

CT CAPs

Connecticut Community Action Profiles



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CT Poverty Facts

"In Connecticut, one of the wealthiest states in America, one in ten children grows up in poverty."

"In the city of Hartford, nearly half of all children live below the poverty line."

~Senator Chris Dodd, July 26, 2010 Hearing on the State of the American Child, New Haven, CT

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.



Connecting People to Benefits? Easy as ABC!

The poverty rate in the United States hovers near 10%. A study by the American Medical Association's Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine concluded that American children face the highest levels of poverty and social deprivation of any children growing up in Western developed nations, and yet have the flimsiest social safety net to fall back on. Every day we are faced with the most vulnerable in our state and nation fighting to figure out how to afford the spiraling costs of medical care and other necessities. We see what poverty does to people every day when we open our doors to provide food, energy, and housing assistance.

So the short term question becomes how do we do our job even better? How do we get people the help they need in a down economy? State and federal budgets have depleted social services and CAA staff, so how can we better connect people with benefits and services?

We say it's as easy as ABC: CAFCA's new Automated Benefits Calculator! With the help of the Office of Community Services and Recovery Act funding, CAFCA has pushed the envelope on how to design and make available to the community an online human services benefits calculator that truly links the public to



CAFCA staff and partners celebrate the launch of the Automated Benefits Calculator (ABC).

the most basic of resources. By answering a few questions, users see if they may be able to get help with groceries, school lunch, health care, heating, or even money for daily expenses.

But ABC doesn't stop there! While ABC is designed to identify a potential range of benefits, the expertise of a CAA Case Manager or DSS Eligibility Worker is a must to ensure users' best interests. For this reason the public can access ABC online by going to www.cafca.org and clicking on the ABC button. So that every user receives personalized service, each local CAA will reach out to schedule follow-up appointments.

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The Priority & Legacy of the Children's Senator

As Chair of the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Children and Families, and founder of the "Children's Caucus" in 1983, Senator Chris Dodd has dedicated much of his career to improving the lives of American families and children.

After his decision to retire from the United States Senate, Senator Dodd announced that he would conduct a series of hearings on the state of American children with the goal of answering several important questions: What do our children need to succeed? How are we doing in providing those resources? And how can we improve our current efforts?

The "State of the American Child" series, which began in June and concluded with its fourth hearing in late November, examined all aspects of children's lives: their health from birth to adulthood, their educational experiences inside and outside of the classroom, and their life at home with their families and in their communities. At the same time, each of these



Senator Dodd reads to children during a December visit to TEAM's Head Start program.

hearings focused on the inter-connectedness of these various aspects of children's lives and how they shape and define our children.

On December 2, 2010, Senator Dodd made two important announcements. First, he and his Subcommittee staff released a report, entitled "The State of the American Child," which not

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Letter From the Chairman

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We find ourselves entering perhaps the most dynamic and challenging time in the history of the War on Poverty. We face unprecedented budget shortfalls, new political dynamics, and more—all during an economic recovery that is shaky at best.

The results of November’s elections will have a profound impact on Community Action during this pivotal time. At the federal level, while Connecticut’s Democratic, incumbent members of the House of Representatives were reelected, the House will be changing to Republican hands come January. When Attorney General Richard Blumenthal becomes Senator Blumenthal, our state will gain another relentless advocate, but lose outgoing senator Chris Dodd’s Senate longevity and established relationships.

In addition to these changes in Congress, we will see the exit of some influential friends of Community Action and the arrival of newly elected policymakers whose priorities are reducing the deficit and limiting government spending on social services. This may negatively impact our programs.

At the state level, former Stamford Mayor Dan Malloy will be sworn in as Governor on January 5, 2011. Meeting with CAFCA in September, Malloy pledged to fight for programs proven to promote economic security and break the cycle of generational poverty. He understands the moral and fiscal wisdom of preserving the well-being and dignity of every Connecticut resident.



State Representative John Geragosian (2nd from left), our next Governor—Dan Malloy (center), and State Senator Don DeFronzo (rear, 4th from right) join CAFCA leaders at the ‘Great Recession’ conference.

Apart from the fiscal and political uncertainty, our own data tell us that it will not be an easy road ahead. Already, our eligible energy assistance caseload this year is more than 4%—or more than 2,000 households—larger than it was at this time last year. Other indicators reflect similar increases in community need. The Great Recession may be gone by technical standards, but many Connecticut families are still waiting for the recovery to arrive.

