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Statewide Outstanding Volunteerism Awards Given to CEDA Board Members

At the Illinois Community Action Association (ICAA) annual conference on May 3, 2004, two CEDA Board Members received awards for outstanding volunteerism in the state of Illinois. Ed Presberry, CEDA Board of Directors' executive member, received the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award. W.R. McCollom, Jr., CEDA Board of Directors' Parliamentarian, received the Harry Ring Award.

Ed Presberry has served CEDA Board of Directors for over thirty

years in the capacities of treasurer and secretary, and his commitment to equality and justice has shown throughout his entire career. Mr. Presberry worked for several public offices including Health Inspector, County Detective, Contract Compliance Officer, Deputy Chief for the Criminal Court Sheriff's Office of Cook County. He also served as a Congressional Secretary and

Chief Deputy Clerk
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CEDA Board Executive Member Ed Presberry receives the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from Dwight Lucas, President, Illinois Community Action Agency.

Pinkney House Dedication: Transitional Housing for Homeless U.S. Veterans

Chicago native Mark DuPuy served in the U.S. Army from 1971 to 1977. After a diagnosis of diabetes, Mr. DePuy lost his job and home. In July 2003, Mr. DePuy enrolled in the Transitional Housing Program for Homeless U.S. Veterans and moved into the Pinkney House.

With the help of the program and the sup-

port he receives from other veterans at the Pinkney House, Mr. DePuy is on his way to financial recovery and a new career. He obtained his Commercial Driver's License in October 2003 and is currently taking welding classes at Prairie State College.

The first of its kind in the area, the Pinkney House is open to vet-

erans who were honorably discharged from the military, free of drug and alcohol addictions and homeless. Through the CEDA Bloom-Rich Community Development Association, participants receive life skills and job training, housing counseling, computer classes, enrollment in a money

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WIC Program Celebrates 30 Years of Service with 4th Annual Spring Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Graduation

On March, 17 graduates completed the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program. These graduates are now qualified to teach breastfeeding seminars at WIC clinics, provide basic breastfeeding support, conduct breast pump distribution and counseling and refer clients to lactation consultants, doctors and pharmacists. This graduation coincides with the national 30-year anniversary of the WIC Program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

CEDA's innovative program is based on the traditional Breastfeeding Peer Counselor training model. In the past, local women who had breastfed for at least three months and wanted to encourage other mothers to breastfeed were given the opportunity to participate in Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Training. CEDA WIC staff and training co-coordinators Michele Chase and Sarah Sullivan have gone one step further to incor-

porate training manuals, homework, quizzes, tests and a breast pump practicum to ensure that trainees are fully qualified to assist WIC clients with breastfeeding concerns. The training program is conducted over the span of five weeks at CEDA's central office.

Participants, who must have their High School diploma or GED certification, come from WIC clinics all over northern Illinois. Since CEDA began its Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program in 2001, 70 participants have graduated. Training sessions are held each spring.



The CEDA WIC Program serves approximately 27,000 clients each month at 18 sites across

State Breastfeeding Coordinator Brenda Snyder, Illinois Department of Human Services, graduate Jackie Carbajal, Aunt Martha's WIC Center, and program co-coordinator Michele Chase, CEDA WIC Field Coordinator, celebrate graduation day at CEDA's Central Office.

Incredible Efforts For Self-Sufficiency Earn Cicero Mother and Children the 2004 Family of Distinction Award

Amalia Galvez, a single mother of four children, came to the CEDA Near West office in April 2003 to apply for rental and utility assistance, as well as medical care and childcare. After giving birth to her fourth child, Galvez had been diagnosed with cancer and was not earning any income. Despite these numerous challenges, Galvez has taken control of her life and financial situation to earn the Family of Distinction Award.

Referred to CEDA Near West by a friend, Galvez was in

need of a variety of social services. With the help of Social Services Coordinator Vickie Acosta, Galvez set many goals in order to become financially self-sufficient. With the wide variety of direct service programs available through CEDA, Galvez has met many of her goals and continues to improve her financial standing.

