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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

A GED and a whole new life

"I've waited 71 years for this moment."

"I've dreamed of this my whole life," said Esther Kirk of Martin County after receiving her GED. Kirk joined Big Sandy Area Community Action Program's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and began to find a new way forward in life after living through some tough years.

When Kirk was just 16 years-old her mother passed away and she took on the responsibility of raising her 13 year-old and 3 year-old siblings. "There was not much income. We had it hard," she said. She married at age 14 and had three children of her own who kept her busy. "I raised gardens. I canned. I milked cows. I churned butter. And I babysat for the rest of the family," she said.

"I never went to a prom. I never went to a high school. I never had the childhood things that other kids had. It was just out of the question for me," she said.

Years later, Kirk would find herself looking for a new start. Her husband, who was also her childhood sweetheart, passed away 12 years ago. Her children are



Esther Kirk, of Martin County, has a whole new life now that she has her GED and gets to work out in the community. She is a participant in BSACAP's Senior Community Service Employment Program and studied with the Martin County Adult Education Skills-U.

grown. And she was living on a small fixed income. It was time to look for a job.

Kirk heard about the SCSEP from a friend who had been through the program. Through the program and with the assistance of Martin County Adult Education, Kirk began a new life of studying and working outside of the home.

She said that studying for her exam was really hard. "It was all new to me. Back, 50-some years ago, I only went to the 8th grade. I didn't have algebra. I didn't have the decimal points. I didn't have

any of the new stuff they've got today. So I had to really work hard. And I had good teachers to help me."

Through SCSEP Kirk was also able to be hired for the first time for work outside the home. As a participant in the program, she has been able to hold positions with Goodwill, Appalachian Reach Out, and at Sheldon Clark High School.

Kirk, who didn't get to spend time in high school when she was younger, now gets to regularly work with high school students working in the county high school's

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NewsCAP

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Community Action
Program, Inc.,
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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

Our agency has had a very busy winter this year and needless to say, we are ready for the warm weather to reach our doors.

The Crisis portion of our Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) wrapped up when the last of our funds were distributed in early February. Between January 8th and February 12th our agency filled 6,062 requests for heating assistance and distributed \$1,343,871.

In late September and early November, I represented our low-income clients, the agency, and our Board of Directors in the opposition to AEP's proposed 15 percent base rate hike. Community Action joined Attorney General Andy Beshear for a press conference in Pikeville to help shed light on the financial difficulties that our region faces. I along with our Board Member Floyd County Judge-Executive Ben Hale, and several other public officials and organizational spokespersons also addressed the Public Service Commission at a town hall in Prestonsburg.

In January, Kentucky Power was granted a four percent rate increase, but the company also scaled back their demand-side management program, so the average customer may see a small reduction in their bill.

The Garden Seed Program is set to being on April 2nd and will run until April 6th or until the funds have been exhausted. This wonderful little program provides income eligible households with a \$40 voucher that they can spend on seeds, plants, and fertilizer to help them build a garden at their home. It has proven to be a great way to help families stretch their grocery budgets. Our Community Resource Representatives,



James Michael Howell

with the help of our local UK Cooperative Extension Offices, hosted gardening workshops this month in each of our five counties to help people get ready for the planting season. At the end of summer, we'll be hosting workshops on canning and other preservation methods to help families keep more of their produce for use later in the year.

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.

Thank you for reading and please feel free to contact us anytime. We look forward to serving eastern Kentucky with you.

Mission Statement

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Moving from coal to the classroom

Corey Conley, a resident of Paintsville, performed equipment repair for mining operations in the area and his work was based out of Huntington, WV. In July of 2016, Conley was laid off from his job due to the downturn in the coal industry. "Your life changes dramatically when you're laid off. All of a sudden you have to worry about providing for your family where everything was taken care of before," he said.

As a dislocated worker, Conley was eligible to take part in the Community Impact Grant administered through Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program and Big Sandy Area Community Action Program. The Community Impact Grant is a National Emergency Grant. It provides funds to assist individuals who served in ancillary positions to the coal industry to receive education and training that will help them to transition into new work.

