

# OACAA *briefing*

News from Ohio's Poverty Fighting Network • October-November 2010

## Night without home opens community's eyes

"Can you imagine having cancer while living in your car? If it wasn't for these programs, that's what I'd be doing."

Tina's powerful words were among the stories told at "A Night Without a Home" hosted by The PATH Center of Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission on the campus of Defiance College. Tina and others who have lived at the PATH Center related their homelessness experience to the approximately 250 people gathered.

"Their message comes across so powerfully," said Angie Franklin, NOCAC's Community Service Director. "It helps people understand that people are people and bad things happen to good people."

"A Night Without a Home" provides an opportunity to discuss, think and learn about homelessness. The event is held every two years, Franklin said. This year, 98 tents were set up at the college to represent the 98 households (114 individuals) served by the PATH Center in 2009. Each tent

*Continued on page 2*



Participants set up tent city on the campus of Defiance College in preparation for Northwest Ohio Community Action Commissions' fourth "Night Without A Home." The 98 tents represent the 98 families The PATH Center served in 2009.

## Congresswoman Sutton joins weatherization demo

In celebration of National Energy Awareness Month and Weatherization Day, Congresswoman Betty Sutton joined Lorain County Community Action Agency

(LCCAA) for a demonstration of weatherization techniques at the Lorain home of Rosa Kimbrough.

"Improving energy efficiency is one of the easiest,

most cost-effective ways for homeowners to reduce energy waste," Sutton said, "because every \$1 invested in the Weatherization Assistance Program returns \$2.51 to the household and society."

Rep. Sutton sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee and supported the stimulus program which boosted weatherization. Ohio weatherization programs received \$267 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

"Ohio has been ahead of the rest of the nation in meeting our weatherization goals under ARRA," said Philip E. Cole, executive director of the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies, which co-

sponsored the event with LCCAA.

"Today, more than 18,500 Ohio families live in safer and more comfortable homes thanks to the Home Weatherization Assistance Program. And, more than 1,300 Ohioans have well-paying jobs that did not exist before the stimulus," Cole added.

LCCAA received \$3.7 million, said President and CEO William T. Locke, and has hired 11 new crew members since the program expanded April 1, 2009.

"Here in Lorain County, weatherization is saving people money," Locke said. "Weatherization lowers energy bills by as much as \$437 a year.

*Continued on page 3*



Rep. Betty Sutton with Rosa Kimbrough and her family.

Visit the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies online at [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org).

# Success Story: NOCAC made HPRP work for Megan

It took a lot of courage for Megan to leave her physically, mentally and verbally abusive boyfriend, but she packed up her two children one day and moved to safety staying with a family member. Her homeless journey had just begun.

That move, however, was only temporary. Their new lodgings were crowded, so she made the call to the Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission's PATH Center in Defiance.

With two children in tow, Megan had to wait for one of the four shelter rooms to be completely vacated before she could move in. Her wait wasn't very long. Ten days after she called for shelter, she and her children moved into The PATH Center to begin their fresh start.

## Her Shelter Experience

Megan adjusted quickly to living at The PATH Center. She and her children made their small shelter room into a nice, temporary home.

Coming into shelter with no job or income, Megan was determined to work as hard as possible to find employment and a new home for her family. While in shelter, Megan's family support system was also very strong, allowing her the opportunity to accomplish all of her daily goals while

living at The PATH Center. Oftentimes, family members would care for Megan's children while she went out to complete her five job searches every day.

To make her search even more complicated, Megan's car broke down just after she moved into The PATH Center, which meant she had to either get rides from friends and family, or use her foot power to look for jobs every day.

When she wasn't out looking for work, she was lending a helping hand at The PATH Center, completing community service hours to earn food assistance and cash assistance through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. She could almost always be found organizing the game and book cabinet, doing PATH laundry, sweeping and mopping up the Soup Kitchen or washing tables and windows.

She was also very attentive to her children's needs and made them very comfortable while they were at The PATH Center.

## How HPRP Helped

While in shelter, Megan met with Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) Specialist Ashlee Yeutter, who works with shelter clients and community members from The PATH Center to find and/or maintain stable

housing.