In the past twelve months, Galvez has received financial and medical assistance, and secured a part-time job. She has also begun taking classes to learn the English

language and earn her General Education Diploma, and has reliable childcare for her baby. Her cancer is also in remission, thanks to successful medical treatment.

"This client has turned her life around," said Acosta, who assists Galvez with numerous aid applications and provides translation whenever needed. "She is working very hard to make a better life for her children." Due to her dedication and persistence, Galvez and her family have earned the 2004 Family of Distinction Award.

Board Members Make Lobbying Trip to Washington, D.C. for Increased Awareness of Community Action

During the week of March 1-5, 2004, and as part of the annual National Community Action Foundation Conference (NCAF), CEDA staff and board members made their annual journey to Washington, DC. The trip is an ongoing effort by CEDA's Government Affairs Committee to form lifelong partnerships with government officials. While



CEDA Executive Board Member Cynthia Thomas and Board Secretary Lisa Anthony show their pride in CEDA during a stop at the Library of Congress during the Washington, D.C. lobbying trip.

there, CEDA members met with key Washington politicians, participated in conference activities, and advocated on behalf of the many Illinois families CEDA's programs serve.

CEDA visited over twenty politicians on this year's visit. Among the visited officials were Congressmen Judy Biggert, Danny

Davis, Rahm Emanuel, Luis Gutierrez, Jesse Jackson, Jr., and Bobby Rush. Of the Senators, CEDA had meetings with Richard Durbin, Paul Sarbane, and Peter Fitzgerald. CEDA had appointments with a number

of key officials—all were gracious with their time, sincere with their interest,

and mindful of CEDA's issues.

The conference's main topic this year was the *War on Poverty*; the NCAF hosted a full-day workshop on the subject of which CEDA members participated. Other important issues this year included re-authorizations in several of CEDA's key areas: Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP), Head Start, Welfare Reform, Energy, Weatherization, and Women, Infants & Children (WIC). CEDA was prepared with its own re-authorization statements on all of the above issues. These statements were dispersed during the meetings and at the conference.

Article by Julie Hall, Administrative Assistant, Youth and Family Services Department

CEDA Works with DeVry's Women & Technology Program

CEDA joined DeVry's Women and Technology Program in its ongoing effort to support Chicago and neighboring community residents and to strengthen the skills of area youth. DeVry's Women and Technology Program, which began in 2000, aims to give Chicago high school girls the chance to develop themselves personally and professionally through a series of seminars and field trips. Students are especially encouraged to learn more about the technology field through study, research and encounters with women in the workplace.

CEDA employees were excited to be paired with students from Benito Juarez Community Academy. In February, CEDA Executive Assistant Amanda Grant attended a Women and Technology

Program professional day at DeVry to give a presentation on interview skills and tips to over 75 high school students.

In March, Juarez students visited CEDA to learn more about the corporate workforce and see examples of women working with technology in the workplace. After a tour of CEDA's central office, the students attended a variety of seminars conducted by CEDA staff.

Regina Salazar, Human Resources Manager, discussed employment skills and information needed to enter any organization. Keturah Russell, MIS Technician, shared valuable resources for women in the technology and information systems fields, as well as computer skills necessary to a wide

range of professions. Carol Hill, Weatherization Office Manager, discussed how to dress for success in a business setting, and Amanda Grant taught a resume and cover letter writing workshop.

Juarez students also participated in mock interviews with CEDA staff members. "This corporate visit was an excellent opportunity for our students to learn about the workplace and experience a mock interview at your company," said Dorothy Chatfield, Juarez Education-to-Careers Coordinator.

CEDA has been invited to continue with DeVry's Women and Technology Program next year to further enhance the skills and opportunities for Chicago area youth in the field of computer technology.

Community Nutrition Network Provides More Than Just Meals for Suburban Cook County Senior Citizens

The Community Nutrition Network (CNN), a subsidiary corporation of CEDA, serves over 2000 meals each day at its congregate-based sites and through the Meals On Wheels (MOW) program. CNN serves 116 communities in Cook County through 23 sites. Of the 23 sites for congregate meals, 20 sites are bases for the Meals On Wheels program. In addition to nutritious meals, seniors find activities and fellowship.

