

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



Community Action Update

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2013

Community Gardens DeKalb County Health Facility Site

THINGS TO KNOW:

- **DCCSD closed:**
July 4:
Independence Day

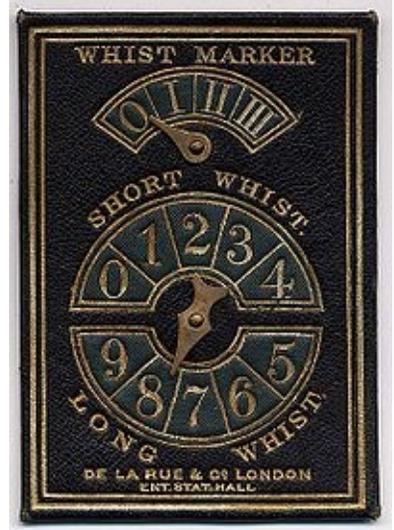
July 24:
Nonprofit Day

September 2:
Labor Day
- CSBG Scholarship deadline has passed. Look for 2014 application the end of January 2014.
- Free Tax Preparation assistance begins February 2014. Check our web page this fall for updated information.

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On April 27 an amazing event occurred behind the Community Outreach Building, located at the DeKalb County Health Facility on Annie Glidden Road. In addition to 20 standard raised beds, a large crew of dedicated DeKalb County Community Services and Health Department WIC staff, representatives from DeKalb County Community Gardens and students from NIU created a replica of a whist with raised beds as well.



The whist garden was originally intended for the site at the DeKalb Public Library as a historical nod to Annie Glidden and the ladies of the Library Whist Club who donated a portion of their card winnings to the library for the purchase of books in 1895 when the library almost closed down due to inadequate funding.

Our whist garden is growing herbs, tomatoes, cauliflower, peppers, nasturtium, and other flowers. Our standard beds are growing spinach, lettuce, beets, carrots, beans, peppers, tomatoes, and radishes. Our harvests have been made available to families using the programs at Community Services Department, WIC, and have been donated to the new Barb Food Pantry that provides food for District 428 families. Come out and help us maintain and harvest local, nutritious food for DeKalb County families!



From the Director

Did you know that Community Action is governed by a Code of Ethics?

Take a look at those values that govern the work we do on page 3!

This group has been so well received by residents that the Housing Authority of the County of DeKalb has asked us to start one up at Civic Apartments in Sycamore as well!

In an effort to honor the Community Action Code of Ethics, we strive for professional excellence and development to support the work we do with families experiencing poverty. I am happy to share that Minerva Perez, our newest staff member, is now a Family and Community Development (FCD) Specialist. This designation signals Minerva's ability to provide comprehensive family assistance and case management in many areas including prevention and intervention services for family violence, mental health problems, drug and alcohol abuse, and medical illness. Training was developed in partnership with the academic community to teach workers diverse skills and competencies to utilize a strengths-based approach to work with fragile families and individuals. FCD Specialists work to cultivate self reliance in families at risk of long-term welfare dependency and to work with communities to identify economic opportunities.

In addition, I have recently become a Certified Community Action Professional (CCAP). It was a nearly year-long process, with three distinct steps including an exam. This is a nationally recognized standard that will be an important component of the accreditation process in Community Action moving forward as even more emphasis will be placed on effective leadership, management, ethics, and accountability by the federal government.



Golden Years Plaza Social Living Group

Case Manager Rhonda Brown leads a Social Living Program for residents of the Golden Years Plaza. This group invites all residents of the Plaza to participate in a variety of activities which encourage positive supportive social interactions and relationships. The goal of the group is for the residents to socially interact with each other, build community, and have a good time with different fun activities . Prizes are awarded for specific program activities.

The group meets from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month:

July 12 & 26

August 9 & 30(5th Friday)

September 13 & 27

Call Rhonda at 815-217-0194 to see what the next program will be .



Community Action Code of Ethics

We, as Community Action professionals, dedicate ourselves to eliminating poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training; the opportunity for work; and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity; and with respect for cultural diversity, commit ourselves to:

- Recognize that the chief function of the Community Action movement at all times is to serve the best interests of the poor, thereby serving the best interests of all people.
 - Accept as a personal duty the responsibility to keep up to date on emerging issues and to conduct ourselves with professional competence, fairness, impartiality, efficiency, and effectiveness.
 - Respect the structure and responsibilities of the board of directors, provide them with facts and advice as a basis for their making policy decisions, and uphold and implement policies adopted by the board of directors.
 - Keep the community informed about issues affecting the poor; facilitate communication by the poor with locally elected public officials and the private sector.
 - Conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership exemplified by open communication, creativity, dedication, and compassion.
 - Exercise whatever discretionary authority we have under the law to promote the interests of the poor.
 - Lead the Community Action movement with respect, concern, courtesy, and responsiveness, recognizing that service to the poor is beyond service to oneself.
 - Demonstrate the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty, and fortitude in all our Community Action activities in order to inspire confidence and trust in the Community Action movement.
- Serve in such a way that we do not realize undue personal gain from the performance of our professional duties.
- Avoid any interest or activity that is in conflict with the conduct of official duties.
 - Respect and protect privileged information to which we have access in the course of official duties.
 - Strive for professional excellence and encourage the professional development of our associates, including those seeking to become certified Community Action professionals.

