, but tornadoes can and do occur during any month of the year. Tornado seasons vary in different parts of the United States.

Generally, tornado frequency is high in the Midwest and Ohio Valley from early spring through summer. While forecasters can determine areas where instability and wind shear might contribute to favorable tornadic conditions, Doppler radar is one of the best indicators of impending tornado formation. When severe weather approaches take precautions and heed early warning system announcements.

TORNADO INCIDENCE MAP

Areas which are most at risk



Your Best Options for Tornado Safety Are (In This Order)



1. In an underground storm shelter, storm cellar, basement or engineered safe room designed to withstand a tornado
2. On the lowest floor of a sturdy building:
 - Stay away from doors, windows and outside walls.
 - Put as many walls between you and the tornado as you can.
 - Use pillows, couch cushions, sleeping bags, a mattress or blankets to cover up.
 - If you or your children have helmets, wear them!
 - If you have an infant, put them in their car seat or carrier.

Other important sheltering reminders:

- Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, and real shoes (not flip flops or sandals!)
- Charge your cell phone and take it with you to shelter
- Make sure you know what you'll do with your pets. Find leashes and carriers now

You can survive almost every tornado if you follow these guidelines!



NWS Norman, OK

Morrow County

The Morrow County Personal Needs Pantry has had many donations from OHCAC employees and we would like to thank each and every one of you. Your donations make a difference in each client who visits the pantry.

The United Way of Morrow County had many anonymous donations for the pantry. Jodi Hayes, the executive director of The United Way of Morrow County brought donations over to the pantry from local residences that include toilet paper, trash bags, and laundry detergent.

Dr. Stojkvoic, a local dentist, challenged other dentists in the community including, Cardinal Family Dental and Morrow County Dental. The dentists challenged each other to see what business could donate the most toothbrushes and toothpaste. All the donations went to The Personal Needs Pantry.

Along with local residents donating items, Domtar Personal Care donates diapers and pull-ups to the pantry and Pizza Hut donates pizza each week to give out on personal needs day. Buckeye Health Plan also donated Kleenex, chap stick and sanitizer to the pantry.

The boxes for Shoes for H.O.P.E. will be at the Galion, Morrow, Richland and Administrative office, along with the Marion Clark building. If you have an excessive amount of shoes, or the box gets full, I will come and pick them up. Contact me by email, ashleyg@ohcac.org, or ext. 401. The boxes have not been out for very long and we already have people donating many shoes!

Ashley Glass
Office Manager

Emergency HEAP

The **2015 Winter Crisis Program** (2015WCP) is finishing up. The 2015WCP started on November 1st and will end March 31st. Staff have until April 15th to finish any pending/incomplete applications that were started from November 1st - March 31st. No new 2015WCP applications can be started after March 31st. If a client still needs to finish up their pending/incomplete application please call the automated appointment hot line at 1.866.861.6421.

At the time of this printing the 2015WCP has helped 2,850 households with utility assistance.

We had begun this 2015 year with two fuel funds. Starting on January 1st, we had Columbia Gas Fuel Funds (CFF) and OHCAC assisted 128 households until those funds were depleted the end of January. On March 1st we had the First Energy Fuel Funds (FFF) and this will continue until these funds are depleted as well. To date, we have assisted 78 households with this fuel fund and expended \$13,491.

Thank you to all Intake/Outreach workers, Office Managers, Center Directors, etc., for all their hard work this very cold winter season --- you all do an excellent job assisting all our families!

Concerning the 2015 Summer Crisis Program (SCP2015) --- at this time we have no information or the guidelines to report. However, typically in years past, the SCP is designed for a one-time payment on an electric bill. The Eligibility requirements are: A member of a household who would benefit from assistance as verified by a licensed physician or registered nurse practitioner, or seniors age 60 (sixty) and over who meet the 2015 Federal Poverty Guidelines. Air Conditioners or fans may or may not be available and are on a first come, first serve basis! *Please call your local county Community Action for more details on the Summer Crisis Program around mid-May.*

Please continue to utilize our website for more detailed information and to download important documents at:
www.ohcac.org.

Bob Foreman, HEAP Director, Family Development Specialist

Marian Clark Community Action Center



Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) is well underway and even wrapping up as you read this. Roughly 300 returns were completed with \$519,381 brought back to our community at no out of pocket costs to the tax payers. We still have a little bit of time to crunch numbers if you still need to file your taxes. Please call Tracey at ext.706 or Heather at ext. 701. I would like to thank Wendy Perkins, Susan Rush, Heather Thompson, and Ashley Glass for making another successful year. If you would like to volunteer for this awesome program just let us know.

As the Winter Crisis Program wraps up we will be saying good bye to Amy Huckaba and Kim Ball for a few short months while they enjoy their spring lay off. Rest well ladies, the Summer Crisis Program will be here before you know it.

We will soon be preparing for the Summer Reading Program we hold in partnership with the Marion City Schools. This program runs for 4 weeks and is for children in grades K-3. Reading 20 minutes a day to a child can improve their academic performance, improves listening skills, and builds early literacy skills.