Activities include bingo, card games, birthday celebrations and seasonal parties. In March, seniors celebrated St. Patrick's Day with a week of festivities including cultural celebration and games. The arrival of warmer weather was

noted with the Spring Fling, and Mother's Day celebrations included a special menu and flowers in honor of mothers and grandmothers.

To deliver quality services for seniors, CNN collaborates with park districts and communities through Cook County. "We're dependent on what happens there and they're dependent on us to add to their programming," said Peg Isaacson, Director of CNN and SSA.

Volunteers are also a large part of CNN's services. Over 900 volunteers are found throughout the program as MOW drivers, activity planners, meal hosts and food preparation workers and meal serv-

ers. More information can be found online at www.cnnssacookcounty.org and www.mowcookcounty.org.



Area senior citizens enjoy healthy meals, fellowship, games and activities at Community Nutrition Network centers.

Weatherization Staff Members Present Workshops at 2004 Affordable Comfort Conference in Minneapolis, MN

CEDA Weatherization staff presented a variety of workshops at the 2004 Affordable Comfort Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This year's conference, sponsored by Affordable Comfort, Inc., was held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. An attendance record was set with nearly 1500 architects, engineers, home builders, remodelers, government officials and state and local Weatherization staff from agencies across the country in the audience. CEDA Weatherization was well-represented at this year's conference with 21 attendees from both office and field operations.

The three-day core conference held April 28 through April 30 consisted of 96 ninety-minute workshops in 12 separate conference rooms at the Hyatt facility. In

addition, there were attendee-generated evening sessions, keynote addresses by Skip Hayden, President of Affordable Comfort, the Honorable R. T. Rybak, Mayor of Minneapolis, Janet Streff, Minnesota State Office Energy Manager, and the plenary keynote address by Executive Director of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Alecia Ward.

Three CEDA Weatherization professionals developed and presented core conference workshops this year. Dan Calamari, Manager of Training and Quality Control, presented *Measuring Results: Designing Your Own QC* with partner Ed Haber of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. John Kieपुरa, Multi-Family Manager, presented

Insulation & Roofing for Multi-Family Building Flat Roofs with John Hamilton, Director of Weatherization for CEDA. John Hamilton presented *Contractors or Crews...Decisions, Decisions* with co-presenter Bob Jackson, Weatherization Program Administrator for Kansas City, Missouri.

Linda Wigington, founder of the Affordable Comfort Conference, attributes the high attendance this year to rising energy bills and the importance of conservation measures to national security efforts. "State and local Weatherization agencies also played a key role in getting the word out about the conference," she said. In 2005, the Affordable Comfort Conference will be held in Indianapolis from May 16 through May 21.

Article by John Hamilton, Director, Weatherization Department

“Laughs For Light” Mirth-a-thon Partners CEDA, Disney and ComEd to Raise Funds For LIHEAP Clients

On January 21, Commonwealth Edison and Disney On Ice partnered to bring laughter and warmth to the Chi-



Board Vice-Chairman Rene Gonzales and President/CEO Robert Wharton enjoy the public production of the Disney On Ice *Monsters, Inc.* at Millennium Park.

cagoland area. The “Laughs For Light” mirth-a-thon, held at Millennium Park, featured comedian and local radio personality Dobbie Maxwell and was based on the premise of the Disney/Pixar movie *Monsters, Inc.*, where monsters use children’s laughter as a power source for their city.

Maxwell read Disney stories for 24 hours to passers-by and area schoolchildren. Commonwealth Edison donated \$200 to a needy Chicago family for each hour that Maxwell read. “Laughter is good for the soul and we want to help lighten the finan-

cial load for some families by providing financial assistance,” stated George Lofton, Vice-President of ComEd External Affairs and Claims.

Families in need were identified by CEDA through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Twenty-four families in the LIHEAP system received grants to help make their winters a bit warmer.