While searching for her next home, Megan found a two-bedroom apartment for her family, which she was able to move into with the assistance of HPRP. Her downpayment and first month's rent were paid by HPRP, allowing her to move out of the shelter after just five weeks.

Moving from home to home, Megan had very little to furnish her new apartment, so Ashlee helped her fill out an application to the local furniture bank. Within days, Megan had beds, a sofa, dishes, pots and pans, tables and chairs to completely outfit her new home.

Ashlee also met with Megan every other week to help with budgeting and job searching.

Megan's hard work paid off and shortly after moving into her new home, she got a full-time job. With permanent employment and Ashlee's budgeting assistance, Megan only needed HPRP to pay for half of her second month's rent. She was even able to save up enough money to purchase a used car before going off case management.

Megan is still employed and is successfully providing for her family without additional assistance from NOCAC.

## Night without ...

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was labeled with the story of one of those households. Additionally, former clients of the PATH Center occupied some of the tents during a "tent city" tour to share their stories with small groups who came to learn.

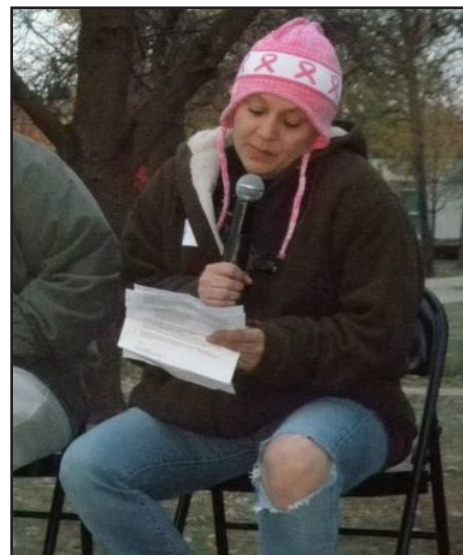
"We are very proud that we could once again offer this unique advocacy event to our rural community," Franklin said. "We are especially grateful to the speakers who bravely shared their personal experiences so that participants could increase their understanding that homelessness is an issue, even in rural areas of Northwest Ohio."

Franklin said homelessness in rural communities like Defiance looks different than the stereotypes most people are familiar with.

"People will forget about it," she said. "You rarely see anybody who is recognizable as homeless in our community – unless you know what you're looking for."

She said rural homeless tend to live in vehicles and spend time in public places that are open late.

"They're hanging out at Wal-Mart all night because there are water and bathroom



**Tina, a client of The PATH Center, tells her story of homelessness to 250 people gathered at "Night Without A Home."**

facilities, not because they like to shop," she said.

The causes of homelessness in rural communities, however, are similar to those in urban settings: joblessness, jobs that don't pay enough, mental health issues and substance abuse.

Eighty-eight people registered to spend the night in "tent city," including Franklin and her four-year-old twin daughters. This year, outreach focused on youth groups from area churches as well as scout troops in the hope of creating lifelong supporters.

The collaboration with Defiance College is also invaluable, she said.

The best part of the event, however, was seeing youths, college students, college faculty and homeless and formerly homeless people all work side by side setting up tents and organizing donations.

"We were all in it together," Franklin said. "It was pretty amazing."

In addition to serving 98 households last year, the PATH Center's soup kitchen served 11,756 meals. Transportation miles to bring people to the center for meals, socialization and donations totaled 15,368.

Tina had pretty much worn her car out driving around aimlessly, Franklin said, when she entered the PATH Center. With staff help, she has received medical care and now has a home thanks to funding from the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP).

She is undergoing treatment for stage three cancer and has a home to recover in, thanks to NOCAC.

# Whole town weatherization piloted in Murray City

John Mellencamp may have “seen it all in a small town” but he’s never seen what’s happening in Murray City, Ohio. That’s because it’s never been done before.

The town of fewer than 500 people nestled in Hocking County will be the site of a pilot project to weatherize an entire town. Hocking Athens Perry Community Action Partnership, the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development, Columbia Gas and other partners in the project believe the unique approach will allow more homes to become energy efficient while spending less money on the work.

