



## Agency Happenings

### Lorain County Community Action Agency Dishing Out Donations

The Lorain County Community Action Agency (LCCAA) is using a portion of its Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) dollars to offer \$33,600 in grants to local food pantries to help them meet the community's needs throughout the busy holiday season, especially with the emergence of automatic cuts to food stamps.

This time of year can be challenging for low-income families, with rising heating costs and the expense of the holidays. In addition, this November, the additional funds that were given to food stamp recipients as part of the stimulus during the recession will be automatically cut. That means families will have \$36 less per month to spend on food this holiday season.

“We know the food pantries will see a spike in demand and we’re just trying to partner with them to help get them through the first couple of months,” explained Jackie Boehnlein, president and CEO of LCCAA. “Food stamp cuts will only compound what already equates to a difficult season for those in need and those who serve them. This really presents a double whammy for food pantries. The reductions are coming and I think it is an especially bad time for food pantries to have to serve more people in November when they already have such a high demand due to holidays.”

LCCAA received 24 applications from local food pantries for the grants! The funds will be distributed to selected recipients on a reimbursement basis between November 1 and December 31.

“The feedback we’ve gotten so far is there is a definite need for these grants,” concluded Boehnlein.