The mirth-a-thon concluded with a free public performance of the Disney On Ice production of *Monsters, Inc.* at the skating rink.

New Software Increases Efficiency at CEDA Central Office

The implementation of a new comprehensive fiscal computer system is changing the face of technology at CEDA. The ASCEND (Accounting System and CEDA Employee Name and Data) System will streamline and modernize CEDA’s current Fiscal, Procurement and Human Resources processes; making CEDA a more efficient and effective organization. CEDA is scheduled to ‘go-live’ with the new system at the end of May with full implementation in July.

For over a year CEDA Management researched numerous Fiscal, Human Resource and Procurement computer systems and, after a long selection process, chose to go with the FundWare integrated software system and American Express Tax & Business Services (TBS) as the value added reseller. The integrated system is composed of: FundWare not-for-profit accounting software published by Intuit, iVantage Human Resources software published by Spectrum and

Procure-It Purchasing software published by Verian. Together with American Express TBS the three software companies are working seamlessly throughout the implementation and will continue to do so through our ‘go-live’ date and beyond.

Some of the benefits CEDA will gain once the new ASCEND System is implemented are real time expense tracking, greater management and control over budgeting, and automated purchasing and payroll functions. This new system will reduce duplicate data entry and increase efficiencies by automating many reports. Project ASCEND will also pave the way for future employee services such as on-line self-service personnel changes and CEDA specific catalog ordering for employees.

To ensure the Project ASCEND ‘go-live’ date of May 31, 2004 is met, CEDA, American Ex-

press TBS and the three software publishers have been on a very aggressive timeline. Since the first ‘Kick-Off’ meeting in February, key CEDA staff have been involved in both the design and configuration of the new ASCEND System. Currently, CEDA is preparing our existing data for conversion into the new system which is scheduled for the middle of May. Training for CEDA end users is planned for the end of May and once training is completed, CEDA will begin daily data entry into the new system. Starting in July 2004 and going forward CEDA will be using the new ASCEND system completely.

CEDA’s Board of Directors, Management and Staff are all very excited about this project and believe the new ASCEND system will help CEDA provide more efficient and effective services to its clients.

Article by Jennifer Smith, Administrative Assistant, Finance and Administration Department

Pinkney House Dedication: Transitional Housing Program for Homeless U.S. Veterans Succeeds on Many Levels

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savings program and links to other veteran's services in the south suburbs.

"Once they come here, homeless veterans are able to focus on the future and create a better future for themselves," stated Ken Sandifer, Social Services Coordinator at the CEDA Ford Heights office. "Veterans are able to take advantage of all CEDA services and the Pinkney House gives them stability with a permanent address. From there, they can start a savings account and look for employment. The program puts the veteran on a course for self-sufficiency."

Transitional housing at Pinkney House is available for six to eighteen months. During that time, residents work to become self-sufficient and have adequate housing, savings and a job when they leave the program. Mr. Albert Toney, a former Air Force jet mechanic, was a recovering addict when he came to Pinkney House in June 2003. "Before I came to CEDA, I was just existing.

Since I've been here I have a life. I am a responsible, reputable citizen." Mr. Toney left the Pinkney House in December 2003, when he moved into a retirement facility. He is currently taking classes at South Suburban College to become a substance abuse counselor and give back to the community.

The Pinkney House was inspired by Private William A. Pinkney. Private Pinkney served in the Vietnam War and was honorably discharged after injuries left him physically disabled for the rest of his life.

Unfortunately, Private Pinkney died before Pinkney House was completed, but at the dedication ceremony, it became clear to all that his legacy lives on. The dedication included speeches from area officials and family members, and testimonials from veterans who have benefited from the services at Pinkney House and CEDA Bloom-Rich Community Development Association. The day concluded with tours of the facility.

The Pinkney House consists of two three-bedroom, two-bathroom apartments. It is located next door to the CEDA Bloom-Rich Community Development Association Chicago Heights office. For more information on the Transitional Housing Program for U.S. Veterans or the Pinkney House, call 708-754-4575.