“Currently, households are weatherized through a first-come, first-served approach as applications are received at local Community Action Agencies,” said HAPCAP Executive Director Doug Stanley. “By changing service delivery to a block-by-block, town-by-town model, weatherization services can be streamlined, saving both dollars and environmental impact.”

HAPCAP and COAD kicked off the project with a demonstration of weatherization techniques at the home of Derik and Kari Johnson October 19. Joining in the event were Congressman Zack Space, D-18<sup>th</sup> District, State Representative Debbie Phillips, State



**A weatherization crew member demonstrates a blower door test to visitors at a weatherization demonstration in Murray City. The test is used to measure air leakage in homes before and after weatherization.**

Senator Jimmy Stewart and dozens of the Johnsons’ neighbors.

“We’ve found unsafe homes and we’ve found homes that are not energy efficient,” Murray City Councilwoman Rebecca Johnson told Public News Service. “So

it’s just an honor to be chosen to be a pilot program like this.”

Safety is a top priority in every weatherization project. All combustion appliances – furnaces and water heaters

*Continued on page 7*

## Congresswoman ....

*Continued from page 1*

For low-income families, that can be the difference between heating and eating.”

Personnel from LCCAA, used a Delphos, Ohio-made Krendl machine to blow insulation into the sidewalls of Kimbrough’s 1950s bungalow. They demonstrated how the cellulose is densely packed into wall cavities to provide a barrier from cold and wind.

The crew also demonstrated how it uses building science and precise measurements to determine what work needs to be done and whether it has been effective. At the beginning of each weatherization job, the crew conducts a blower door test. The test depressurizes the house and shows how much improvement is needed in sealing unwanted leaks.

A careful balance is required so that the house is not sealed too tight which can cause mold and poor indoor air quality. A second, identical test is conducted at the end of the work to ensure goals have been met.

The crew also replaced Kimbrough’s hot water heater after safety testing determined it was necessary. During the comprehensive energy audit conducted at the beginning of the weatherization

process, the crew also found her refrigerator to be extremely inefficient. Using funds from the Electrical Partnership Program, administered by the Ohio Department of Development, Kimbrough received a new refrigerator.

“Safety is our number one concern,” said Samuel H. Hitchens Jr., Director of Energy and Conservation Services for LCCAA. “The first thing we do is make sure there are no carbon monoxide leaks or fire hazards with any of the combustion appliances. Nothing else happens until we are sure the residents are safe.”

Hitchens and Congresswoman Sutton also used an infrared camera to demonstrate how the crew can check its work. The camera allows the crew to see “hot spots” inside the walls and know where additional insulation is needed.

Weatherization is available to income-eligible homeowners and some renters who are living at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Line, approximately \$44,100 for a family of four. Kimbrough, a retired nursing assistant, lives on a pension.

Since the stimulus package was enacted in March 2009, LCCAA has weatherized 371 homes in Lorain County; more than 18,500 have been completed

throughout the State of Ohio and more than 220,000 across the nation.



**Congresswoman Betty Sutton works with Milton Card from the Lorain County Community Action Agency to blow cellulose insulation into the sidewall of Rosa Kimbrough’s 1950s home in Lorain.**

# IDA program helps Butler County couple buy home

One family's success story stole the show at SELF's 2010 Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Reception earlier this fall.

"It is because of Jerry, our support specialist, and SELF that we were able to do this," Kristina said with tears in her eyes. "Before joining the Individual Development Account (IDA) program, we did not know what to do, where to turn to, or what was going to become of us."

Kristina and her husband David were clients of SELF: Supports to Encourage Low-income Families, the Community Action Agency for Butler County.

David stood beside his wife, holding their 18-month-old son as she offered her appreciation to the supporters of the IDA program that helped the couple provide a home for their three young children.

IDA is an asset-building program that helps participants save for purchasing a first-time home, going back to school or starting a business. Participants must complete 14 hours of financial education and eight hours of goal-specific training which helps them make smarter financial decisions.