Yet, we have good reason to hope. First, CAFCA is always moving forward. Marking an innovation milestone, CAFCA recently launched its user-friendly Automated Benefits Calculator, or ABC. With English and Spanish versions free online, ABC screens for a variety of state and federal programs and connects people to their local CAAs and other resources. (Read more about ABC in this

edition’s cover story.) Resources like ABC are crucial as we are forced to do more with less in these lean times.

Second, our network’s dedicated professionals and use of Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) continue to allow us to make our programs and operations ever more effective and efficient. The manner in which the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) has broken down longstanding service silos should serve as an example to organizations seeking to make their own services more comprehensive and productive. It’s essential to maintain the Human Services Infrastructure (HSI) in order to meet the growing needs of Connecticut families.



CAFCA Chair James Gatling looks on as Connecticut House Speaker Chris Donovan addresses CAFCA’s ‘Great Recession’ conference.

Finally, our partnerships with other human services systems and organizations are stronger than ever, thanks to our collaborative approach and commitment to promoting effective practices wherever they are found.

So, even in the face of unprecedented uncertainty and daunting public policy decisions, we have confidence that a unified Community Action Agency network working in concert with our state and federal partners will succeed in providing efficient and effective services to those in need. We will continue marching forward together to ensure that every Connecticut family can live in economic security sustained through well-paying jobs.

On behalf of the CAFCA family, happy holidays to you and yours. May the joy and good will of this season reinvigorate our commitment to each other, and to empowering people and building communities in the year to come.

Yours,

James H. Gatling, Ph.D.
Chairman, CAFCA Board of Directors
President/CEO, New Opportunities, Inc.

**Want your CAA in CT CAPs?
We thought so!**

**Send your stories and photos to ben@cafca.org
or call (860) 832-9438 today!**

Next deadline: February 11, 2011

CAFCA Promotes CAA Best Practices and Sustainability



Then the front-running candidate for U.S. Senate, Richard Blumenthal attended CAFCA's conference and underscored the need for CAAs' work to continue.

The Great Recession and Poverty: Helping People in Turbulent Times

On September 21, 2010, over 300 CAA board members, managers, and front-line staff attended CAFCA's annual conference. The event was in keeping with CAFCA's mission, which includes providing training and development for the benefit of Connecticut's CAAs.

The keynote address was presented by one of the most sought after anti-poverty experts in the country. Donna M. Beegle, Ed.D. is a highly experienced national public speaker, discussion leader, trainer, and the author of "See Poverty, Be The Difference," a resource for professionals who work with people in poverty.



CAFCA Board Secretary Amos Smith, President/CEO of CAANH, introduced State Senator Toni Harp, whose district includes New Haven.

Having grown up in, and eventually escaping, the cycle of generational poverty, Dr. Beegle shared the story of her own movement out of poverty, the lessons she has learned, and her recommendations for Connecticut's Community Action network.

The first of two luncheon speakers was State Senator and Appropriations Committee Chair Toni Harp, who presented an overview of the State's budget challenges and underscored the importance of CAAs continuing to partner with the State to ensure that no family is left out of Connecticut's economic recovery.

The second luncheon speaker was Professor Fred Carstensen, Director of UConn's Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis. He shared his insights as to how CAAs might best help customers prepare for anticipated trends in the job market, and how the Great Recession will impact employment trends for years to come.

Several development tracks were offered to allow every CAA professional to have an engaging, worthwhile experience. These included: Energy and Weatherization, Finance, Management and Organizational Development, Board Development, Customer Service (including Cultural Competency), Fundraising, and Public Relations and Marketing. Attendees' session and overall evaluations will help CAFCA build on this event's success.

In the evening, CAFCA was pleased to host a Meet the Candidates Reception to allow participants a chance to share ideas and interact with gubernatorial and senatorial candidates, as well as several of our state's key legislative leaders.



CAFCA Vice Chair Deb Monahan, CAFCA Chair James Gatling, author and activist Dr. Donna Beegle, and CAFCA Executive Director Edith Karsky.

CAFCA would not have been able to host such an event without generous supporting partners. CAFCA is deeply grateful for the support of our conference partners, who realize the importance of helping the *whole* community succeed.

