

NEK-CAP News

Fall Edition ~ September 2013

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



NEK-CAP, Inc. Receives National Recognition

Submitted by Jeanette Collier, Executive Director

Northeast Kansas Community Action Program is one of four Community Action Agencies (CAAs) working to alleviate poverty in America to receive the 2013 Community Economic Development Entrepreneurship and Innovation Award. The awards, administered by the Community Action Partnership, were presented August 29 at the organization's Annual Convention in Chicago to recognize NEK-CAP's collaborative efforts with the Brown County Healthy Food Coalition.

In order to be selected, the winning projects were evaluated based on its effectiveness in job creation, asset building, and economic impact on low-income communities in three categories: Entrepreneurship, Protégé, and Master Innovator. NEK-CAP Inc.'s support of the Brown County Healthy Food Coalition was selected as a winner in the Protégé category.

The BCHFC project involves more than 30 community agencies, businesses, and organizations focused on achieving greater access to healthy foods and healthy life-styles. "Community Action Agencies are THE go-to organization for helping people, creating jobs and improving communities-and this role increases during challenging economic times," said Jeanette Collier, Executive Director, Northeast Kansas Community Action Program. "That's why we supported the extensive collaborative efforts of this program, and we're proud of the partnership with the Hiawatha Foundation for Economic Development, the Community Foundation of Northeast Kansas as well as all of the organizations involved. Not

only has this project been cited as one of the best in the country, but it's making a considerable positive impact on our neighbors, both financially and personally."

The Protégé award, created in 2010, honors Community Action Agencies for exemplary leadership and innovation in creating change for low-income people and families-specifically in economic development. It is part of the Partnership's Community Economic Development Exemplary Practice Initiative, funded by the federal Office of Community Services/Administration for Children and Families/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"Despite the fact that CAAs are under increased pressure due to budget cuts and growing requests for services, they are still leading the way in terms of novel approaches that are really helping low-income people and communities thrive," said Stacy Flowers, Director of Community Economic Development at the Community Action Partnership. "The award winners highlight CAAs' unique ability to spearhead programs that promote economic security and reduce poverty." Based in Washington, DC, the Community Action Partnership provides training and other services to more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies across America that are helping low-income people and families improve their lives, strengthen their communities and embody the spirit of hope.

Pictured above: Gene Hillyer, Brown County Healthy Foods Coalition Representative and Jeanette Collier, NEK-CAP, Inc. Executive Director

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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Facebook

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

“What Home Means To Me” Art Contest

Submitted by Bekki Parsons, Atchison County Child & Family Advocate

Congratulations Richard and Troy!! I shared the contest rules for the “What Home Means to Me” Art Contest from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation to all of my families. I had a couple of families submit artwork. Out of all the submissions, Troy Phillips, age 2, won second place of \$75 to Toys R Us or Babies R US and Richard Phillips, age 6, won 3rd place of \$50 to Toys R Us.

Troy drew a picture of “cocoa” because they drink hot cocoa a lot at home according to Mom. Richard drew a picture with all of the floors in their home and a basement to protect him from storms. Troy received 2nd and Richard received 3rd in the 1-5 years age group. Parents of Richard and Troy are Rebecca and Charles Phillips of Atchison, KS.



Richard Phillips, age 6 and Troy Phillips, age 2

Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes

Submitted by staff members

Martha and I share the Lianne Wells family, mother of Ian and Ivy Burge. In the beginning, Lianne was one of those client’s that did not talk much, questioned keeping weekly visits, wondered if we would make it through the paperwork, etc. Over the last several months, Martha and I have seen a complete switch with this family and truly believe that the structure of EHS and HS and getting them into a stable daycare, income, and housing, has contributed to this success. Recently, I was shopping at Walmart for socialization supplies and ran in to Lianne. She has worked at Walmart for about a year or year and a half now and has moved up in ranks throughout this year. Lianne informed me that they will be moving to Marysville in October. I questioned why? She reported that she has just found out that she was accepted as the Assistant Manager at the Walmart there! You would not believe the excitement, enthusiasm, and dedication I could see as she was telling me this. To back up, Lianne’s overall, long term goal she always spoke of was to become a Manager at Walmart, she has seen that the income is great and the bonuses are even better - this was, perhaps, just a goal and something that she may not have seen in the near future. To hear this news and see the passion and eagerness is truly uplifting. Lianne has dedicated herself to working at Walmart and never complained. This is truly a success and she will now be able to provide for her two children, completely. As Martha was doing HS orientation last week with her, Lianne mentioned that she would have never of

dreamed of making this kind of money. We are both so excited and touched by what working together and being dedicated to a family can do. Good job Martha - thanks for all you do in supporting these families!! It pays off!! *Submitted by: Kim Lackey, Atchison County Child and Family Advocate 0-3*