Conley said that he had always been mechanically inclined and felt that becoming a machinist would be a great new path for him. With the assistance of BSACAP's Career



Pictured is Corey Conley, who lost his job repairing coal mining equipment due to the downturn in the industry. After working with BSACAP, Conley became a trained CNC machinist and is teaching others his trade at the new eKAMI school in Paintsville.

Advisor Sandy Grimm, Conley prepared to attend the CNC Machinist School in Indiana. The training required for his certification meant that he spent nearly four months away from home, but it gave him a great opportunity to meet new people and study with really good instructors. Conley said that working with Grimm was great. "Sandy was awesome. She told me up front that it was going to be hard, but she made sure that I had

everything that I needed for school and she called to check in and make sure that everything was going well," he said.

After receiving his certification, Conley became an instructor at the East Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute (eKAMI) in his hometown of Paintsville and began teaching classes.

EKAMI opened in February and will offer 16-week training courses in fields related to advanced

manufacturing including machine building and tool maintenance required for both the general private sector and the aerospace industry.

After spending eight years driving to Huntington for work every day, Conley is excited to have steady work closer to home.

BSACAP's Community Action Career Services are made available to jobseekers and employers through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA).

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.

Community Action Staff Recognitions



Greg McCarty
Retirement

Greg began his career with the agency on August 12, 1991 in the position of Crew Laborer with the Weatherization Program. Greg was promoted to Supervisor for the Magoffin County Weatherization Crew in 1993 and became an Inspector in 2004. Over his more than twenty-six years with BSACAP, Greg has helped make many homes more energy efficient and has improved the lives of countless families in the process.



Pamela Hereford
20 Years

Pam began her career with BSACAP on October 20, 1997 as a Mental Health Services Assistant with the Head Start program. In 1999, Pam was promoted to Mental Health Services Manager and serves the Head Start program in the five-county service area by providing necessary mental health support to children and families.



Dawn Stephens
15 Years

Dawn began her career with BSACAP as a Community Resource Representative with the CSBG program on September 30, 2002. Dawn works in the Pike County service office and assists individuals and families in accessing CSBG services such as SSI Payee, Garden Seed, CSBG Scholarship, and LIHEAP.



Cathy Tackett
15 Years

Cathy began her full-time Career with BSACAP as a Bookkeeper for the WIA program on May 13, 2002. Cathy currently serves as Bookkeeper for the SSI and SCSEP programs, Floyd County Head Start, and Johnson, Magoffin, and Martin County LIHEAP.

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December 2017



Wanda Thacker
15 Years

Wanda began her career with BSACAP as a Program Specialist on December 16, 2002. Wanda became Director of Operations in 2003 and was promoted to Deputy Director in 2005. She managed agency programs, supervised staff, and along with the Executive Director and the Board, helped establish and implement policies and procedures to ensure the success of the agency.



Faye Rife
10 Years

Faye began her career with BSACAP as a Bookkeeper for the WIA Youth and SSI programs on January 2, 2007. She is currently the Bookkeeper for CSBG, Head Start, USDA, and Floyd County LIHEAP. Faye also keeps the books for special projects such as flood and tornado relief.



Alisha Cooper
5 Years

Alisha began her career with BSACAP as a Head Start Teacher in the Model City facility on July 26, 2012. As a Teacher, Alisha helps three and four year olds gain the knowledge and develop the skills they will need for kindergarten and beyond.



Shawna Howell
5 Years

Shawna began her career with BSACAP as the Administrative Assistant and Purchasing Agent for the Head Start program on September 10, 2012. Shawna is responsible for purchasing supplies for the Head Start office and the Model City facility as well as coordinating travel, training, and career development arrangements.

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Career Services connecting jobseekers and employers

Harbor Freight Tools, a retailer providing a variety of tools, automotive supplies, and home improvement items, opened a new store in Paintsville last month and Big Sandy Community Action Program's Career Services team helped them to connect with strong candidates for employment and get them ready to start their new jobs.

In coordination with Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP) and Kentucky Career Centers, BSACAP's Community Action Career Services team assisted the company in finding, hiring, and onboarding employees in time for the grand opening.

Harbor Freight connected with BSACAP's Employer Account Representative who learned about the company's local employment needs and expectations.