CSBG Administrative Board

DeKalb County Community Services Department (DCCSD) is the Community Action Agency for DeKalb County. Community Action Agencies (CAA) are non-profit organizations established under the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 to fight America's War on Poverty. Community Action Agencies help people to help themselves in achieving self-sufficiency. Today there are approximately 1000

Community Action Agencies, serving the poor in every state as well as Puerto Rico and the Trust Territories. Since 1968, local community action agencies have been required to have tripartite governing boards to gain and retain designation as eligible entities and to receive CSBG funding. The "tripartite board" is to be comprised of 1/3 public officials (people who have been elected), 1/3 private sector (local business leaders, educators, etc...) and 1/3 low-income individuals. Each of these three groups has unique perspectives and insights that help to shape the programming and services of the CAA. Effective tripartite boards reflect and promote the unique anti-poverty leadership, action, and mobilization responsibilities assigned by law to Community Action Agencies. Boards are responsible for assuring that agencies continue to assess and respond to the causes and conditions of poverty in their community, achieve anticipated family and community outcomes, and remain administratively and fiscally sound.

DeKalb County Community Services Department is currently seeking two low-income individuals and one Private Sector representative to serve on the CSBG Administrative Board.

Some of the requirements for being a Board Member are:

1. Regular attendance at board and committee meetings (these are typically held 4-5 times per year at 8:30-10:00am at the DeKalb County Community Outreach Building);
2. Gain thorough familiarity with DCCSD information, such as the agency's bylaws, articles of incorporation, sources of funding, agency goals and programs, Federal and State CSBG statutes;
3. Careful review of materials provided to board members;
4. Decision-making based on sufficient information.

If you are interested in serving as a DCCSD Board Member, or if you have more questions, please call Donna Moulton at (815) 217-0191. Thank you.

Inside the Numbers

DCCSD sees many families and individuals with varying levels of need. For FY '13 through June, DCCS has served 242 households with a total of 538 persons making up those households:

- 2 individuals are being served in the Family Economic Development Program. Both are progressing toward increasing their income due to earnings.
- 401 persons received Emergency Intervention services.
- 9 families are progressing in the Family Stability and Support Program with the eventual outcome of a higher level of self-sufficiency.
- 75 households received free Income Tax Preparation services
- 9 persons are enrolled in the Social Living Group.
- 283 Individuals received Information and Referral services.

The main qualifications to receive DCCS services are to fall below a household income of 125% of the Federal Poverty Income level for the past 90 calendar days and reside in DeKalb County.

Client Resource Area

Most of DCCS's front office area houses our client resource area. This space is designed for folks to search employment opportunities, housing availability, work on resume writing, etc. Printing and faxing is also available for clients specific to the above issues. Please ask a DCCS employee for help with faxing or making copies. People who would like to use the space may walk in anytime our office is open. A person must first check in with a staff member. There is no time limit but be aware of others who need to use the space.

Also in this space is an array of flyers, brochures, pamphlets etc. for other community resources. This space is also an area for clients to wait for their appointment with a case manager. There is reading material and a radio for your listening enjoyment. Don't forget to help yourself to a cup of filtered water. Who knows, we may even have a few snacks to munch on. For the kids we have some toys, books, coloring pages, etc.



Work Station #1 with waiting area, brochure racks and bulletin boards.



Work Station #2 with refreshment area.



Our massive bulletin board with employment, housing, education, and nutrition information.

DCCSD Mission and Vision

DeKalb County Community Services Department

2550 N. Annie Glidden Rd.

DeKalb, IL 60115

Hours: M-F 8:00am-4:30pm

Phone: 815-758-3910

Fax: 815-758-3407

E-mail:

communityservice@dekalbcounty.org

Community Action-People Helping People, Changing Lives

Mission Statement:

Address the systemic roots of poverty and provide comprehensive support and assistance to households that either live in poverty or experience a temporary crisis situation that causes potential homelessness.

Vision Statement:

To provide leadership in the coordination of diverse services in order to increase the strengths, resources, and stability of DeKalb County individuals, households, and the community.

We're on the web!

www.dekalbcounty.org/communityservices

Outreach Sites



DCCS serves DeKalb County, located in north central Illinois.

In order to provide services to all residents of DeKalb County, the DCCSD Case Managers offer outreach in the Northern and Southern areas of the County.

Genoa

Where: Heartland Bank and Trust
327 W. Main St.

When: *By appointment only. Please call 815-758-3910.*

Somonauk

Where: St. John's Lutheran Church
235 S. Green St.

When: *By appointment only. Please call 815-758-3910.*

To inquire about DCCSD programs and eligibility requirements or to make an appointment, please call 815-758-3910.