

NEK-CAP News

Winter Edition ~ December 2012

Serving Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth, Marshall, Nemaha, Pottawatomie & Riley Counties



New Mission ~ New Vision ~ New Year

Submitted by Jeanette Collier, Executive Director

The NEK CAP, Inc. Multi-County Board of Directors has approved the new mission and vision statement for the agency. The mission statement more clearly reflects the who, what and how of organizational purpose; while the vision statement identifies the desired end result for all served by agency-related services. To determine agency effectiveness strategic planning, program development, and performance measurement must each demonstrate well-defined links to the agency's mission.

It is the goal for all staff to focus on the organizational mission and ensure that it is a living, active testament to the purposes of the Northeast Kansas Community Action Program and promise of Community Action: "to change people's lives, embody the spirit

of hope, improve communities, and make America a better place to live by caring about the entire community and dedicating oneself to helping people help themselves and each other".

NEK-CAP, Inc.'s new mission:

We provide comprehensive education and social services to low-income community members through collaborative partnerships focused on promoting family development, empowerment, and economic security.

NEK-CAP, Inc.'s new vision:

One by one all families and communities become self-reliant.

Have a blessed and wonderful 2013!

NEK-CAP's Mission

We provide comprehensive education and social services to low-income community members through collaborative partnerships focused on promoting family development, empowerment, and economic security.

The Promise of Community Action

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.



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It Takes Teamwork!

Annual Agency Meeting

"Teamwork" was the theme of this year's Annual Agency Meeting. On November 2nd, the entire staff of NEK-CAP, Inc gathered together in at the Golden Eagle Casino conference room in Horton to celebrate milestones and victories and to dedicate themselves to teamwork for even greater anti-poverty efforts in the future.

The following staff members were recognized for their service to NEK-CAP, Inc.:

Five years: James Johansen, Weatherization Crewmember; Jennifer Metcalf, Head Start Teacher; Clarissa Ross, Head Start Center Manager/Teacher; Marilyn Showman, Head Start Assistant; Misty Spielman, Nutrition Provider; Heather Williams, Head Start Office Manager and Mike Zakutansky, Weatherization Crewmember.

Ten years: James Bartley, Maintenance Coordinator; Cathy Boyd, Head Start Toddler Teacher; Kristy Morey, Housing Coordinator; Dana Patterson, Head Start Teacher and Cynthia Watkins, Nutrition Provider.

Fifteen years: Carol Bergman, Head Start Center Manager/Teacher and Shelby Howard, Family Development Advocate.

Twenty years: Joan Hockenbarger, Head Start Center Manager and Marilyn Zinn, Staff Development/Disabilities Specialist.

Keynote speaker, Candy Whirley, entertained staff with her presentation of "It Takes 4 to Tango". Staff were able to explore the four different behavioral styles and recognize our true selves and others. She taught us some effective ways to connect with other personality styles and be able to work better together.

The Northeast Kansas Community Action Program, Inc (NEK-CAP) is your partner in America's Poverty Fighting Network. Their network of staff and community partners is committed to helping people thrive now and ending poverty for future generations through a commitment to education at every age and every stage of life.

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*Atchison, Brown, Doniphan,
Jackson, Jefferson,
Leavenworth, Marshall,
Nemaha, Pottawatomie
and Riley*



Below: Staff at Agency Meeting. Below right: Candy Whirley, Keynote Speaker



Comments/Questions: please contact Linda Grier, Integrated Services Office Manager, lgrier@nekcaph.org

Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes

Submitted by staff members

Define accomplishment

[ə kɒmplɪʃmənt] *n.*

1. The act of accomplishing or the state of being accomplished; completion.
2. Something completed successfully; an achievement.
3. An acquired skill or expertise: a singer known for his accomplishment in vocal technique.
4. Social poise and grace.



I have a family of 6, where dad was let go from his job back in November, and the mom was not working at the time. She was a stay at home mom who has three girls ages 10 months, 9, and 11, and one boy who is 5. She started looking for a job, and with the help from a friend who put in a good word for her. She was hired by Marshall's Maids. Now dad can do the day care while mom works. I am very proud of her for finding a job and going to work. *Submitted by: Susie Eisenbarth, Jackson County Child and Family Advocate*

I have a community customer who came in for utility assistance and had no job. They weren't in a good place at all, and when I made my first monthly contact, he said he was running his own small business that he had just got going. The next month he said he was still running his own small business, and he talked about building clientele and how things were getting better. I was impressed by this gentleman's initiative and

motivation even in a pretty dark time. Definitely a success! *Submitted by: Kara Soph, Atchison County Family Development Advocate*

I had a returning Head Start family who, this year, bought their first home, mom completed her schooling to be a Medical Assistant, obtained a full time very good job at a Pediatrician's office, and was able to put her children on her private insurance and take them off of Health Wave. Dad had a great job as well, but because of the economy was laid off. She contacted me with questions regarding assistance if they needed it, but then I was notified that dad has been out applying for jobs at several places. I am so proud of this family for their determination. Dad is very motivated. *Submitted by: Kara Soph, Atchison County Family Development Advocate*

Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes (cont.)