In order to ensure that the company was able to open the Paintsville store on time, BSACAP advertised for and then hosted a job fair at the Country Music

Highway Museum. Over 200 local jobseekers were able to meet with company representatives and participate in on-the-spot interviews. Career Advisors ensured the event moved smoothly by assisting jobseekers with registration and paperwork.

Community Action Career Services Manager Erica Ash said, "The central goal of our work is developing the local economy. So we want to help our clients through the hiring process from start to finish. We are working to help people access the education and training they need to be strong employees and then helping them connect to employers. And employers know they can reach out to us when they are looking for strong candidates to work for them and when they need help with planning for their growing businesses."

After a busy and successful job fair, the store's new hires needed to complete begin their training; however, work was still being completed on the



New hires at Harbor Freight Tools in Paintsville were able to complete their computer-based training at the BSACAP office just down the road from the new store while it was being prepared for the grand opening.

store's interior and everyone needed to stay on schedule.

After learning of the store's needs, BSACAP was able to arrange for Store Manager Billy McGuire to conduct the computer-based portion of the onboarding process at the Paintsville Community Action office. By providing the employer with a conference room and computers, along with internet and phone access, BSACAP ensured that the new area business was able to open the store on time and with 40 new employees.

Mike Howell, Executive Director of BSACAP said,

"This company offered 40 new jobs to local people who will be paid over the minimum wage and who have opportunities to earn bonuses. We need to see more employers moving into the area who are ready to pay better wages. It is wonderful to that people are setting up shop in our area and we want to support them any way we possibly can."

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BSACAP makes hiring easy for new business

When Logan Corporation set up shop in Salyersville, they began reaching out to local partners to help their business grow and thrive. Their research into hiring in the region and their area connections pointed them to Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program and Big Sandy Area Community Action Program's Employer Services Team, who helped them find the best path to success for them.

Joey Osborne, the Employer Account Representative for BSACAP, met with Randy Risner, the General Manager over Manufacturing and Chief Design Engineer for Logan Corp. Risner explained that he had a lot of a lot of interest from applicants, but wading through the stacks of applications was time consuming and

reached a point where it was unhelpful. "We had a lot of applicants coming in, but there were a lot people who had no background in the work. Hiring anyone is a gamble, but I just had a big stack of papers and not much information to go on," Risner said.

BSACAP's Employer Account Representative introduced Risner to the options available to him through the Employer Services Team. Once Risner explained his needs, BSACAP's WIOA Career Advisors began screening applicants and making referrals for truly qualified applicants. Risner said that having a steady stream of vetted applicants made his hiring work much easier. "There are a lot people who just sign up to sign up with us. I would rather see applicants who are going



through a hiring program and who are looking for work in the right way, the smart way. They are the ones who tend to last longer."

And employee retention rates are critical to Logan's success. Risner explained, "We have clients and customers who make yearly orders. Most of the time, they want exactly what they had the year before. If I have a high turnover rate, I won't have people who have a clue what was done the year before."

Additionally, Risner must train an employee for two to three months before they know the work and they need at least a year before they become fully reliable

workers due to the nature of products the company produces. BSACAP is able to assist him with this as well through cost-sharing on-the-job training opportunities. During the time an employee is being trained, some of the cost of that employee is offset by funds made available through the Employer Services Team as part of the National Emergency Grant and WIOA.

For Logan Corporation, having vetted applicants and being able to offset the cost of training new hires by working with EKCEP and BSACAP provided them with a reliable path to growth.

GED

continued from the front

Resource Center. "They're all sweet kids and my two bosses are great." She said, "My jobs have been very rewarding. I'm out in the public a lot now. I always stayed home with my kids and very seldom went any

place and now I'm just everywhere!"

Returning to her GED, she said, "My high school diploma is something that I have wanted all my life. I've dreamed of having it all my life. And I always felt beneath everybody because I only went through the 8th

grade." But now that she has it, nothing is going to stop her. She has even signed up to take a college computer class and keep herself moving forward.

She said, "I feel like I'm up with everybody else. I feel proud and blessed."

Big Sandy Area

Community Action's Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a program designed to help low-income people over the age of 55 to receive the job training, education, and support they may need to find employment.

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Serving the Big Sandy Area since 1965.

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