I have a parent that had the most visits in my program, used the child care portion and was able to obtain her BA in social work. She is currently has two jobs now that she is using her degree for. One full time job and a part time job. She has moved into a rental house and no longer has to use low income housing. *Submitted by: Bekki Parsons, Atchison County Child and Family Advocate 0-3*

I have another client that when she left high school they told her she had a 3rd grade reading level. She worked very hard and started attending GED classes a year ago. She has now received her GED and believes she can do anything she wants. She is planning on going to college. *Submitted by: Bekki Parsons, Atchison County Child and Family Advocate 0-3*

I have another client that has been struggling with finding a job and maintaining her bills. She has now found a job, coordinated her child care, her boyfriend is attending classes at Highland Community College and they are able to pay their bills without state assistance. *Submitted by: Bekki Parsons, Atchison County Child and Family Advocate 0-3*

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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.



2013 KACAP Annual Distinguished Honoree Awards

Submitted by Linda Grier, Integrated Services Office Manager

An Awards Recognition was held on Tuesday, July 30, 2013 honoring the award recipients for the 2013 KACAP (Kansas Association for Community Action Programs) Annual Distinguished Honoree Awards at the Fisher Community Center in Hiawatha.

Those honored at the ceremony were Norma Jean Holcomb (Grandma Jean) of Troy, KS received for the Caring Service Award; The Brown County Healthy Foods Coalition of Brown County, KS received

the Award for Collaborative Excellence (ACE) Award and Josh Wheeler of Atchison, KS received for the Personal Responsibility and Achievement Award.

To view all the photos from the evening's celebration, please visit the NEK-CAP, Inc. facebook page. NEK-CAP, Inc. would like to congratulate and thank all the award nominees and recipients for their dedication and commitment to Community Action.



Norma Jean Holcomb, Caring Service Award winner; Jet Sperfslage, Integrated Services Specialist/Mental Health Consultant; and Tawny Stottlemire, KACAP Executive Director.



ACE Award Winner members present from The Brown County Healthy Foods Coalition were Gene Hillyer, Don Nigus, Toni Hull, Annette Wilson, Karla Harter, Jeanette Collier and Steve Smith.



Josh Wheeler, Personal Responsibility and Achievement Award winner; and Jet Sperfslage, Integrated Services Specialist/Mental Health Consultant.

*What is the recipe for successful achievement?
To my mind there are just four essential ingredients:
Choose a career you love . . .
Give it the best there is in you . . .
Seize your opportunities
And be a member of the team.
In no country but America, I believe,
is it possible to fulfill all four
of these requirements.*

~ Benjamin F. Fairless

NEK-CAP, Inc. Community Needs Assessment

Submitted by Jeanette Collier, Executive Director

NEK-CAP, Inc. (Northeast Kansas Community Action Program) invites your participation in conducting our organizations tri-annual Community Needs Assessment related to assets, resources, services, policies and needs impacting low-income families and individuals in your county. All meetings will be held from Noon till 1:00pm, lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by the date listed, to Linda Grier, at 785-742-2222, ext. 235 or lgrier@nekcaph.org.

Please plan to attend at one of the following locations:

October 3, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 1)
Nemaha County: Pioneer Building
209 N 8th, Seneca

October 22, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 20)
Pottawatomie County: Sunflower Room
612 E. Campbell St, Westmoreland

October 4, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 2)
Atchison County: Atchison Public Library
401 Kansas Ave, Atchison

October 28, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 26)
Jefferson County: Colonial Acres
8998 U.S. 59, Oskaloosa

October 15, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 13)
Marshall County: Lincoln Center
405 N 4th, Marysville

October 29, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 27)
Brown County: NEK-CAP Administrative
Office - 1260 220th St, Hiawatha

October 16, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 14)
Jackson County: Head Start Center
130 S Iowa, Holton

October 30, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 28)
Riley County: Health Dept.
2101 Claflin Rd., Manhattan

October 18, 2013 (RSVP by Oct 16)
Doniphan County: Community Building
303 E St. Joseph St, Wathena

November 12, 2013 (RSVP by Nov 10)
Leavenworth County:
Location to be announced

*If future generations
are to remember us
more with gratitude
than sorrow, we must
achieve more than just
the miracles of
technology. We must
also leave them a
glimpse of the world as
it was created, not just
as it looked when we
got through with it.*

Lyndon B. Johnson



Ready to kick-off the new school year ~ Bree Seitz, Family Development Advocate and Megan Hann, Center Manager/Teacher from the Nemaha County-Sabetha Center participate in the Sabetha Rodeo Parade.

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