

NEK-CAP News Summer Edition ~ June 2014

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.

Community Needs Assessments in Expansion Counties

Submitted by Linda Grier, Integrated Services Office Manager

NEK-CAP, Inc. (Northeast Kansas Community Action Program) has been awarded expansion Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) funds from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation to provide CSBG related services beginning in 2014 to low-income residents and communities in the following counties: Jewell, Mitchell, Osborne, Republic, Smith and Washington.

A requirement for administering funds is that the agency must complete a comprehensive community needs assessment every three years. This assessment will include both statistical data and the results of county based community focus groups.

We're in the process of organizing a Focus Group to be held in your area the first part of July, to complete the community needs assessment. We anticipate holding these Focus Groups in following towns: Smith Center, Osborne, Beloit, Mankato, Belleville and Washington. The Focus Group's purpose is to have a community-wide gathering where participants will discuss the assets and barriers of Capitals (such as Social, Built, Political, Natural, Human, Cultural, and Financial) in your community. A light meal will be provided at each meeting.

It is our hope for school personnel, business people, political leaders, social service agencies, churches, etc. and those served by agencies to attend and participate. The information gathered during the meeting will be compiled and provided to community leaders.

Mark your calendar to attend one of the following Focus Groups and RSVP to Linda Grier (lgrier@nekcaph.org) or 785-742-2222, ext. 135 by Monday, June 30, 2014.

Tuesday, July 8th at 5:00pm ~ Smith Center
Srader Center, 119 W Court

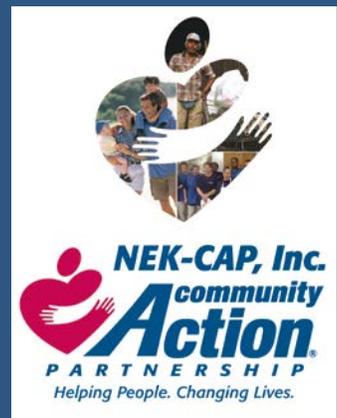
Wednesday, July 9th at Noon ~ Osborne
Circle N (meeting room), 1106 W Hwy 24

Wednesday, July 9th at 5:00pm ~ Beloit
NEK Tech College, 3033 US Hwy 24

Thursday, July 10th at Noon ~ Mankato,
Buffalo Roam (meeting room), East Hwy 36

Thursday, July 10th at 5:00pm ~ Belleville
Astra Bank (meeting room), 1205 18th Street

Friday, July 11th at Noon ~ Washington
Mayberry's (meeting room), 307 C Street



Communities Coming Together

Submitted By: Rose Sigmund, Head Start Director

For the past 22 years, North Pottawatomie Head Start Center and Outreach Office has been located in Onaga at the Community Health Care System's Community Hospital. Space and support was made available on the hospital campus by the hospital administration. Last spring the community voted to upgrade and expand the hospital. The expansion did not include space for the center, but the hospital remained committed and steadfast to the support of NEK-CAP Inc. programs in finding a suitable home for the services.

Over the past year, hospital leadership, community partners, and NEK-CAP Inc. staff met numerous times to consider possible locations for the program. The Havensville community stepped forward to offer the Havensville Community Center (formerly the Havensville Grade School) as a possible site. Havensville Mayor, Jeremy Heit, the Havensville Community Board, and the Havensville

City Council rallied to support the idea of utilizing the Community Center. Havensville Community Board President, Ora Martindale, stated, "We focused on a positive and collaborative solution for the children of our communities.

With the help and financial support from the Hospital, City of Havensville and NEK-CAP Inc. Head Start, the building now meets Kansas Licensing and Fire Code regulations. The Havensville community has donated hundreds of hours of volunteer time to prepare the site for the children and families of the community. The Outreach Office will be open for business in June, while the Head Start center will be in session in September. An open house will be planned later in the summer.

Donna Bran, community resident stated, "A place for our children that strengthens our community and builds good will. What could be better than that?"



Thanks to all the volunteers and Foster Grandparents that helped get our new center ready!



Staff busy painting and getting everything ready for the fall session to start.

NEK-CAP, Inc.

1260 220th Street

PO Box 380

Hiawatha, KS 66434

Phone:

(785) 742-2222

Fax:

(785) 742-2164

E-Mail:

nekcaph@nekcaph.org

Web Site:

www.nekcaph.org

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.

*NEK-CAP, Inc. is an equal
opportunity provider
and employer.*

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

Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes

Submitted by staff members

From the Executive Director's Desk

*Submitted by Jeanette Collier,
Executive Director*

With summer quickly approaching we hope that you thoroughly enjoy the fruits of the season!! NEK-CAP, Inc. staff and community members are excited to participate in the Northeast Kansas Community Foundation Community Garden's program launched this spring. Our long term overarching goal is to connect those we serve with the opportunity to participate in the NEK-CAP, Inc. gardens and to reap the health and social benefits of producing one's own food.

Although summer is the season of fun, it is also a season of hunger for many children. Thanks to Second Harvest Community Food Bank for sponsoring the No Hunger Summer Feeding Program in the following communities: Hiawatha, Powhattan, Elwood, and Wathena. For locations and times of the meals/snacks please visit the Second Harvest Community Food Bank website and click on initiatives/children. If you reside in a community that does not offer this program, please consider becoming a sponsoring organization next summer.

Have a safe summer!!

In March, the Head Start Center had a Fatherhood Activity where we discussed how to cook very simple meals and made the dad's a small recipe book which they could take home with them. We had a nice breakfast, then the dad's and their child went bowling, the dad's enjoyed the bowling and the children enjoyed being with their dad for that time. The dad's said that it was a lot of fun and hoped we would do it again. *Submitted by: Soni Moranz, Atchison County Family Development Advocate*

I have a mom who, at our end of the year home visit, shared with me that she was pretty desperate for dental treatment for a couple teeth that were significantly rotted in her mouth. She said she was having a hard time finding services because she has Medicaid and no extra money. Once I was back at the Head Start center, I started digging for resources and I compiled a list of numbers and names for mom, as well as instructions to follow each contact. This was at the end of the week so when I called mom about getting

her the list she said to just send it home on Monday morning with her daughter on the bus when the bus came to pick her up. I gave the envelope to the bus driver and asked her to please remember to give this to mom because it is very important. Mom was not in a good place because she was in a lot of pain and had repeated visits to the Emergency Room for antibiotics to treat the horrendous infection she was dealing with in order to be able to function and later to receive treatment. The end of the next week I saw mom and she had gotten one of her teeth pulled. The week after that I spoke with her and she was in the process of getting her other bad tooth extracted. She had told her daughter's teacher that she was going to be a new person once she got this under control. She must have been dealing with pain from these rotten teeth for a very long time because she insisted she was going to be a changed person. Thankfully she was able to receive treatment for the infections caused by this and have her rotten teeth removed. *Submitted by Kara Soph, Atchison County Family Development Advocate*



On April 29th, Doniphan County Head start held their annual End of Year Celebration complete with songs for the parents, certificates for the kids and volunteers, and dinner for everyone. We had a GREAT turnout of students who were able to come to the activity, and parents and families had fun watching the kids perform the songs they chose to surprise their families with, including "Apple Annie" and "The Bean Bag Dance". We'll miss everyone over the summer, we wish our outgoing Kindergartners a great new year school experience, and will be ready to see our returning friends in the fall! *Submitted by: Belinda White, Doniphan County Family Development Advocate*

**NEK-CAP Head Start is currently accepting applications for Fall enrollment!!
Please contact your local county office for more information.
We're excited to meet you and your child!!**

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