- SMC Partners (Presenting Partner)
- CL&P and Yankee Gas (Networking Partner)
- New England Financial (Networking Partner)
- United Illuminating Company (Networking Partner)
- Wentworth, DeAngelis & Kaufman Insurance (Networking Partner)
- Nutmeg Consulting (Business Partner)
- Pronto Printer of Newington (Business Partner)
- Smoko Insurance Agency (Business Partner)
- Sullivan & LeShane (Business Partner)

The Great Recession and Poverty: Helping People in Turbulent Times was a valuable experience at a time when CAAs' local, comprehensive services are in great demand. Thanks to everyone whose participation and support made this event such a success!

Employment Registers with HRA Youth

“My experience at Stew Leonard’s is great. I have been exposed to many departments and have learned a lot from all. It has provided me with an opportunity to move up. It is the best job I have ever had.” Antonio Birden

“I’m excited to be at Stew Leonard’s because the people are always happy and friendly. Even though I’ve been here a short time, I love it!” Kcysa Plummer

“I like working the cash register at Stew Leonard’s and meeting new people.” Carlyn Gonzalez

“The Summer Youth Program as well as Stew Leonard’s have given me a rewarding experience and have taught me excellent customer service skills.” Tyanna Davis

These are just some of the voices of satisfied customers. They are not shopping at Stew Leonard’s, but working there, thanks to HRA’s Youth Employment Program and funding from Capital Workforce Partners.

Antonio Birden began his Stew Leonard’s employment experience in March 2010. Four months later, in July 2010, he became a regular employee working 32 hours per week. During that time, he also worked third shift at UPS, turned 21, and became a father.

Antonio has succeeded thus far because he has had the opportunity and the desire. Antonio graduated from New Britain High School in 2009 with no goals until he went to HRA. There he developed career plans and gained actual work experience as part of the Youth Employment Program. Participants are low-income individuals who spend half their time learning career competencies and the other half in subsidized employment or volunteer service.

Key to this benefit is the partnership that HRA has developed with Stew Leonard’s over the past year. According to Stew Leonard’s Recruiter Mike Liacos, “I am very happy with our partnership and

shy away from many of the other organizations who approach me for employment opportunities. HRA knows the company’s culture and only sends me candidates that will meet our high standards.” In the first year, Mike agreed to a trial with four slots; this past summer he enthusiastically increased that number.

As a result of the first year’s success, Mike has placed two participants in the most demanding and important role: front end cashier. Kcysa Plummer and Carlyn Gonzalez are being trained by their “buddies” who mentor them while they learn the register, pack the bags, and smile at the customers. Mike noted that Kcysa even arrived an hour early one day—off the clock—to learn the produce before ringing out customers. Mike checks on these young women weekly and has been pleased with their work.

Selected as one of Fortune Magazine’s “100 Best Companies to Work for in America” for the past nine consecutive years, Stew Leonard’s is recognized for its management philosophy: “Take good care of your people and they in turn will take good care of your customers.”

Anyone who has shopped there knows about the company’s passionate approach to customer service, which is etched in granite as you enter the store: “Rule #1: The Customer is Always Right; Rule #2: If the Customer is Ever Wrong, Re-Read Rule #1.”

Stew Leonard’s’ culture is built around the acronym S.T.E.W.: Satisfy the customer; Teamwork gets it done; Excellence makes it better; WOW makes it fun. From day one, HRA’s youth employees were treated as part of the regular team.

The company offers career opportunities, growth, and longevity. Some of the youth may continue there. Others will move on to something else. Either way, they will learn excellent customer service skills and gain valuable workforce experience.

Special thanks to HRA’s Caren Dickman.

ABC (cont’d)

As CAFCA Executive Director Edith Karsky notes, “ABC provides a first step, but person-to-person linkages are important. We want people to connect to their local CAAs: the community-based, customer-focused agencies delivering holistic social services.”

For customers already receiving services, or who visit their CAA to apply for energy assistance and other quality of life services, ABC is integrated into CAA case management and energy assistance systems. CAA staff simply click an ABC icon to receive a printout of a customer’s potential eligibility for the full range of programs.

Several user-friendly ABC features help to minimize the staff and customer time needed to complete program applications:

- An individualized, printable Results Report with brief descriptions of programs screened for by ABC, explanations detailing why a user may or may not be eligible, and a list of documents needed to submit valid program applications;
- A link to Kelly Blue Book for accurate vehicle assessment;
- A built-in calculator that uses official government formulas;
- Access to driving directions to customers’ local CAAs;
- A glossary of terms describing assistance programs screened

for by ABC, the current Federal Poverty Level chart, the state median income chart, and the SNAP Thrifty Food plan;

- Links to more program information and applications; and
- A full Spanish version - ¡ABC está disponible en Español!