Clients then open custodial savings accounts with SELF and for every \$1 they save, SELF matches it with \$2, up to \$1,000. By the time participants "cash out"



**Kristina and David's story of success with an Individual Development Account program stole the show at SELF's Donor and Volunteer appreciation reception.**

of this program, they have \$3,000 to put toward their asset.

David explained that the lessons they learned through the IDA's financial education courses taught them how to better monitor their spending and budget for necessities and emergencies. He

stressed that it enabled them to overcome nearly \$10,000 of debt and go on to become homeowners.

Butler County residents are eligible for SELF's program if they live at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level and are employed.

# Seniors lining up for Clinton County housing project

Senior citizens in Blanchester are lining up to live in Clinton County Community Action's newest housing development.

The \$5 million Blanchester Senior Villas is scheduled to open in May and will have 40 units. However the waiting list already includes 54 names.

Clinton CCA Executive Director Dean Knapp said the community has

been anticipating the development and the opportunities it brings for over a year.

"The villas will be a welcome stimulus to the local economy by bringing in \$5 million of new construction to the area," he told the *Wilmington News Journal*.

"There's a real need in this county for senior housing. The Blanchester community has been very supportive and

helpful with this project."

To live in the complex, residents must be 55 or older and be income eligible. Income limits are \$24,900 for a household of one and \$28,440 for a household of two.

The energy-efficient units will each have two bedrooms and the complex will also include a community center, exercise room and walking paths. The units also have garages, built-in microwaves, dishwashers and a built-in medical alert system.

Knapp said the project was approved in 2008 but financing was affected by the economic downturn.

"We ended up getting some stimulus money for the project and then we will have a loan for the rest of the financing," he said.

The entry street to the complex will be named Madalyn Loftin Drive, after a former Blanchester mayor and long-serving member of the CCA board of directors.

Construction is being overseen by Ohio contractor LW Associates which plans to contract with between 25 to 30 subcontractors, each of which will employ 5 to 15 craftsmen. A total of 270 jobs will be created by the project as well as a boost to local restaurants and other businesses.



**Blanchester Senior Villas in Clinton County will inject approximately \$5 million into the local economy while providing much needed senior housing. Clinton County Community Action reports there is already a waiting list for the 40 units.**

# GMN working to expand higher education access

GMN Tri-County Community Action Committee and Belmont Technical College have partnered to expand access to higher education for residents in and around Monroe County using the CAC's existing broadband center

"Federal funds provided for the GMN Broadband Center which opened in 2005," said GMN Tri-County CAC's CEO Gary Ricer. "Although various curriculums have been offered here over the years, our partnership allows BTC to take this to the next level."

Under the agreement, BTC will operate the GMN Broadband Center computer laboratory at the Black Walnut Center in Woodsfield to provide local and convenient access to high-speed Internet service, online course materials and BTC programs for students and residents in Monroe County and surrounding areas.

"We are very pleased to provide greater access to education and career opportunities," BTC President Joseph Bukowski said. "Access to broadband Internet service is a real challenge in rural communities, which poses a significant barrier to education. Through this center, we hope to eliminate some of those barriers by providing access to the technology and services needed for a modern higher education."

Bukowski said the college intends to provide for the day-to-day management of the computer lab in accordance with its plans to offer both onsite courses and online programs at the center. In addition, the lab will be available for students and residents to use for course work, research and other activities.

For its part, GMN will continue to provide the broadband at the center as it has since the center opened in September 2005.

"We'll provide high speed Internet access to support BTC's curriculum," Ricer said. "GMN will retain office space in the Broadband Center to continue network



**Gary Ricer, left, CEO of GMN Tri-County CAC, is pictured with Joseph Bukowski, president of Belmont Technical College. CAC and the college have partnered to provide learning opportunities to Monroe County and the surrounding area.**

support to our customers."

Monroe County Commission John Pyles said the location of the Black Walnut Center, in the heart of the county's Commerce Park, will provide easy access for people to attend classes. It will also show businesses they can use the facility for company training.