Submitted by staff members

I have one family who has been working on a goal of purchasing their home for the last 3 years and did accomplish that as of November. Both parents are employed full time with good benefit package, the children both received daycare from us to help them with this goal, the daughter is now at a family members for her daycare. *Submitted by: Soni Moranz, Atchison County Family Development Advocate*

I have a single mother who was in the SHP (Supportive Housing) program who has found affordable housing for her family and a few of my community clients have successfully accomplished case management since helping them with a bill. *Submitted by: Soni Moranz, Atchison County Family Development Advocate*

Our classroom theme for the Month of December was "Our Community". We went on several field trips out in the community. Our Parent Involvement Activity was held on December 14th; we had a healthy snack and made winter crafts. A story of success would be that one of our Families gained Healthwave for their two Children. *Submitted by: Christie Chapple, North Brown County Family Development Advocate*

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Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes (cont.)

Submitted by staff members



Success is not measured by what you accomplish but by the opposition you have encountered, and the courage with which you have maintained the struggle against overwhelming odds.

~ Orison Swett Marden



We had an Early Head Start Socialization on 12/10. Our theme was weatherization. We had Ray Ladd, with the extension office, present information and helpful tips on weatherization. We also have a socialization planned for 12/21 on family traditions and why these would be important to pass down to the next generation. We are working very hard on recruiting new families in Atchison County. We hope to have our wait list built up soon. I have three major success stories to share this month. Three families have reached their family goal that we set at the beginning of this program year!! With some hard work and determination, one family bought a new home and two others have found full-time employment and child care. This is great news and will, in the end, help these three families become more self-reliant. *Submitted by: Kimberly Lackey, Atchison County Child & Family Advocate 0-3*

It is hard to believe that it is already December and the school year will soon be half over. During December, children have become scientists and are exploring all about balls. They have been guessing how high balls bounce and roll, counting bounces, and exploring the different uses of balls. We also read the book "The Three Billy Goats Gruff." The children are now acting out the book and created puppets to go along with the story. Starting in January, the children will be engaged in a study on clothing and will be talking about community helpers and visiting the places where the community helpers work. As a classroom we have been successful in creating a routine and schedule that works well for all the children.

There have been several community clients come in for services that have ended up helping themselves. For some, they have come in unemployed, yet actively seeking a job through Labor Max in town. Finding themselves behind in rent or utilities, they come in needing assistance. After taking the time over one or more meetings

together to sit down and fill out the application, brainstorm goals, and discuss their situation, they would call me and let me know they found a job and would no longer need NEK-CAP to help with their rent or utility payment. In several of these instances, the clients came in and told me over and over how hard it was for them to have to ask for outside assistance. For them, these accomplishments of self-sufficiency are huge. When I follow up with them, they thank me for listening and giving them the support they needed. These cases where all the client needs is a little support and encouragement are definitely rewarding for all involved. *Submitted by: Megan Hann, Nemaha County-Sabetha Center Manager/Teacher*

The children in our program were blessed again this year. Banner Creek, LLC (formerly Oldham's) donated gifts to all the children in the Jackson County program, Head Start and Early Head Start. Santa Claus, Mrs. Santa and the Banner Creek elves visited the center, read a story and gave out the gifts. This business has donated gifts for several years now and the children really enjoy it. We would like to thank Banner Creek, LLC for their generous donation.

The guest speaker at the December Parent Enrichment Activity was Officer Jeff Draper. Officer Draper is a member of the Holton City Police Department. He gave great information about winter driving safety. He suggested that we put with our insurance and registration a card with our emergency contact information. He said that in case of an accident where the driver was unconscious that they would look there first. He said your cell phone is not always easy to find after an accident. And you should look at your emergency card when you change your insurance card every six months to see if the numbers are still current. *Submitted by: Donna Wilhelm, Jackson County Family Development Advocate*

Comments/Questions: please contact Linda Grier, Integrated Services Office Manager, lgrier@nekc.org