As we struggle to recover from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, CAAs accept the challenge and continue to rise to the occasion. Thus, ABC becomes a pivotal tool to ensure customers are provided the benefits they are eligible for while expediting the application process and educating the community. As we continue to fight the war on poverty, ABC becomes another arrow in our quiver.

For more information, and to access our *free* ABC, visit www.CAFCA.org! We look forward to hearing from you!

Special thanks to CAFCA’s Judy Feinstein.



ARRA All Around

In 2009, Congress passed and the President signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the economic stimulus legislation designed to help stem the dangerous trends of job loss, foreclosure, and other causes of instability nationwide.

Connecticut's Community Action Agencies have put ARRA dollars to productive use throughout our state. In many cases, our network has used Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) ARRA funding to leverage other private and public resources needed to help families get back on their feet.

CRT: Summer Food and Workforce Education

This year, Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro and Congressman Joe Courtney visited CRT Summer Food Sites in Middletown and Enfield, respectively. Both leaders witnessed first-hand the nutritional meals and activities served up by CRT to more than 1,200 children throughout the state and enjoyed creating "Banana Snakes" with the children. "When we address the issue of child nutrition, we must ensure that the foods our children eat have the nutritional value they need to thrive—and here at the Middletown Summer Food Program, they are doing just that," DeLauro said.

CRT used ARRA funding to purchase a meal delivery truck and hire a driver in order to expand the food-and-fun program into Enfield. By the end of the summer, 310 Enfield children had enjoyed 8,047 meals at three new lunch sites, while the existing Portland and Middletown program served 948 children who ate 31,509 meals. That's more than 39,500 meals prepared and served by CRT!



CRT President/CEO Lena Rodriguez (center) hosts Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro's visit to CRT's Summer Food Program.

Workforce education is another CRT priority. By attracting competitive funding, CRT ensured the state's workforce would benefit from a sizable investment for college courses and professional training. More than 1,300 local residents accessed free employment training that was managed by CRT in 2010, preparing them for high-demand careers. ARRA funding covered CRT's new YouthBuild program, a full-time employment specialist to work with adult customers, vocational training, and even the costs of a unique partnership: when the U.S. Census was struggling to recruit workers, CRT prepared 120 local residents to qualify for jobs paying \$15 - \$19 per hour.

Such investment also benefits CRT's workforce. ARRA and other funding sent 159 employees back to college, helping 44 staff move toward degrees and maintain credentials vital to their work.



Congressman Joe Courtney visits CRT's Summer Food Program. ARRA funding helped CRT serve more eligible families.

NOI: HSI/WIA and In-the-Making

ARRA funding helped NOI implement the HSI/WIA (Human Services Infrastructure / Workforce Investment Act) Community Project. Low-income people found social and unemployment services through community centers or Workforce Investment Board One-stop locations. Services included help obtaining childcare in order to acquire or maintain employment, job skills, transitional housing, food pantry services, clothing, eviction/foreclosure prevention, and healthcare.

CSBG ARRA funding allowed NOI to target 500 customers and place several HSI/WIA Community Liaisons in the Waterbury, Meriden, Danbury, and Torrington communities. The liaisons worked with targeted areas to identify, coordinate, and provide services to eligible residents. Each developed and maintained effective relationships with employers, network partners, and community groups while ensuring customers' engagement.

Some of the major achievements of this program include: 1,982 customers demonstrated a measurable increase in skills needed for employment; 419 customers in temporary or transitional housing obtained safe, stable housing; 432 customers avoided utility termination or fuel crisis; and 493 customers received eviction foreclosure prevention and mediation services.

Another ARRA-funded NOI program is In-the-Making, a training and development program for unemployed or under-employed women in Greater Waterbury. It's a twelve-week, 25 hours/week program through which participants are paid minimum wage. The program creates a "standard" workplace environment to develop skills and production expectations consistent with a regular workplace. Area businesses subcontract with the program for light assembly, collation, sorting, and packaging jobs.

At the same time, participants work with In-the-Making's bilingual Case Manager to establish personal advancement goals while addressing the barriers in their lives (i.e. transportation, child care, housing, education, etc.). A group support session also is a component of the program. This holistic, personalized approach benefits the women, who enroll in the program from diverse backgrounds and life experiences.

Special thanks to CRT's Dan Armstrong and NOI's Nate Case.

CTE Success Story

For five years, Emmanuel Dieujuste was a security guard at corporate buildings in Stamford watching the executives come and go. Did he dream of becoming one of them?

