

NEK-CAP News

Spring Edition ~ April 2013

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



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.

Impact of Funding Cuts

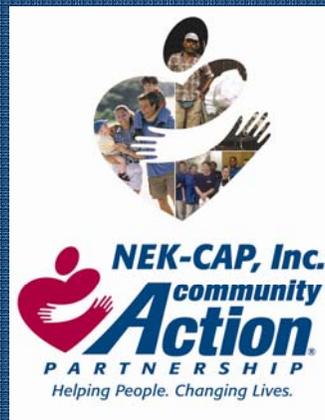
Submitted by Jeanette Collier, Executive Director

The impact of the sequestration automatic 5% cuts will be experienced by all of our federally funded programs – Head Start/Early Head Start, Community Services Block Grant, Housing Choice Voucher Program and other housing related programs. We have developed a financial strategy to absorb these cuts which is focused on continued delivery of high quality services and maintenance of current staffing levels. Fortunately, due to our Agency's fiscal year, we will not be subject to the full impact of the funding cuts.

Although the Agency will no longer be providing the Weatherization Assistance Program, such services will still be available to those who qualify either through Community Action based in Topeka or North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) based in Beloit. The services area will be split between Community Action providing

services to residents in the following counties: Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Leavenworth or Nemaha; and North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC) providing services in Marshall, Pottawatomie and Riley counties. If you are in need of such services, please contact Community Action, Inc., 1000 SE Hancock, Topeka, KS 66607 or 785-232-3499 or North Central Regional Planning Commission (NCRPC), PO Box 565, 109 N. Mill Street, Beloit, KS 67420 or 800-432-0303.

As demonstrated below through various success stories, the work of NEK CAP, Inc. is vital to improving the lives of families and children. Please support our continued efforts by voicing your concerns around potential future cuts to your state legislators and Congressional members.



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In Memory of Mike & Hunter Fawl

Submitted By: Jessica Schuette, Jefferson County Meriden Center Manager Teacher

Kate Fawl (mother of Naomi Fawl, a Head Start child) donated about \$1,500 in memory of Mike Fawl (her husband) & Hunter Fawl (her son) to the program from their memorial funds. Kate helped us choose items for the classroom. We received a new group carpet, a puppet show stand, a dress up shelf, two tool benches and many other toys (shown in photo below). Her and her family came in to unpack and put together toys.

Hunter Fawl attended head start at our Meriden Center a few years ago. Hunter and Mike Fawl were in an accident close

to the time he was in our program. For their memorial funds they chose for it to go to the Topeka Zoo and Head Start because Hunter really enjoyed both of these things.

This fall we have Naomi (Hunter little sister and Mike's daughter) in class. Staff that knew what Hunter's favorite areas were at school helped Kate & I to pick toys out for those areas or themes. Kate also wanted to upgrade our group carpet and give toys that offered learning opportunities for the children.



Justin (friend of Kate), Kate Fawl and Tina Gartner (Kate's mom) putting together our dress shelf.



Naomi and Grandma using the puppets and puppet show stage

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Counties Served:

Atchison, Brown, Doniphan,

Jackson, Jefferson,

Leavenworth, Marshall,

Nemaha, Pottawatomie

and Riley

NEK-CAP, Inc.'s Vision:

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

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

Leadership Marshall County

Submitted By: April Todd, Marshall County Family Development Advocate

From September to March, I participated in Leadership Marshall County. This seven-class opportunity brought community members together to learn about vital issues that affect our community and worked to enrich the participant's leadership skills. Classes focused on different areas including Government, Agriculture, Industry, Business, Healthcare, and Education.

Members of the LMC Trailblazers Class became empowered to continue making a difference in our community. After completing the class, I became an LMC Board Member. By doing this, I hope to continue to help move Marshall County forward.



Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes

Submitted by staff members

I have a family with two boys; mom and dad have been on unemployment for a few months. Both are working now; dad is working 7 to 3 and mom 2 to 10 so they only need day care for a short time of the day. Mom reports that this is going well for them. Submitted by: Pam Wilburn, Atchison County Child & Family Advocate

