



In This Issue:

From the Executive Director's Desk	2
CNC Machinist Success Story	3
BSACAP Staff Recognitions	4-5
Harbor Freight New Hires	6
Employer Services Team Success	7

Offices

Floyd County

- 686 North Lake Drive
Prestonsburg, Ky.
606-889-1772
- 60 Court Street
Allen, Ky.
606-874-3595

Johnson County

- 230 Court Street
Paintsville, Ky.
606-789-3641

Magoffin County

- 131 Church Street
Salyersville, Ky.
606-349-2217

Martin County

- 387 E. Main Street
Inez, Ky.
606-298-3217

Pike County

- 478 Town Mtn. Road
Pikeville, Ky.
606-432-2775
- 138 College Street
Pikeville, Ky.
606-433-7721

Hall presented with state volunteer award

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program is pleased to announce that long-time board member Eula Hall has been awarded the 2018 Altha Jo Hamilton Volunteer Award presented by Community Action Kentucky. Ms. Hall was presented the award in June at the annual Community Action Kentucky Conference held in Louisville.

The Altha Jo Hamilton Volunteer Award honors the spirit and achievement of someone who has embraced the power of volunteerism as an opportunity to improve lives. This award is named in memory of someone who chose to give back selflessly and promoted Community Action in those endeavors. Nominees for the Altha Jo Hamilton Volunteer Award should excel at advancing Community Action through volunteering or by going beyond the scope of their employment. They must be a volunteer, employee or board member of a local community action agency and be nominated by another volunteer, staff or board member.

Eula Hall is the personification of the



Eula Hall accepted the Altha Jo Hamilton Volunteer Award at the Community Action Kentucky Annual Conference. Ms. Hall was joined by her friends John Rosenberg, Jean Rosenberg, Dr. & Mrs. Arnold Schector, daughter-in-law Sheila Hall, and her son Dean Hall.

Community Action Promise to improve communities. Thousands of lives in our region have been changed for the better because of her unassailable spirit and indomitable will. Big Sandy Area Community Action Program Executive Director Mike Howell said, "For 36 years she has served on the Big Sandy Area Community Action Program Board of Directors, but from the very beginning of the agency she had a hand in shaping the organization and its services, ensuring that low-income people had a stake and a say

in their own communities. She goes above and beyond, every day of her life, to help the people she comes in contact with. She truly exemplifies what Community Action is all about."

Throughout her life, Ms. Hall has successfully served as a voice for the poor of our region, often speaking truth to power in order to secure resources for people in need. She led the picket against the local school board to ensure that free and reduced price school lunches

HALL continued on page 7

NewsCAP

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Big Sandy Area
Community Action
Program, Inc.,
Paintsville, Ky.
(606) 789-3641*

James Michael Howell
Executive Director

Wanda Thacker
Deputy Director

Sarah Hill
Staff Writer

Programs

- Child and Adult Feeding Program
- Columbia Gas Energy Assistance
- Community Services Block Grant
- Demand Side Management
- Emergency Food and Shelter
- Head Start
- Homelessness Prevention
- Kentucky Power Home Energy Assistance Program
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)
- SS/SSI Representative Payee
- Tax Wise
- Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Weatherization
- Community Action Career Services
- Adult and Dislocated Worker Program
- Youth Work Experience Program
- Job Clubs
- Hiring Our Miners Everyday
- On the Job Training
- WinterCare

From the Executive Director's Desk

Fall has arrived at our doors before we knew it, bringing the busy LIHEAP season and Head Start year with it, so this is the perfect time of year to take a look at what we have been up to over the busy summer season.

The annual Community Needs Assessment revealed that once again health care was voted as the top needed service, followed by housing, employment, and education. The stories we share with you in this issue will illustrate the work we have done and will continue to do to address the needs of our people.

Each year, our agency participates in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA), which helps persons with disabilities, the elderly, and those making less than \$54,000 to prepare and file their tax returns at no cost to them. During tax season this year, our agency completed 188 tax returns for area households. Through this work, we were able to ensure that \$229,746 in tax refunds were returned to the local economy, including \$85,193 through the Earned Income Credit (EIC). The EIC is designed to provide some relief to the working poor and helps families to maintain stability while they look for higher paying jobs.