Social Services Coordinator Karen Perkins and CEDA Bloom-Rich Community Development Association Board Member George St. Marie are ready for tours of the Pinkney House.

CEDA Staff Receive Honors from National Able Network

Five CEDA employees and three Community Nutrition Network (CNN) employees were honored at the 23rd Annual Outstanding Worker Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the National Able Network.

Since 1977, the National Able Network has strived to help people of all ages and abilities find fulfilling and rewarding jobs. The awards luncheon honored outstanding Chicago employees who are age 50 and older. These individuals were celebrated for their daily enthusiasm, willingness to learn skills and share

their experience with younger members of the organization.

CEDA award winners were London Jones, Coordinator of Office Services, CEDA Central Office; Bernice Kuxhause, Receptionist, CEDA Northwest Self-Help Center, Inc.; Alicia Paredes, Teacher Assistant, Head Start, Maryville Academy, Des Plaines; Annie Smith, Teacher, Head Start, Ford Heights; and Lester Stephens, Field Operations Manager, Weatherization Department, CEDA Central Office.

Honorees from CNN were Kiran Chaturvedi, Nutrition Site Manager, Schaumburg; Linda Cole, Nutrition Site Manager, Phoenix/Robbins; and Margaret Kovoka, Regional Coordinator, Tinley Park.

"Receiving this award is a real honor for me," said London Jones, who has worked at CEDA for twenty five years. "Working at CEDA has given me a true opportunity for personal growth. I've gained valuable experience and met a lot of interesting people over the years."

CEDA Board Members Win Statewide Volunteerism Awards

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in charge of daily operations of the Cook County Juvenile Division.

Mr. Presberry also sits on the Board of Directors of the Behavior Research and Action in the Social Sciences (Brass Foundation, Inc.). He also serves as a member of PUSH, NAACP, the Urban League and has many other board affiliations with community action organizations.



CEDA Board of Directors Parliamentarian W.R. McCollom, Jr. accepts the Harry Ring Outstanding Volunteer Award at the ICAA Conference.

“It’s an honor to work with the staff and Board members of CEDA—we are a family!” Mr. Presberry exclaimed at the ICAA conference.

Mr. McCollom demonstrates compassion, courage and conviction in his lifelong support of community action and its principles. A CEDA Board member since 1975, Mr. McCollom served as Board Chairman from 1993 to 1997. Currently, he is Chairman of the Board Budget and Finance Committee. He is Past Chairman of the Real Estate Task Force and has been President of the CEDA Neighborhood Development Corporation since its inception in 1996.

In addition to his service to CEDA, Mr. McCollom is president of McCollom Realty, Ltd., located in Oak Park, Illinois. He serves as an Illinois North Central Area Chairman for the National Committee for Employer Support of the United States Department of Defense. Mr. McCollom is current

President of the Chicagoland Association of Shopping Center Owners (CASCO) and a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers. He is a Past Board Director of the Oak Park/River Forest Chamber of Commerce and was voted Chamber Volunteer of the Year in 1993. Mr. McCollom served as Committee Member and Chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Green Line Task Force from 1992 to 1995.

Illinois Senator Barack Obama, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, won the Legislator of the Year Award. Representing the Illinois Senate 13th District on Chicago’s south side, Senator Obama sponsored the Earned Income Tax Credit, which has brought economic relief totaling nearly \$26 million to low-income families. Senator Obama’s dedication and commitment to helping Illinois’ families become economically self-sufficient is greatly appreciated by community action agencies. Mr. Obama was nominated for this award by CEDA.

“Saturday Night at the Races”

Fundraiser hosted by CEDA Bloom-Rich Community Development Association

Balmoral Race Track
Crete, Illinois
Saturday, July 3, 2004
5:30-10:00pm



\$35.00 per person, which includes parking, program, clubhouse access and all-you-can-eat gourmet buffet.

All proceeds benefit the Homeless Veteran’s Program at CEDA Bloom-Rich Community Development Association.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, call Reginald Haymon at 708-754-4575.



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