"We are very excited about the possibilities for this center and the potential for the expansion of higher education programs in our area," Pyles said. "The economy is evolving from one based almost entirely on industry to a more knowledge-based economy and we need to prepare our residents to compete in this environment. This partnership is a huge step in the right direction and I'm looking forward to the innovative programs that will come about down the road now that this is in place."

Last summer, BTC agreed to work

with Monroe County Commissioners and lead the county's higher education initiative. With enrollment growing for BTC programs in Monroe County, the college began working with local and state officials, including Gov. Ted Strickland, to build a strategic plan based on the guidelines of the Ohio Board of Regents and Chancellor Eric Fingerhut.

"It's part of our vision for Ohio that we create seamless, low-cost pathways to higher education that allow students to attain the education they need to compete in a global workforce and build a stronger economic foundation for the state of Ohio," Fingerhut said. "I believe this program will help achieve those goals for Monroe County and the surrounding area."

The partnership began officially on July 1. For more information, contact GMN at 740-732-2388.

# Take the OACAA Challenge and win resources

Leaves are falling and the air is crisp so it must be time for a trivia game.

Okay, maybe not every year, but this year for sure!

Visit [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org) between Nov. 29 and Dec. 17 to play the OACAA Challenge and win valuable resources for your agency! This trivia game will feature questions about Community Action, the War on Poverty in Ohio, Ohio History and the upcoming holidays.

Only employees of agencies which are members in good standing of OACAA are

eligible to win.

A new question will be posted everyday at [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org). You can enter everyday and you might even win everyday!

If multiple correct answers are received, a winner will be randomly drawn. Winners will be announced when the new question is posted.

Prizes will be shipped as soon as possible and are the property of your agency - not an early Christmas gift for you.

Prizes include training and refer-



ence resources addressing a variety of Community Action programs. Books, CDs and DVDs are among the prizes.

Prizes will be randomly selected and may not necessarily match the winner's job description. Examples include parenting books, fiscal resources, resources for working with prisoners and copies of David Bradley's history of Community Action.

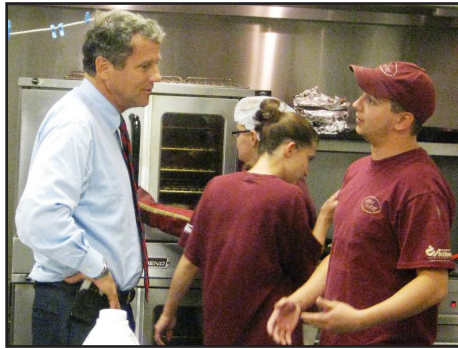
We hope you have fun! Thanks for playing the OACAA Challenge!

# Senator Sherrod Brown visits HOPE Cafe in Greene

In the summer of 2009, Community Action Partnership of the Greater Dayton Area created the HOPE Café in Greene County, a training program to place low-income homeless individuals in food service positions throughout the community. With funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and community support, the Cafe achieved its goal of providing trained, capable workers to fill full-time jobs in the community.

“Apprentices for the HOPE Café are selected from individuals participating in local transitional housing and shelter programs,” said Greene County Director Gale Hutchinson. “Along with the basic skills required for catering, the curriculum includes training in proper interviewing skills, dressing for employment, interpersonal skills and customer relations.”

The Café began by catering meetings



**U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown visits with employees in the kitchen at HOPE Cafe.**

and events. Local restaurants placed apprentices as interns and hired them for full-time employment.

“Many of these persons have not worked for some time, but now they are productive, contributing members of our

community,” Hutchinson said.

On October 1, HOPE Café expanded to offer dine-in and carryout service for lunch and dinner. U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown visited the Café just before the official grand opening. The Senator sent the agency a Certificate of Special Recognition, which states in part, “The HOPE Café organization works to mentor and train participants to provide them with the skills necessary to be self-sufficient employees in the American workforce.”

The HOPE Café is located behind the Community Action Partnership office at 1855 Bellbrook Road in Xenia. It is open for lunch and dinner weekdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

“Thanks to the entire community for your continued support. HOPE Café has exceeded our expectations,” Hutchinson said.