For Community Action Month this year, our staff marked the occasion with a community service project. Due to the ongoing difficulties faced by the Martin County Water District, we chose to hold a water drive for Martin County to assist residents with the costs associated with buying bottled water. Through the month of May we were able to gather 30 cases of water bottles and 27 gallons of water. The donations were delivered to RAMP



James Michael Howell

America, located at Tomahawk.

Once again our Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) participants exceeded their community service goals for the 2017-2018 program year. This year they topped their community service hours goal by 11 percent, topped their number served goal by over 30 percent, and met their goal of 25 unsubsidized placements. Let's all congratulate Program Manager Mike Goble and his participants on another year well done.

Finally, we invite you to share these stories with your family, friends, and acquaintances so that we might spread the word of Community Action across the region.

We hope to connect with our neighbors who may be in need of our services and with businesses and individuals who want to contribute to lifting our home out of poverty.

Mission Statement

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Over \$7,000 in college scholarships given out

Each year Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) is afforded the opportunity to present students in their service area with scholarships to help them attend college or vocational school. This year nine people across Pike, Floyd, Johnson, Martin, and Magoffin Counties received a total of over \$7,000 in funds to help them pursue their educational goals. This amount includes the newest award offered by the agency; the Eula Hall Community Advocate Scholarship.

The Eula Hall Community Advocate Scholarship is a \$2,000 prize awarded to an individual who is majoring



The 2018 CSBG Scholarship winners were presented with their awards in August at Big Sandy Area Community Action Program's Johnson County Office. Front row: Caitlin Little, Juanita Vickers, Jessica Hill, Shawn Kidd, BSACAP Executive Director Mike Howell. Back row: Montana Adams, Evan Prince, Reaford May Jr., BSACAP Deputy Director Wanda Thacker.

in Social Work, Human Services, Public Services, or a related field; has a history of volunteer work; is in at least their third year of study; and has a financial need.

Mike Howell, Executive Director of BSACAP, said that Eula Hall has served on the

agency's board of directors for 36 years and that her work in the community should be an inspiration to the next generation of advocates. "She is truly an advocate for our people. From her work to build and expand the Mud Creek Clinic to her work for black lung patients and workers' rights or even just helping people get through the end of the month by making sure they have food or medicine, she is a woman of the people and we are lucky to have her."

The winner of the first ever Eula Hall Community Advocate Scholarship is

Amy Combs of Garrett. Combs is in her final year at Morehead State University where she is studying to become a substance abuse counselor. As a recovering addict herself, she is passionate about helping other people find their way out of substance abuse and onto a fulfilling life. Combs attends school full-time, works full-time, and is a single mother with two sons. In her free time she coaches boys' basketball. She has previously volunteered with local senior citizens centers and at a local shelter.

SCHOLARSHIP continued on page 7



Eula Hall presented the first ever Eula Hall Community Advocate Scholarship to Amy Combs of Garrett in early August at the Eula Hall Health Center on Mud Creek. Combs is in her final year at Morehead State University where she is studying to become a substance abuse counselor.

Vision Statement

Big Sandy Area Community Action Program is recognized statewide as providing the key leadership role in assisting individuals, families, and communities to achieve their highest potential.

East Kentucky Workforce Conference success

The first ever East Kentucky Workforce Conference was hosted by Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP) in mid-May. BSACAP is the local One-Stop Operator for the Kentucky workforce system in coordination with the local Kentucky Workforce Investment Board (KWIB) and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP).

As a One-Stop Operator, BSACAP oversees the coordination of service delivery with all One-Stop Partners and service providers involved. This means providing leadership, serving as a resource, and providing support and assistance as needed to all of our workforce partners. As a One-Stop Operator for the region, BSACAP is helping to build a culture of collaboration within the partner agencies.

To help accomplish this goal of improved collaboration and cooperation amongst service providers in the area, BSACAP held the East Kentucky Workforce Conference, inviting peers and colleagues to meet

and open the lines of communication between agencies.

