

In This Issue

- From the Desk of CEO, Shelia Triplett
- Lowes Donates Masks
- Home Weatherization Program is Back
- Delivery Angels Spread Their Wings
- MYCAP Leads Emergency Services Collaborative
- Pop-Up Markets
- Virtual Classroom for Employment Skills and Training
- HEAP Summer Crisis Program Begins
- G.O.A.L. Program Answering the Call During COVID19
- Grants Awarded
- National Community Partnership Affirms its Core Value

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www.mycaphelp.org

From the Desk of CEO, Shelia Triplett



None of us a few months ago could have imagined the world we're living in today. A pandemic that has killed hundreds of thousands of people across the world and is still the number one health crisis in America. COVID-19 has changed how we interact socially, crippled our economy, exposed the inequities in our healthcare system and changed forever our belief that something of this magnitude could ever happen here. As the government grapples with creating a national response, it is the local and state governments who have stepped up and created plans and strategies and inspired the hope that together we will get to the other side of this and together we will create a new normal.

The pandemic is overwhelming enough, then there was George Floyd, a demonstration of racism so blatant that it shook a nation already reeling from COVID 19 into action and created a moment that has evolved into a movement that has spurred a collective cry from Black and White alike, saying Black Lives Matter. This conversation about race, which is long overdue, has exposed for many the work that still needs to be done in this country concerning race and equity. It is for times such as these that Community Action programs like MYCAP were created over 55 years ago. Social Justice is in our DNA and activism and advocating is what we do. The program was born out of the War on Poverty; and is controversial in concept because of who we were mandated to serve.

MYCAP stands with those who want to see an America that protects, uplifts, celebrates and creates equal opportunities for all its citizens; where color doesn't limit or deny access to the liberties and freedoms in which this country professes to believe. MYCAP stands with those who are tired of empty words, promises and platitudes about how far we have come. We're tired of being asked for time and patience from Black folks who have been patient and waiting for change for much too long. MYCAP knows that we are much better than the actions of those who refuse to see that the only race is the human race and that humanity, safety, care and dignity are the rights of all. MYCAP knows that division and hate will never make America great. This is a defining moment for this country; we need to dig deep and become the very best version of ourselves. Finally, for my personal thoughts I'd like to paraphrase James Baldwin, who said, "you always tell me change is going to take time, how many more years? It has taken my time, my mother's time, my grandmother's time, my brother's and sister's time, my niece's, and my nephew's time. How much more time do you want for your progress?". The time is now America, the time is now!

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the MYCAP board members for their extra support and encouragement during this COVID-19 crisis:



Thank you to Lowes Home Improvement store in Boardman, Ohio for donation of 195 N-95 personal protective masks to MYCAP to ensure front line workers are protected. Left- Julianna/Lowes, Middle- Ben/Lowes, and Right- Daniel/MYCAP.

Be counted and make a difference

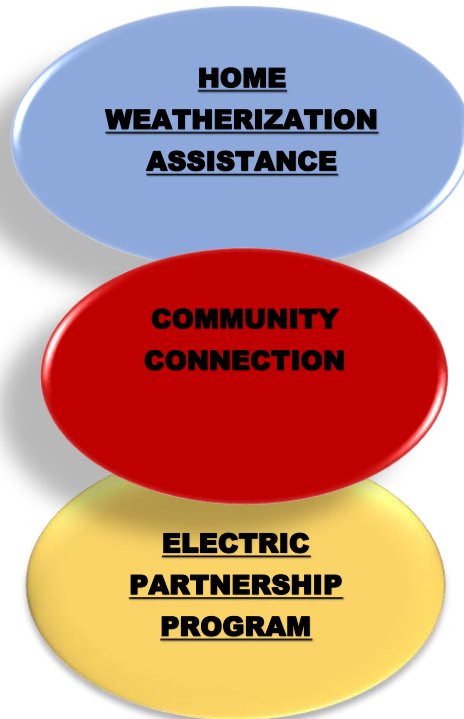
Please remind everyone to complete the Census.



HOME WEATHERIZATION IS BACK!

Home Weatherization services through MYCAP'S Energy Services Department during Program Year 2019-2020 were suspended due to COVID-19; but MYCAP looks forward to servicing all eligible Mahoning County residents during Program Year 2020-2021.

For application information or to schedule an appointment, please call 330.778.2992.



Due to the unemployment resulting from COVID-19, the needs in the community have not only increased; but have also impacted a whole new group of clients who may never have had to ask for help; therefore, MYCAP, Catholic Charities, Community Legal, YNDC, as well as other entities have collaborated to help those impacted find the help they need with the least amount of confusion.

Please call MYCAP at (330) 747-7921 for more information.

Delivery Angels Spread Their Wings

MYCAP's Senior Services Program and ACTION have launched a free service for senior citizens who find it difficult to safely and securely get help with grocery shopping.

MYCAP Community Health Workers and Action Volunteers shop for and deliver groceries to seniors who can't get out to do their own shopping.