No, he dreamed of standing behind the counter of his own neighborhood convenience store. This [year], he started doing that at Convenience Grand Grocery, 1611 Stratford Ave., in Bridgeport. But, he says, his store is going to be different than the ones he grew up with. “We want to keep the people healthier,” he said.

Dieujuste said he will offer fruit and vegetables and fresh baked goods, as well as the typical convenience store items, including soda, soap, canned goods, diapers and cigarettes. However, he said he hopes the healthier options will catch on with shoppers.

Dieujuste is partners in the store with his mother, Marie Clairville, who drives a Greenwich school bus. They came to the United States from Haiti in 1992, when Dieujuste was 12.

In addition to the healthy options, he said he also wants customers to have a different shopping experience. He doesn’t plan on plastering the front of the store with cigarette or alcohol ads. Inside, he wants it be clean and bright.

“We wanted to have presentable stores,” said Dieujuste, possibly indicating the beginning of a new convenience chain. “When you

walk through our store, we want you to feel like you’re in a small grocery store.”

Getting to this moment took years of work, he said.

Dieujuste spent time with business counselors and studying the industry. He and his mother, both Stamford residents, worked with CTE Inc., a nonprofit community action agency, creating and executing a financial plan. They saved enough money through CTE’s Individual Development Account program to build out the store.

Participants must meet income eligibility and attend financial education classes and asset-specific training. When the participant reaches his or her savings goal, the funds are matched one-to-one and go to purchase a target asset such as a home or business.

So far, Dieujuste said the business is going well in Bridgeport. “The people have been really nice,” he said.

He said it’s going to take time to build a customer base, especially for the fruits and vegetables. His first sale was a 99-cent soda and his second was a pack of cigarettes.

Special thanks to the Connecticut Post / www.ctpost.com for allowing CAFCA to reprint this story.

State of the American Child (cont’d)

only synthesized the work and findings of the hearings, but also outlined key policies Congress needs to implement for the good of America’s children. The policy recommendations include:

- Extend and expand key programs to help children and families and make them more responsive to their needs;
- Take action to ensure better-paying jobs by raising the minimum wage and increasing the Child Tax Credit;
- Guarantee universal access to early childhood programs by permanently increasing funding for child care and Head Start and indexing these funds to inflation; and
- Make serious efforts to reduce the childhood obesity epidemic.

Second, Senator Dodd announced an exciting new partnership between two major child advocates, Save the Children and First Focus, to develop an annual report card on the state of the American child. He made this announcement on December 2, 2010 at a press conference with Senator Bob Casey (D-PA), Mark Shriver of Save the Children, and Bruce Lesley of First Focus.

“Children are 20 percent of our population, but 100 percent of our future.”

~Senator Chris Dodd

The report card will monitor the well-being of our nation’s children and provide benchmarks for their progress. The results will help identify areas where public policy is needed to improve the well-being of our children.

“Edith Karsky and the Connecticut Association for Community Action are on the front lines working to prevent childhood poverty.”

~Senator Chris Dodd

To help ensure that progress is made, Senators Dodd and Casey recently introduced legislation to establish a National Council on Children that will be responsible for annually assessing the state of American children’s health, education, and overall well-being. The Council also will be tasked with making recommendations to Congress on how to improve the policies that impact our children’s lives.

Citing some alarming statistics underscoring the urgency of these efforts, Senator Dodd noted that, “More than one in five [children] lives in poverty. One in four relies on food stamps. Nearly one in three is overweight or obese. Fewer than half of our 4th, 8th, and 12th graders can read and do math at the appropriate grade level.”

As CAFCA looks forward with optimism to a new year and a new Congress, we will nonetheless miss Senator Dodd’s compassionate, tireless advocacy. Thank you, Senator Dodd, and best wishes to you and your family for continued happiness and success.

Special thanks to Averi Pakulis and the rest of the Subcommittee on Children and Families Democratic Staff, and to CAFCA’s Derek Haviland.

Emerging Leaders' Corner

Two of Community Action's key national organizations are leading the way in facilitating a comprehensive, inclusive dialogue to help shape the movement's future. Through trainings and dialogues, they create professional development opportunities for emerging leaders throughout the network.