BSACAP's Career Services (WIOA) Manager Erica Ash said, "This conference is really about building those bridges across the region. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking that you have to do everything alone, but there are great people doing fantastic work at all

attended the conference where they were able to share information, discuss good customer service, develop new partnerships, strengthen existing partnerships, make new friends, and discuss ways that workforce professionals can work together as a team to provide high-quality customer service to all job seekers, worker,

partnership engagement, and best practices.

Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) Workforce Coordinator Melissa Williams said, "This is a great opportunity to connect with partners. There are people that I have never met and some that I only know by name or through email, so this is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with each other and learn more about one another's programs and the opportunities they have to offer."

Other attendees echoed Williams' sentiment saying that the conference allowed them to "get out of [their] comfort zone and met new people and learned new things." There was even the opportunity for a same-day success with one attendee report that they were "able to seal the deal on a training session that another group could provide for us."

Donny Osborn, an Instructor with Martin County Adult Education said, "Anytime you can get together with people you know and meet people



Representatives of different organizations joined together to practice their communication skill while they worked to define customer service at Big Sandy Area Community Action Program's first ever East Kentucky Workforce Conference.

of our partner agencies and we each become strong because of the ties we make with other programs and services."

Ninety-seven individuals from 25 partner agencies

employers, and the business community.

The dynamic training covered lessons and examples of excellent customer service, partnerships that work,

**WORKFORCE continued
on page 7**

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Connecting families and health services

Our Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) staff held the annual Community Health Fairs in July in Paintsville, Inez, Pikeville, and Langley. The free events assisted over 450 area residents to connect with healthcare providers and receive free health services and information. Attendance this year was nearly doubled this year when compared to the 2017 events.

Members of the public received free EKG's, non-fasting blood work, dental health screenings with x-rays, A1C checks, the hepatitis A vaccine, vision screenings, sports physicals for kids and teens, blood pressure checks, diabetic foot screenings, and information on diabetes prevention, health insurance options, all BSACAP programs, and much more.

Nearly 90 vendors ranging from local hospitals and health departments to family service organizations and addiction recovery centers from across the area helped BSACAP reach out to members of our communities and provide them with free health services and information.

Local businesses offered outstanding door prizes



Nurses from King's Daughters Medical Center provided free A1C checks to health fair attendees.

this year, including fishing passes, camping trips, movie tickets, gift cards, jewelry, and more, in addition to tickets to the Newport Aquarium, the Kentucky Horse Park, the Louisville Zoo, Cincinnati Reds baseball games, and the Creation Museum.

Alecia Conley-Knox, BSACAP's Community Service Block Grant Manager, explained that each year the organization conducts a survey of area citizens in order to learn about their most pressing concerns. She stated that health has consistently ranked among the top five concerns for the last several years.

"These Health Fairs help us to reach out to some of the most vulnerable people in our community and provide them with information about their healthcare options and some of the vital health services they may need," Conley-Knox said. "The priorities of the community are our priorities too and we are working alongside our partners in our communities to get people the services that are important to them."

BSACAP Executive Director Mike Howell said, "The health of our citizens is the foundation of the educational and economic success of our region, and we want to work to

ensure a strong and healthy workforce is available. We have a lot of generous partners in the local healthcare industry who understand the needs of our people and a lot of local businesses who have made donations to make these events successful. People across these sectors know that we have to rely on each other to make a better path forward."

The Community Health Fair is funded, in part, by the Community Services Block Grant made available by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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SCSEP at World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

Our Senior Community Service Employment Program participants joined with the Big Sandy Council on Elder Maltreatment to celebrate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th at the Mountain HomePlace in Staffordsville.

Elder abuse can come in the form of emotional, physical, and financial abuse. Everyone is encouraged to learn the

signs of elder abuse and offer help by reporting the abuse to authorities.

You can report elder abuse by calling 1-877-597-2331, or by contacting local law enforcement.

Pictured are Teresa Gullett from the Christian Appalachian Project, Johnson County Judge/Executive R.T. Daniels, and SCSEP Manager Mike Goble.



