Mayor Reads to Children in Head Start Preschool Program

CAI thanks the City of Haverhill Mayor, Jim Fiorentini, for visiting and reading a story to children in the Head Start preschool program at our Fox Center in Haverhill in February.

ECCF Partners with Community Action Agencies to Empower Economic Opportunity in Essex County

The Essex County Community Foundation (ECCF) recently announced a three-year empowering economic opportunity project to provide financial literacy and education programs for low-income clients in Essex County. With tools from United Way's Financial Empowerment Learning Institute and partnerships with local community colleges, financial literacy providers, banks and community volunteers, agencies will establish financial coaching practices to provide one-on-one financial coaching and financial literacy education.

Community Action, Inc, along with four other Community Action Agencies in Essex County are excited to be partners in the Financial Coaching and Literacy project ECCF will work with nonprofit partners in four areas: Financial Coaching and Literacy; Credit for Prior Learning, Small Business Resiliency and Venture Fund and Essex County Think Labs. Kerri Sheeran Perry, CAI director of planning and development, said she is thrilled to partner with the Foundation on this project. “ECCF worked side-by-side with the five Community Action agencies in Essex County to develop a collaborative and sustainable financial literacy model that will create economic opportunities for the low-income families we serve.”

Key staff from five Community Action Agencies in Essex County, who will collaborate on providing Financial Literacy Coaching and Education to low-income clients, attend the ECCF Empowering Economic Opportunity Launch at Peabody City Hall.

Holiday Notice - Patriots' Day
CAI offices will be closed on Monday, April 15, in observance of Patriots’ Day.

Meeting Notice: Board of Directors
CAI's all-volunteer Board of Directors will hold meetings on Wednesday, March 27 and Wednesday, April 24 at the CAI Fox Center, 75 Elm Street in Haverhill. Presentations and Committee meetings begin at 5:45pm. Board Meeting begins no later than 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the general public. Please contact CAI's AA/EO Mgr. in advance for information on physical accessibility and sign language interpreters, 978-373-1971.

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"Opening Doors to Economic Opportunity"

March/April 2019
CAI Family Day Care Provides Professional Development Training to Educators

CAI Family Day Care held a professional development training for their network of family child care educators in February. Kathie Cote, Family Day Care program director, thanks educators for “guiding, inspiring, influencing and creating curious minds”.

The CAI Family Day Care program (CAI-FDC) provides comprehensive family child care services for children 8 weeks to 12 years old in licensed and monitored day care homes. Educators provide developmentally appropriate materials and experiences, a positive atmosphere designed to encourage self-confidence, independence and intellectual curiosity in a family home setting. Learn more about Family Day Care https://www.communityactioninc.org/programs/children/daycare

Northern Essex WIC Kicks off National Nutrition Month® in March

Northern Essex WIC, a program of Community Action, Inc., kicked off National Nutrition Month® on March 1 with families participating in the CAI Early Head Start home-based playgroup. Stacey Kripp, Northern Essex WIC’s Senior Nutritionist/BF Coordinator shared a healthy WIC recipe of overnight oats with the families.

Learn more about National Nutrition Month® https://www.eatright.org/food/resources/national-nutrition-month

CAI Family & Community Connection Offers Kindergarten Ready Program

The CAI Family & Community Connection offers Kindergarten Ready, a free program for families with children who do not attend preschool. This program is for children 4–5 years old and allows children a chance to learn important skills needed for Kindergarten including:

- Language Development
- Cognition
- Fine/Gross Motor Skills
- Social & Emotional Development
- Physical Development

Kindergarten Ready is offered at FCC, 346 Broadway in Haverhill on Tuesdays, 10–11:30 a.m. and at Moody School, 59 Margin St. in Haverhill on Fridays, 10:30–11:30 a.m. For more information about this program please call (978) 914-7893 or email mtamberino@communityactioninc.org.

FCC is a coordinated family and community engagement program funded by a grant through the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, administered by Community Action, Inc.

This program serves residents of Amesbury, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Merrimac and West Newbury.

Playgroups & Early Learning Activities for Families with Children 0–8 Years

The CAI Family & Community Connection offers playgroups and early learning activities for families with children 0–8 years old. Most activities are held at FCC, 346 Broadway in Haverhill (unless otherwise indicated) and there is no cost to participate.