National Community Action Foundation (NCAF)

Earlier this year, NCAF Executive Director **David Bradley** announced the launch of an exciting new partnership. NCAF has partnered with Southern New Hampshire University to offer an accredited online Master's of Science in Community Economic Development. Open to full-time Community Action employees, the new 36 credit-hour program includes such courses as Introduction to CED, Foundations of Community Action, Project Design in CED, Organizational Management in CED, and more. While people may apply at any time, the first class begins in January!

Another noteworthy effort is the series of Emerging Leaders Meetings NCAF has planned for 2011. More than forty CAA

professionals attended the first such meeting, which was held this past July. The series of discussions planned for the coming year is expected to delve further into Community Action's past and potential, and allow for networking across regions. For more information, visit www.ncaf.org.

Community Action Partnership (CAP)

Lil Dupree, the Partnership's Director of Training and Technical Assistance, and Partnership Board Member **Deborah Blanks** led the way in coordinating and hosting a comprehensive emerging leaders dialogue and series of trainings at the Partnership's 2010 Annual Convention in Boston. Now, emerging leaders look forward to additional discussion and sessions at the Partnership's 2011 Leadership and Management Training Conference (see below). Learn more at www.communityactionpartnership.com.

The nationwide Community Action network strives to develop and employ increasingly effective methods of fighting poverty, and these organizations are providing vital leadership in that effort.

Special Recognition

NOI Leader Appointed to Task Force - This past November, **Bill Rybczyk**, NOI's Director of Research, Development, and Planning, received a two-year appointment to the Community Services Block Grant Information System Task Force (ISTF) to represent Region I. The ISTF is convened by the National Association for State Community Services Programs (NASCSPP) to provide feedback and suggestions on the continual improvement of the CSBG Information Survey completed annually by all CAAs.

Access Celebrates Service - In October, Access presented Community Service Awards to **Kim Silcox**, of Eastern Connecticut State University's Center for Community Engagement, and Everyday Democracy. Volunteer Service Awards were presented to students from the Center for their work with Access's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Community Spirit Awards were presented to the Plainfield High School National Honor Society, employees of the Department of Community and Economic Development, employees of the Staples Distribution Center, and Haz-Pros, Inc. Environmental & Construction Services. Access Board members **Carol Kraus** and **Sam Gordon** were recognized for ten years of service. Access also recognized employees **Aisha Salamo**, **Mary Jean Sznurkowski**, **Matilde Casoni**, **Jodi Nafis**, **Deborah Smith**, **Dahianna Rodriguez**, and **Mitch Beauregard** (five years); **Jennifer Witter** (ten years); **Maggie Appleton** (15 years); and **Jennifer Smith**, **Pat Gaenzler**, and **Michael Bernier** (25 years).

CAAs Help The Diaper Bank - Connecticut's CAAs recently concluded a joint effort with The Diaper Bank through which free diapers were provided to struggling families. Annually, The Diaper Bank distributes roughly 2.5 million diapers. Yet, through our collaborative effort, it took only six weeks to distribute more than 1.7 million diapers, connect even more people to their local CAAs, serve more than 8,700 children, and save low-income families nearly \$871,100!

Special thanks to NOI's Bill Rybczyk, Access's Kate Fortier, The Diaper Bank's Kym Hunter, and CAFCA's Rhonda Evans.

Community Action Calendar

Community Action Partnership 2011 Management and Leadership Training Conference

January 5-7, 2011

Miami Beach, FL

www.communityactionpartnership.com

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Awareness Day

January 28, 2011

www.eitc.irs.gov

NCAF Emerging Leaders Meeting

February 17-20, 2011

St. Petersburg, FL

www.ncaf.org

2011 NASCSPP Mid-Winter Training Conference

March 2-4, 2011

Bethesda, MD

www.nascspp.org

NCAF 2011 Legislative Conference and Energy Symposium

March 9-12, 2011

Washington, DC

www.ncaf.org

National Community Action Month

May 2011

www.communityactionpartnership.com

NCAF War on Poverty Workshop

May 8-13, 2011

St. Petersburg, FL

www.ncaf.org

Connecticut Association for Community Action

CAFCA is Connecticut's association of federally-designated anti-poverty agencies. We support our members in building community, promoting public policy, and developing leaders to end poverty in Connecticut. A statewide economic engine, the network employs over 3,000 staff and directly benefits more than 300,000 people annually, empowering families and strengthening communities.

Action for Bridgeport Community Development, Inc. (ABCD)

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www.abcd.org

Access Community Action Agency (Access)

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Norwalk Economic Opportunity Now, Inc. (NEON)

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Training, Education, And Manpower Inc. (TEAM)

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