Congratulations on your retirement, Peggy!



Transportation coordinator, teacher, and family services worker Peggy Fields (center-in chair) celebrated her well-earned retirement this summer at Model City Head Start in Pikeville. She enjoyed time with friends and colleagues and recieved a rocking chair as a parting gift and thank you for her decades of service.

Peggy Fields is retiring from her position as Model City Head Start Transportation Coordinator.

Peggy began her career with Big Sandy Area Community Action Program nearly twelve years ago when the agency became the direct operator of the Model City facility, but Peggy's career with Head Start actually began much earlier.

Peggy began working for Model City Head Start in 1979. Throughout her thirty-nine year

career with Model City, Peggy has worked as a Classroom Teacher, a Family Services Worker, and since 2006 as Transportation Coordinator.

Peggy Fields has spent over half of her life in service to the children and families of Model City Head Start. Throughout her long career Peggy has touched the lives of countless young children and their families. Peggy will be greatly missed by the children, parents, and her co-workers.

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WORKFORCE

continued from page 4

you don't, it's a good thing. You can put names to faces and have the opportunity

to learn new things about the other services that are available."

"This is a new venture for our organization," said Mike

Howell, Executive Director of BSACAP. "We are excited to take on this new role within our community and we are even more excited to

see how our partnerships can grow and strengthen.

SCHOLARSHIP

continued from page 3

BSACAP Deputy Director Wanda Thacker said, "Amy has expressed interest in staying in the area to work and serve the people here. She has overcome hardship and has shown a real passion for caring for other people. She is just the sort of person we're looking for to carry the torch and we know she will do good things."

Seven Community Service Block Grant scholarships were also awarded. These scholarships are available to students who reside in Floyd, Johnson, Martin,

Magoffin, and Pike counties who demonstrate a financial need and write an essay explaining why their education is important and why they deserve the scholarship. This year's winners are as follows:

Montana Adams of Prestonsburg will be studying Secondary Mathematics Education at Alice Lloyd College.

Jessica Hill of Betsy Lane will be studying Medical Information Technology at Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

Shawn Kidd of Drift will be studying Nursing at the Galen College of Nursing.

Caitlin Little of Pikeville will be studying Nursing at Pikeville College.

Reaford May Jr. of Elkhorn City will be studying at Bellevue University.

Evan Prince of Lovely will be studying Psychology at Morehead State University.

Juanita Vickers of Hardy will be studying Social Work at Morehead State University.

Wanda Thacker, Deputy Director of BSACAP, said, "Through these scholarships we are trying to give a little extra help for the expenses they might incur during

the school year. We really applaud these students for making the choice to continue their education and we are grateful for the opportunity to encourage them on their way."

The BSACAP scholarship application period begins in May and ends in June each year.

Scholarship funding is made possible by Community Services Block Grant with funds made available by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the US Department of Health and Human Services.

HALL

continued from the front

were made available to poor children. She spoke directly to owners of coal mining operations about the rights of the workers and advocated for black lung compensation within the local and state governments, eventually becoming president of the Kentucky Black Lung Association.

When it was discovered that approximately 90 percent of the water wells in her area were contaminated, she created the Mud Creek Water District to provide clean, running water to homes. When Community Action funds came to the mountains, she fought to ensure the inclusion of low-income people in the decision making, and to this day ensures that our agency

stays true to its mission.

She is a pioneer for health in eastern Kentucky and a staunch advocate for the poor. She founded the Mud Creek Clinic, now known as the Eula Hall Health Center, in 1973 and raised thousands of dollars to bring medical services to her area. The clinic now hosts medical, dental, optometry, pharmacy, and behavioral services, along

with a food bank.

With her example and her guidance, Big Sandy Area Community Action Program lives up to its promise to truly serve the people of our communities. Howell said, "Ms. Eula is an example to all of us who want to serve our communities, and it is a privilege to serve alongside her."

Vision Statement

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Serving the Big Sandy Area since 1965.

This project is funded, in part, under a contract with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services with funds from the Community Services Block Grant Act and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

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