

# VICTORIES EVERYDAY

WINTER 2016



**Cincinnati-Hamilton County  
Community Action Agency**

## From the President/CEO

Happy New Year,

For more than 50 years CAA has worked to strengthen our community by supporting and advocating for our clients, helping them to reach their full potential. In 2016, we are looking forward to implementing new ideas and initiatives that support our mission while bolstering our organization and positioning CAA as a leader in the war on poverty.



We are starting the New Year with a solid foundation, a strong leadership team and a bold approach to get beyond the status quo. We look forward to not only helping those in our community survive, but empower them to achieve a better quality of life.

I look forward to continuing existing and developing new partnerships in the community, as we seek to leverage the collective efforts of those working to ameliorate the effects of poverty. CAA is ready and committed as ever. I hope you're as excited as we are by all that awaits in the year ahead.

Gwen L. Robinson

## Ready! Set! Score!

The Annual Head Start Soccer program took place throughout October. Kids and families who participated in the program learned the fundamentals of soccer and character building. The program also included presentations by the Cincinnati Fire Department, Cincinnati Police Department and other social service agencies. At the end of the season players were given medals and certificates for their participation in the program.

CAA thanks all of our 2015 sponsors, including the Cincinnati Police Department, Fifth Third Bank, Enroll America, and Woodward High School. We would also like to thank soccer program coordinator Robert Cummings and all the coaches, referees and volunteers who helped to make this another memorable year.



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[www.Cincy-CAA.org](http://www.Cincy-CAA.org)  
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@CincyCAA



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## HEAP Continues Successful Winter Crisis Program

HEAP's Winter Crisis Program is in full swing. Since its launch in November, HEAP staff have assisted more than 4,000 eligible clients who have been threatened with disconnection due to high energy bills.



Individuals interested in receiving Winter Crisis assistance must have a face-to-face interview at CAA. HEAP staff sees walk-ins Monday–Thursday beginning at 8:00 a.m. All others must have a pre-scheduled appointment which can be booked by calling 1.866.747.1039. Assistance is also available through CAA outreach sites including St. Vincent de Paul Winton Terrace, Churches Active in Northside and the Freestore Foodbank. Clients should call ahead to locations for dates and times CAA staff will be available at each site.

The Winter Crisis Program will run this year through March 31, 2016. For more information on HEAP or Winter Crisis eligibility requirements, please visit [www.cincy-caa.org](http://www.cincy-caa.org).

## CMC Graduation

On December 10th, 11 students completed Class 17 of the Workforce Development Cincinnati Manufacturing Certificates (CMC) Program with a graduation attended by CMC students, family and CAA staff. This challenging 140-hour curriculum is composed of four modules, with a certification test at the end of each module.

Class participant Seante Bullock was chosen to speak on behalf of her peers and celebrated the accomplishments of her class and the future of their industry. She shared how each graduate is excited to get started in their new careers, and contribute to their communities as tax payers. Within one month of her graduation from the CMC training, Seante was chosen for 1 of only 10 Tri-State area Manufacturing Apprenticeships, through which she received a scholarship for one year of manufacturing training while working full time at the Meyer Tool company.



Ken Inscho and Seante Bullock



CMC Graduates & staff

Class 17 also welcomed a new instructor, Ken Inscho. Mr. Inscho talked about the drive of his class and closed his statements with an inspiring quote used throughout training, "One machine can do the work of 50 ordinary people, but no machine can do the work of one extraordinary person."

## CAA Offers EITC Tax Prep Services

CAA is ensuring that low-income workers receive the maximum refund amount from their 2015 tax returns. CAA is once again partnering with Fifth Third Bank to offer free tax preparation services to qualifying individuals, helping taxpayers avoid paying high fees to commercial tax preparers. Last year CAA helped over 1,200 taxpayers claim \$2,089,546 in refunds. With more money in their pocket, working citizens were able to reinvest their refunds back into the local economy. For more information on the EITC program, please visit [www.cincy-caa.org](http://www.cincy-caa.org) or call 513-924-2018.



## CEO Shares Experience Abroad

This winter, Ms. Gwen L. Robinson traveled to Israel to study their Early Education program and cross cultural systems for dealing with diversity, trauma and poverty. In February she presented findings from this trip to the Ohio Head Start Association, sharing key learnings and how they can be applied to Early Education programs here in the United States.



## SAVE THE DATE



Cincinnati-Hamilton County  
Community Action Agency

52nd Annual Luncheon

November 4, 2016

## CAA Receives National Workforce Development Award

Congratulations to our Workforce Development team on receiving the MSSC Authorized Center (MAC) Award. The award recognizes schools and centers around the country that are leaders in assessing individuals for MSSC industry-recognized nationally portable certifications and providing exemplary service in creating a better workforce pipeline for their students.



## A Fond Farewell — CAA Retirements

Please join CAA in extending best wishes to David Blake and Clinton Johnson, who both retired from the organization in December.



David Blake



Clinton Johnson

David has been with the finance department for 42 years. Clinton most recently served as the Director of Community Services and has been with CAA a total of

32 years. Each was celebrated in separate retirement parties the week of December 8. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend to offer their farewells.

Both David and Clinton have been esteemed members of the CAA community for many years, and will be greatly missed by clients and colleagues alike.

## CAA Supports Burton Street Apartment Roof Collapse Victims

In November, 70 residents of the apartments at 1026 Burton Street in Avondale suffered a roof collapse and were forced to vacate their homes while the building was restored to livable condition. This winter, the Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency (CAA) raised money to help those temporarily displaced families have a Merry Christmas.



CAA staff deliver Christmas presents to the Burton Street Apartments.

CAA has raised \$1,000 towards gifts for families from the Burton Street apartments. On December 23, several CAA staff members shopped for each of the families at a local Kroger store and delivered Christmas presents and living needs to residents of the newly restored building.

In addition to providing Christmas gifts for these families, CAA will be working to provide all residents of the Burton Street apartments with supportive services.





## Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency

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## Combating Poverty through CDL Career Training

In 2015 Mayor John Cranley introduced his Hand Up Initiative, a city program designed to lift families out of poverty through job training. As part of this initiative, CAA received a \$100,000 grant to establish a new Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program where participants receive training, certification and assistance finding gainful employment in an industry that is continually growing.

Since July 2015, 13 students have completed the CDL course and another 14 students have begun their training. Ten program graduates have received all of their certifications, are working full-time and are on the path to family-sustaining wages in stable and rewarding careers.

The first class of students boasted many success stories, including those of Tonquata Glover and Mal-



*CDL training graduate Tonquata Glover.*

colm Tennyson. Tonquata is a military veteran, mother of four and caregiver to two nieces. She previously drove a school bus but wanted to advance her career with the new CDL training opportunity with CAA. After completing the program, Tonquata is now a tanker driver for CTL-ComCar Industries earning a minimum of \$1,125 per week.

Malcolm Tennyson was previously unemployed and looking for a new career opportunity that would allow him to provide for his four children. After graduating from the program, Malcolm secured a full-time job with MCT Transportation and started at a weekly salary of \$875.

Because of the initial success of the CDL Training Program, CAA has received an additional \$25,000 from the city to include more students in 2016.