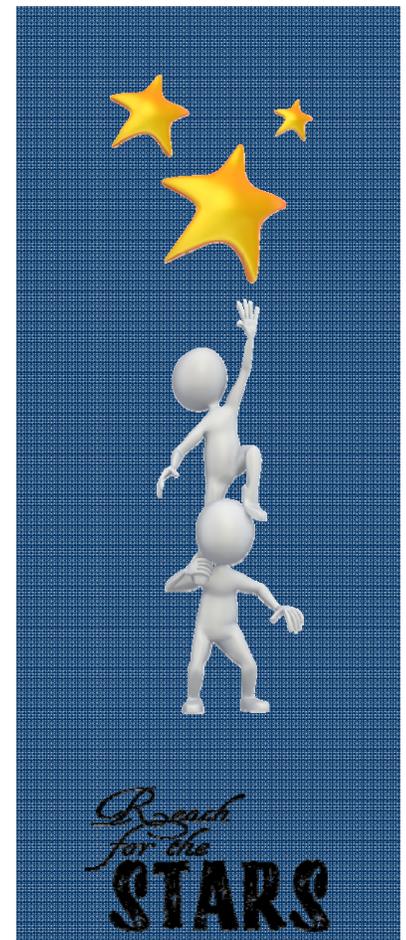
I have a father of a four year old boy on my caseload. When the father originally completed the intake for his child, he rode his bike all the way across town to the center because he had no car and his drivers' license was still suspended from a prior issue. The father is also profoundly deaf. He had recently gotten full custody of his son and was trying to get his son ready for Kindergarten. Since September, not only has the son grown physically, educationally and socially, the father has been consistently working at his job, found a new house and will be renting-to-

buy, and has re-obtained his drivers' license. Every goal that had been set with him, he reached. We are very proud! Submitted by: Carissa Welsh, Leavenworth County Family Development Advocate

I have a family that budgeted their tax return so that they could buy a vehicle and get dad's driver's license current. They have not had a vehicle (or license) since before I started seeing them, but we started immediately working towards the goal! Submitted by: Andee Rettele, Brown County Child & Family Advocate 0-3

I also have two other families that were able to upgrade their transportation! Submitted by: Andee Rettele, Brown County Child & Family Advocate

~ More stories on page 4 ~



Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes (cont.)

Submitted by staff members



*A dream
becomes
a goal
when action
is taken
toward its
achievement!*

I have a family that has had a full time employment goal for quite some time. The father has been looking for work every day for about two months. He landed a job at the County Clerk's office. He loves it! He was wearing his nice dress slacks and button up shirt last week on our visit. I am super excited for this family. What a great full time job, with benefits! He now has plans to run for County Clerk, due to our current Clerk retiring soon. What a great dad!
Submitted by: Kimberly Lackey, Atchison County Child & Family Advocate

I'm working with a family who was previously homeless. Dad was committed to providing for his family and quickly became employed at Landoll's. The family came to NEK-CAP, Inc. for services and were enrolled in Head Start, Early Head Start, and the SHP program. With SHP funds, the family moved into a three bedroom home. Nine months later, they have continued to pay their bills on time. Dad is a very hard worker, having only missed two days of work since July 2012 due to his daughter's health appointments. They are maintaining a clean home, and have set goals that they are working toward; including budgeting, communication and Mom would like to learn to cook for her family rather than eating out. With the assistance of the CFA and the FDA in the home, this family is well on their way to becoming interdependent in our community!
Submitted by: April Todd, Marshall County Family Development Advocate

I have a single mother who has had both of her children in Head Start; the youngest one will be going to kindergarten in the fall. The entire time they came here her goal was to buy a house. She had some bad debt and worked on getting that corrected, then she had to save and life got in the way, but now this past winter/spring she was able to get her loan approved! She

found her home, it was a repo home, but very affordable. She will be moving in on the 15th of the month.
Submitted by: Soni Moranz, Atchison County Family Development Advocate

I'm working with a single mom who has a five year old and is currently pregnant. She used her income tax to pay for a small home, no loans. She is working on her degree and works full time.
Submitted by: Soni Moranz, Atchison County Family Development Advocate

I have been assisting a single mom, who works full time. She was able to move from subsidized housing into a house.
Submitted by: Soni Moranz, Atchison County Family Development Advocate

I'm working with a two-parent family who was able to buy a newer vehicle with their income tax money and they are planning to take their first vacation together.
Submitted by: Soni Moranz, Atchison County Family Development Advocate

I have a family that started with home-base on Jan. 26, 2013 due to their child being in TFI custody and they told them that they should check into receiving our services. One of our goals was to get them into better housing because the place they were living was not very safe for the child and TFI wanted them to get safer housing before getting their daughter back. As of April 1st they moved into the Apple Valley apartments and will get their daughter back permanently on April 8th.
Submitted by: Kim Weir, Jackson County Child & Family Advocate



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