Because we believe senior citizens deserve an angel who can provide a reliable source of food delivery.

Please call Crystal Robinson at (330) 747-7921 ext. 1766 for more information or to refer a senior to receive this valuable service.

**A.C.T.I.O.N.
and GROW URBAN
FARMS POP-UP
MARKET SERIES
2020**

MYCAP hosted the first two, very successful Pop-up Markets in June.

The following are dates, times and locations for July Pop-Up Markets

July 15th - Oak Street
Health – Liberty
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

July 16th - WIC – Hillman
Way
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

July 17th – Youngstown
Promise 4:00 am - 6:00
pm

July 23rd – WIC- Oak Hill
Renaissance
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

July 24th – Federal Plaza
11:00 am – 2:00 pm

July 30th – Rockford
Village
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Please call
(234) 232-9043 for
more information

Virtual Classroom Launched



The Employment and Training Program conducted by Roger Beltz and Diane Kohler began its virtual classroom experience on June 22, 2020. This is an important and innovative program; and could possibly be a model for other agencies who want to offer virtual employment skills and training programs during this time of social distancing.

For more information call:
(330) 747-7921 ext. 1724.

HEAP Summer Crisis Program began taking applications last week:

Home Energy Assistance Programs – year round

PIPP: Percentage of Income Payment Plan

- Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) -Allows those up to 150% of Federal Poverty Guidelines to pay 6% of gross monthly income if address has gas and electric; or 10% if address is all electric

SCP: Summer Crisis/Cooling Program July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020

Summer Crisis Program (SCP)-
Benefits include utility payments,
air conditioners and fans,

Please call (330) 778-2992 for an
appointment or for more
information.



The G.O.A.L. program in collaboration with Akron Children's Hospital has provided car seats, baby gates and highchairs to 40 families in Mahoning County earlier this month.

In addition, diapers have been flying out the door every Monday from the MYCAP office. To date over 28,000 diapers have been dispensed.

Kudos to Cirell Howard!!

For more information on the diaper bank, please contact Cirell Howard at (330) 747-7921 Ext. 1725

GRANTS AWARDED

Thank you to:

Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley for \$10,000; Youngstown Foundation for \$15,000; and Direction Home of Eastern Ohio for \$5,000 awarded to MYCAP

Thank you to these agencies for creating COVID-19 related Response Funds to address the needs of those in the community who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

Our collaborations with organizations like these are vital in making a difference in the lives of the people in the Mahoning Valley.



TIPS TO HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Wear a mask or face
covering

Wash your hands
regularly with warm soapy
water

Cover a cough or sneeze
with your sleeve or a
tissue

Avoid touching your eyes,
nose, or mouth,
especially with unwashed
hands

Avoid close contact with
people who are sick

Stay home if you
experience respiratory
symptoms like a cough or
fever

Get help if you
experience symptoms.
Call your health care
provider or local health
department before
seeking care.

The following excerpts are from a very poignant and timely CAP article

National Community Action Partnership Affirms Its Core Values

Washington, DC, May 29, 2020)-Our world is reckoning with a pandemic for which there is currently no cure. Already, COVID-19 has taken 100,000+ lives in the US and it has consumed millions more. We mourn for all who have been infected and affected by this crisis. In a very short time, the pandemic has shifted everyone's reality and none of us will ever be the same. While COVID-19 has unleashed a threat on the health and economy of our nation, it has also revealed a pre-existing condition that places all of us at greater risk. The hierarchy of human value and to be more specific,

RACISM has served as an activator that has accelerated the loss of life and disproportionate losses to important populations in our country. Persons of color, who are in many cases, workers with low incomes and live in places that were already struggling are suffering great physical, economic, and social harm.

During this very trying era, we feel it is important to *put a marker down*, especially given the racially charged events that have played out in recent weeks and months. Murders in the African American community, attacks on Asian American owned businesses, increasing numbers of murdered and missing indigenous women and girls, and the marginalization and displacement of immigrants seeking refuge weigh on our already weakened hearts. Some actions are recorded and shared via social media allowing many to bear witness, while others remain unknown and unseen. While many have engaged in social media activism in response to the atrocities, we are calling for everyone to move beyond the keystrokes of media devices and to do more. It's not enough to feign verbal and distant support for non-racist causes. We must move beyond that into constructive anti-racist action that might even cause us to have to sacrifice the comfort or advantage that some of us have. ***RACISM MUST END!***

Currently there is no cure to the health pandemic nor the social pandemic. While we are one human family, both conditions aim to separate us, both aim to weaken us, both aim to dehumanize us and threaten our well-being. During this season of heightened social anxiety, Community Action affirms that our healing as a nation is tied to strengthening our connections as neighbors, family members, co-workers, and communities. Our values assert, "*We believe that all people should be treated with dignity and respect and recognize that structural race, gender and other inequities remain barriers that must be addressed.*" If we truly believe this, we must live it.