

# Piece by Piece

moving people out of poverty

Missouri Association for Community Action  
Executive Director's Report  
November 14-15, 2007

## *Piece by Piece ... Moving People Out of Poverty*

***Thanks to everyone for making the 2007 annual conference a success!!***  
**Thanks especially to Paula Kinchen and other committee members for their work.** Paula will present a conference report to the MACA Board during the November meeting. Based on the evaluations, I think we will offer several breakout sessions at the 2008 conference instead of a one all-day session as we have the past two years. In addition, one of the areas we need to improve is getting advanced information to the conference participants earlier than this year.

**13 thirteen CAAs** showcased their innovative projects during the annual conference. This was an opportunity for agencies to share a best practice with their peers and learn what is "new and good" in the Community Action Network. In addition, it was an opportunity for MACA to identify special features for the 2007 Annual Report, which will be released in January.

We hope these same CAAs will bring their exhibit to the State Capitol in January when we have our first legislative event of 2008. In addition we have space for the other six CAAs to set up an exhibit!! This will be a great time for Missouri Legislators to learn more about CAA services for their constituents.

### ***Congratulations to MOCA for winning the conference attendance award!***

Close seconds were CMCA, DAEOC and OAI. Past winners include these agencies: USCAA, 2002; STEP, Inc. (now CAASTLC), 2003; DAEOC, 2004; WCMCAA & DAEOC, 2005; DAEOC, HDC, MOCA, 2006.

### ***Resolutions***

The two resolutions passed by MACA members at the annual conference will be distributed to Community Action Agencies during the November MCADA and MACA Board meetings. We are suggesting CAAs use the Housing Trust Fund resolution to express appreciation to their local county recorder for their past and future involvement in the program. This could be done through a personal meeting or by sending the resolution with a letter to the local recorder. MACA will post these resolutions on our website at [www.communityaction.org](http://www.communityaction.org)

## ***Piece by Piece ... Moving People Out of Poverty***

This will be the theme of our first legislative initiatives in 2008 as the General Assembly begins their work in Jefferson City. We will conduct a poverty simulation framed as "Life on the Edge" for the Missouri Legislators on Tuesday, January 15, in downtown Jefferson City. We will also invite the Governor and his staff to participate. An assortment of appetizers will be served with soft drinks and coffee.

The following day, January 16, the focus will be on CAA meetings with their legislators, CAAs exhibits and dessert for legislators and their staff on the Third Floor of the State Capitol.

The purpose of both days will be to increase elected officials understanding of families who are working at one or more jobs and "living on the edge" of poverty. We also want to get a political commitment from legislators to consider the realities for working families as they make policy decisions during the next few months.

During the meetings with legislators, we want CAAs to provide a brief description of services they provide and at least one description of a real family from their legislative district with emphasis on families working but living on the edge of poverty.

Draft documents and timelines will be distributed and discussed during the MCADA and Board meetings.

Early in December, we will discuss the January events in more detail by conference call. I would like to schedule the call for Tuesday, December 4. So often we get questions about what to do, how to prepare, etc. for these events, I want to do this call for anyone who is involved and has questions.

***The Economic Costs of Poverty in the United States:*** Subsequent Effects of Children Growing Up Poor is an excellent report from the Center for American Progress.

One quote from the summary ... "When children grow up in poverty, they are somewhat more likely than non-poor children to have low earnings as adults, which in turn reflects lower workforce productivity. They are also somewhat more likely to engage in crime (thought that's not the case for the vast majority) and to have poor health later in life. Their reduced productive activity generates a direct loss of goods and services to the U.S. economy."

"What's more, any crime in which they engage imposes large monetary and other personal costs on their victims, as well as the costs to the taxpayer of administering our huge criminal justice system. And their poor health generates illness and early mortality which not only require large healthcare expenditures, but also impede productivity and ultimately reduce their quality and quantity of life."

This report include data that would be good to share with Missouri Legislators and other elected officials. We can share a copy if you want or you can go to [www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org)

## ***Missouri wins CAP calendar recognition***

Watch for the Community Action Partnership (CAP) calendar and the picture from Missouri. We submitted a picture from the May 2nd Poverty Walk on behalf of the Missouri CAAs.

## **Election of At-Large Board Members**

Building and maintaining a strong association with the capacity to organize communities and develop leaders to end poverty in Missouri will be the main focus of the MACA Board for the next few years. The ten At-Large Board members, elected in December and seated in March, will be working closely with other Board members in this exciting time when we are focused on transforming MACA.

In December, MACA members will have an opportunity to elect 10 At-Large Board members. These Board members will be seated on the MACA Board in March and serve a two year term.

**Watch for your ballot and vote.**

## **Internal ROMA Consultants... the next class.**

We are now accepting applications and nominations for the next Internal ROMA Consultants project. The application/ nomination deadline is December 21, 2007. Those accepted to the project will be notified by January 17, 2008. The first session will be February 12-13, 2008. For more information, please contact Julia Vargas in the MACA office.

***United in Purpose, the Missouri Community Action Network will inspire and engage people to ensure that all families and communities thrive***

### **On the Calendar**

#### **MCADA Meeting**

November 14 ... Columbia

#### **MACA Board Meeting**

November 15 ... Columbia

#### **Outreach Management Professional Alliance Meeting**

November 15-16 ... Lake Ozark

#### **Head Start/CAA MOU Conference Call**

November 19

#### **United In Purpose**

November 27-28 ... Jefferson City

#### **CAPS Facilitator Training**

November 28-29 ... Jefferson City

#### **MO Coordinated School Health Coalition Conference Exhibit**

November 30 ... Lake Ozark

#### **Energy Task Force and Family Support Division Staff Meeting**

November 30 ... Jefferson City

#### **MIS/ IRC Task Force Meeting**

December 4 ... Jefferson City

#### **MACA Staff Transformational Plan Meeting**

December 5-6 ... Lake Ozark

#### **Employment and Training Professional Alliance Meeting**

December 6-7 ... Lake Ozark

#### **Minnesota Group ???visit to MACA**

December 10-11 ... Jefferson City

**Region VII Head Start Meeting**

December 11-13 ... Kansas City

**MCADA LIHEAP Meeting**

December 17 ... ????

**MCADA Meeting**

January 9 ... Jefferson City

**MACA Board Meeting**

January 10 ... Jefferson City

**Energy and Housing PA Meeting**

January 15 ... Jefferson City

**Community Action Network  
"Life on the Edge" for Missouri  
Legislators**

January 15 ... Jefferson City

**Community Action Network Legislative  
Day at State Capitol**

January 16 ... Jefferson City

**FEMA State Set A-Side Committee**

January 18 ... Jefferson City

---

**Elaine West, MACA Executive Director**