Activities include weekly playgroups for 0-3 year olds and 3-6 years olds; the kindergarten ready program, STEM activities, learn & move, story times at local libraries and more! Visit www.communityactioninc.org or call (978) 914-7893 for more information and to register your child.
ESOL and High School Equivalency Preparation Classes

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Registration
Waitlist registration for ESOL classes will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at 10 a.m., at the CAI Adult Learning Center, 3 Washington Square, 3rd floor in Haverhill. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until noon. If you have questions please contact Alisa Povenmire, career and education advisor, apovenmire@communityactioninc.org, 978-373-1971 ext. 216 or Ana Quiroz Kim ext. 244.

High School Equivalency Preparation Registration
Waitlist registration for High School Equivalency (HiSET/GED) classes will be held on Tuesday, April 23 at 10 a.m. at the CAI Adult Learning Center, 3 Washington Square, 3rd floor in Haverhill. Please arrive on time and plan to stay until noon. If you have questions please contact Alisa Povenmire, career and education advisor, apovenmire@communityactioninc.org, 978-373-1971 ext. 216.

CAI Goldman Memorial Scholarship Applications
CAI’s Goldman Memorial Scholarship applications are now available for high school seniors/graduates, HiSET recipients and post-secondary students. A $1,000 scholarship is awarded annually in each category to residents who meet the scholarship criteria. Scholarships are in memory of Gerald Goldman, the Executive Director of Community Action, who passed away in 1995. Students residing in the following Massachusetts cities and towns are eligible to apply: Amesbury, Boxford, Georgetown, Groveland, Haverhill, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury.

To download applications visit: https://www.communityactioninc.org/programs/scholarships

First Time Homebuyer Training Offered
The Community Action Inc. (CAI) First Time Homebuyer Education Program will offer first time homebuyer education classes for area residents beginning Tuesday, March 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the Presidential Gardens Community Room, 140 Evergreen Drive in Bradford.

A Massachusetts Homeownership Collaborative approved certificate is awarded after completion of the three-night course. The program is also approved by MassHousing. The dates for the course are Tuesday, March 26, Thursday, March 28 and Tuesday, April 2. The cost is $60 per household. There are no income requirements to take the training. For more information contact Richard Lynch at 978-373-1971 or Susan Collins at 978-317-8998.

MWA Launches Public Education Campaign to Improve Snow Removal

The Mt. Washington Alliance (MWA) received a $1,500 mini-grant from Walk Boston through the Cummings Foundation to address the problem of poor snow removal in the densely populated Mt. Washington neighborhood in Haverhill. The problem is often caused by neighborhood residents’ lack of adherence to city ordinances and parking bans during snowstorms. “Improper snow removal makes it challenging and unsafe for residents, especially children, to walk in the neighborhood”, said Christine Soundara Borchers, MWA Initiative Director.

Throughout February and March, the MWA Snow Removal Campaign Committee will assess the knowledge of residents regarding city ordinances and parking bans and launch a public education campaign to educate residents on their responsibilities. In partnership with the City of Haverhill, the City of Haverhill Department of Public Works (DPW), the Haverhill Boys and Girls Club, Consentino Middle School and Haverhill’s Landlord Guild, the committee will hold community forums, setup bilingual robocalls and create signage and flyers educating residents on proper snow removal.

Ms. Borchers said, “The committee hopes to not only improve street and sidewalk conditions but also open clear lines of communication and better understand the problems and issues that both residents and the city face regarding snow removal in the Mt. Washington area”. The campaign wraps up in April and an evaluation will assess its effectiveness in improving street conditions.
Mt. Washington Alliance Partners to Combat Gang Violence

The Mt. Washington Alliance (MWA) received a portion of funding from the Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative (Shannon CSI) Grant Program to work with the Haverhill/Methuen Charles E Shannon CSI Partnership. The partners will provide resident leadership training and stipends for outreach workers to combat gang violence in the Mt. Washington area of Haverhill. The Shannon CSI Grant Program awarded $185,000 to Haverhill and Methuen. Funding allows local Police Departments and community partners to provide critical services to at-risk youth. CSI is a program aimed at reducing gang violence across the commonwealth. CSI uses a multi-pronged approach to address gang and youth violence including: social intervention; suppression; opportunity provision; organizational change and community mobilization.

Christine Soundara Bourchers, MWA Initiative Director, said “The Mt. Washington Alliance is honored and looking forward to working with the Haverhill Methuen Shannon CSI Partnership to provide training and outreach to local residents.” The MWA is an initiative of Community Action Inc.

Board of Directors

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