Tracey Rector, Center Director

Egner Center in Crawford County

We are remaining busy here at the Crawford Office. Winter Crisis is still going strong due to the City of Galion payment plans. Our Clothing Outlet is busy with shoppers and community donations. Our Food Pantry averages eight people a day.

Our Back Pack program serves 100 children each week. We have recently been informed by the Galion City Schools that they have received a grant from Wal-Mart for \$2,000 for our Back Pack Program. They will be purchasing food cards for us to buy food for the program.

Starting April 1st our Food Pantry will be for emergency only. Galion residents that are income eligible will be assisted up to five times per calendar year. Clients must be at or below the 125% poverty ratio.

Attention Kroger shoppers! Please go to <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> and sign up. Make sure to designate Ohio Heartland Community Action as the recipient. Then all you have to do is shop at your Kroger store and swipe your Plus Card. We receive a quarterly check from Kroger's and use the funds to purchase food for our food pantry.

Thank you to everyone that has sent plastic shopping bags our way. Keep them coming!

Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world. ~Virgil A. Kraft

Tammy Crabtree
Office Manager Crawford County



OHCAC April, May and June Staff Birthdays

April

Kayla Crowl
 Jessica Elswick
 Fred Williams
 Katie Kozma
 Robert Foreman
 David Wirick
 Jamie Postell
 Karrie Starr
 Ashley Jansen
 Scott Payne
 Nikkie Hamm
 Lindsay Harvey
 Devin Oyster
 Shelly Mabrey
 Karen Snyder
 Hattie Harris
 Lori Bostic
 Cerrie Hagerman
 Karmann Rose
 Hannah Adamson

2nd
 2nd
 5th
 6th
 7th
 8th
 9th
 11th
 15th
 15th
 16th
 17th
 20th
 20th
 22nd
 22nd
 23rd
 23rd
 24th
 27th

Cindy Sheffer
 Ashley Glass
 Joyce Branam
 Richard Weir
 Kaylee Russell
 Sheila Nickum
 Ryan Kessell
 Sherry Mabe
 Kaitrina Foltz
 Jennifer Deas
 Tammy Crabtree
 Paula Langenderfer
 Kimberly Ball
 Shannon Dunlap
 Jamie Hess
 Wendy Sanford
 Melissa Hines
 Amy Riley
 Heather Myers
 Samantha Hefner

May

1st
 1st
 2nd
 4th
 4th
 6th
 6th
 7th
 9th
 10th
 12th
 14th
 20th
 20th
 20th
 20th
 23rd
 23rd
 24th
 26th
 31st

Heidi Perry
 Natalie Basilone
 Jessica Apthorp
 Teddy Sherman
 Wilbert Bradley
 Dreama Enderle
 Ciarra Zeger
 Sharon Thomas
 Beverly Kuenzli
 Courtney Auxier
 Jamie Baumberger
 Alyssa Koehler
 Amy Persinger
 Aimee Blankenship
 Lindsey Johnston
 Kathleen Edler

June

1st
 7th
 10th
 11th
 13th
 14th
 15th
 17th
 19th
 21st
 21st
 21st
 21st
 26th
 28th
 28th
 30th



Services OHCAC Offers

- Head Start
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Clothing Outlet in Crawford County
 (also available to Marion and Morrow residents)
- Food Pantries (Galion)
- Mortgage Assistance Program
- Community Service Block Grant (CSBG)
- Emergency Food and Shelter Program (ESFP)
- Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP)
- WARM CHOICE Program
- Community Connections Program
- Electric Partnership Program (EPP)
- Senior Nutrition Program Meals (Marion)
- United Community Rx Program (Marion)
- Fatherhood Program (all 4 counties)
- Personal Needs Pantry (Morrow and Marion)

Introducing the Ohio Heartland Community Action Board Members.

These 24 community members give of their time and individual skill sets to be a part of the board. The meetings are held monthly alternating between counties. OHCA wishes to thank each and every one of them for their time commitments and hard work as a board member.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>County Represented</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>County Represented</u>
Sue Yazel	Marion	Sue Headley	Crawford
Ken Stiverson	Marion	Jenny Vermillion	Crawford
Staci Thomas	Marion	Mo Ressallat	Crawford
Helen Bergman	Marion	Darlene Clevenger	Crawford
Carman Cain	Marion	Rick Maddox	Crawford
Nina Bristel	Marion	Jacquelyn Hoker	Crawford
Carrie Guyton	Marion	Sandra Abouhassan	Crawford
Bonnie Metzler	Marion	Richard Genzman	Board President -Crawford
<u>Board Member</u>	<u>County Represented</u>	<u>Board Member</u>	<u>County Represented</u>
Charles Simpson	Morrow	Vacant	Morrow
Christian Vasquez	Morrow	Theresa Alt	Richland
James Goldbach	Morrow	Kim Meadows	Richland
Vacant	Morrow	Vacant	Richland