# New Early Learning Center opens in Warren County

Youngsters in South Lebanon will get an early start on their future success thanks to the South Lebanon Early Learning Center.

“It certainly is going to raise the bar for Warren County,” said Larry Sargeant, executive director of Warren County Community Services, Inc., which operates the Center. “Obviously, it’s the gateway to future success for our children.”

The 14,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility will offer full day education/child care, part day preschool and a new option for infants, toddlers and expectant parents. There is also a multi-purpose space for family and community activities.

James D. Smith, Mayor of the Village of South Lebanon, said the learning center provides multi-faceted benefits to the community.

“What’s really nice about the early learning center is you have the school and child care and community access to the

building,” he said. “It gives our youngsters (right) the opportunity to get an excellent education before they enter kindergarten. It will also bring permanent jobs to the community. I’d say it is a great investment for the village and for the future of our kids.”

The \$2.3 million facility brings with it 14 new, permanent jobs.

It has been funded by private donations, grants and loans. The Village of South Lebanon donated the land and waived fees to tap nearby utility lines. Grants came from the Warren County Board of Commissioners, the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Ohio Rural Development, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Jacob G. Schmidlapp Trust (Fifth Third Bank, trustee), and the Andrew Jergens Foundation.

In addition to classroom space, the facility features therapy rooms, play areas



and workrooms. Password-protected cameras are in place so parents can view activities online from their home or office.

Rick Pansiera of Studio for Architecture was the architect for the project and Schumacher Construction Management was the general contractor.

For more information, please contact WCCS at 513-695-2215, visit [www.wccsi.org](http://www.wccsi.org) or email [earlylearning@wccsi.org](mailto:earlylearning@wccsi.org).

# Washington-Morgan CAP seeks Secret Santa donations

Washington Morgan Community Action is looking for secrets – Secret Santas that is.

The agency is seeking donations and sponsors to help make the holidays special for underprivileged children, ages newborn to 12. Last year, the program served 1,019 children.

“Basically, it’s our goal every year to serve at least 1,000 children and we start in October by sending out letters to our sponsors from prior years,” Program Coordinator Cathy Rees told *The Marietta Times*.

To qualify, applicants to receive gifts

must be living at or below 150 percent of the Federal Poverty Line. All applicants must provide 30-day proof of income, proof of Washington County residency, photo ID, and birth certificates of children along with Social Security cards for both children and adults. Applicants must also not apply for other gift giving programs.

The community helps in one of three ways. They can choose to sponsor a child and shop based on a wish list. Businesses often sponsor children in this way, Rees said. Individuals may also donate cash which Community Action staff will use to shop for gifts for unsponsored children.

Toy donations are also welcomed.

Gifts are due in by Dec. 9 and distribution is set for approximately Dec. 15. The gift distribution location is not disclosed to the public for safety reasons, Rees said.

Fundraisers are also held throughout the year to benefit the program. These include a Pancake Breakfast set for Saturday, Nov. 6 at the No Idea Restaurant in the Comfort Inn, 700 Pike Street in Marietta. The breakfast is from 7:30 to 10 a.m. and tickets are \$5.

For more information on the Secret Santa Program, call 740-373-3745.

# Send your Best Practices nominations by Nov. 19

Best Practices is a partnership between the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies and the John Glenn School of Public Affairs of the Ohio State University with support from the Ohio Department of Development.

The program honors innovative and effective Community Action Agency programs that measurably meet the needs of their clients and their communities by helping low-income people become more self-sufficient.

Using an outcomes-based evaluation system known as ROMA (Results Oriented Management and Accountability) the Best Practices serve as a showcase for innova-

tive Community Action Agency efforts that make a measurable and life-changing difference.

"The Ohio Community Action network is fortunate to have developed this unique working relationship with such a highly respected organization," said OACAA Executive Director Phil Cole. "Their recognition of your good work is significant."

Applications are available at [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org) and must be received by the Glenn School no later than **Nov. 19, 2010**.

Questions about the applications or scoring process should be directed to Cindy Holodnak or Maria Mone at the Glenn School, 614-292-7781.

Best Practices will be announced at a special ceremony during OACAA's Winter Legislative Conference February 2, 3 and 4 in Columbus.

The Glenn School is also seeking to expand its pool of expert guest lecturers and wants to tap leaders from the Community Action network.

Best Practices award recipients interested in serving as a guest lecturer should contact Maria Mone, [mone.1@osu.edu](mailto:mone.1@osu.edu) or 614-292-7781.

Potential topics include: grants management; public budgeting; public policy formation; managing government contracts; and program evaluation.

## 2011 Winter Conference set for February 2, 3, 4

The Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies is now accepting presentation proposals and exhibitor/advertisers for its 2011 Winter Legislative Conference.

Community Action staff from around the state will gather at the Hyatt on Capitol Square February 2, 3 and 4 in Columbus, Ohio. This year's conference will be full of news and workshops related to the results of the 2010 midterm and statewide elections.

Keynote speakers include Pulitzer Prize winner Juan Williams and National Community Action Foundation Executive Director David Bradley.

Juan Williams is one of America's leading political writers and thinkers. In addition to prize-winning columns and editorial writing for *The Washington Post*, he has also authored six books including

*Enough-The Phony Leaders, Dead-End Movements and Culture of Failure That Are Undermining Black America* and *Eyes on the Prize*.

His understanding of American history and his inside access to Washington politics gives him a unique and informed voice as an analyst of current events. Prior to writing bestsellers, Williams was a political columnist and national correspondent for *The Washington Post*. Williams also serves as a political analyst for *Fox Television* and as a regular panelist for *FoxNews Sunday*.

Presentation proposals for workshops at the conference should include a title, description and biographical information on the presenter as well as contact information. Proposal forms are available at [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org) or by calling 614-224-8500. Proposals are due **Nov. 5** and



Williams

should be sent to: Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies, 50 W. Broad St., Suite 1616, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Proposals can also be emailed to: [lorie@oacaa.org](mailto:lorie@oacaa.org) or faxed to 614-224-

2587.

OACAA is also seeking exhibitors and advertisers for the Winter Legislative Conference. Advertising is available in the conference program book and exhibition space will be provided. Sponsors are also needed for portions of the event. To exhibit, advertise or sponsor, visit [www.oacaa.org](http://www.oacaa.org) to download the rates and registration form, or call 614-224-8500.

## Whole town...

*Continued from page 3*

– are inspected, tested and oftentimes replaced. Other weatherization steps include blowing insulation into attics and sidewalls, sealing cracks and providing consumer tips on energy usage. During the work, the home receives a full energy audit and funds from other sources can be used to replace inefficient refrigerators or make other minor repairs.

In Hocking County, HWAP is paired with Columbia Gas of Ohio's Warm Choice Program and the Ohio Universal Service Fund's Electric Partnership Program to accomplish some tasks.

The Murray City project includes funds from utility partners and also money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The size of the town makes it perfect for a demonstration project, added Ron

Rees, Executive Director of COAD.

"This innovative approach to weatherizing an entire community has not yet been implemented anywhere in the nation," Rees said. "Because of stakeholders such as HAPCAP and COAD, there is an infrastructure in place to deliver the project model."

Congressman Space hopes the approach can be replicated elsewhere.

"It will be done more efficiently. It will help enhance workforce development," he said. "If it works in a town like Murray City, then it can work not just in other small towns, but even in neighborhoods and big cities."

The estimated savings for each home weatherized is between \$300 and \$400. Ohio has weatherized more than 340,000 homes since 1977. Since ARRA funding

began in March 2009, the state has weatherized 18,500 homes and created 1,308 new jobs in the industry.

"It makes perfect sense to weatherize," Space said. "When you do that you're saving money. You're putting somebody to work and it helps rid this nation of its reliance on foreign oil. It makes us all much more energy secure and independent and that's good for all of us."

For more information on the Murray City project, contact COAD at 800-807-9781 or [warmhouse@coadinc.org](mailto:warmhouse@coadinc.org)

Other partners in the project are: Conservation Services Group, American Electric Power, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, Ohio Department of Development, Fluke Corporation and High Tech Systems and Equipment.