COMMUNITY ACTION AT WORK

Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc.

September 2010

Inside this issue:

Community Action Awards (Con't)	2
"Vision" for LCAP	2
Head Start Screenings	3
Wheels for Work	4

The Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council, Inc. (EOC) is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to assist individuals and families with low incomes to access the services they need to meet their basic needs and to obtain the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to work towards self sufficiency.

Message from the Executive Director

Julie Hoxsie

Saratoga EOC Celebrates Community Action Month with Awards

On May 21, 2010 Saratoga County EOC awarded community action awards to three individuals and two organizations, during National Community Action month. National Community Action Month celebrates and recognizes the work and services agencies deliver nationwide, to alleviate poverty and empower low-income families. History has proven that coordinated community action efforts of government, business, and local communities have had significant effects at reducing poverty. The key to this success is local people helping local people. The Saratoga County EOC's Community Action Award recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations at the local level. The following individuals and organizations were recognized for their contributions 'above and beyond'.

Julie Hoxsie, Yvonne DelliVenri, Kelly McGuire (accepting for Dr. Soifer)

Dr. Bohan Soifer received a Community Action Award to recognize his contributions in providing dental exams and treatment free of charge to Head Start children for the past two years. Dr. Bohan Soifer is a family dentist and has been in practice for 37 years. His office is located at 402 Main Street in Corinth. Dr. Soifer decided to become a dentist because he loves helping people and working with his hands.

Wendy Harvey, Julie Hoxsie, Lillian McCarthy

Wendy Harvey , food pantry volunteer, received an award for her tireless efforts in assisting to organize, move, pack and distribute food to those in need. Wendy has an amazing amount of empathy for the customers we serve. Wendy has also expanded her volunteering to include mass distribution sorting and extra helpings distribution. She is always there when we need her and willing to do whatever is needed. Wendy is a great team player and a wonderfully consistent food pantry volunteer.

Paul Martin (accepting for Kim Klopstock), Julie Hoxsie, Bob Pasciullo

Kim Klopstock received an award for her generosity in donating to area non-profits. She has been operating her successful catering business, The Lilly & The Rose since 1994 as well as Fifty South Restaurant for the last three years. Kim donates food on a regular basis to local non-profits, recycles everything possible, uses biodegradable take-out containers, purchases locally and composts left overs. In the past year, Kim organized several creative dinners and a movie to benefit the EOC. Each delicious dinner offering was also featured within the movie.

Twenty five years ago, Kim was asked to leave a restaurant because she was nursing her baby. Determined to have an atmosphere inclusive of all, Kim proclaimed, "My restaurant will always, always stand for children, old people, for people who have special needs, for tolerance...for all of humanity."

Community Action Awards (cont)

Julie Hoxsie, Charlie Wheeler (accepting for NYRA), Lillian McCarthy, Krystle Nowhitney

The New York Racing Association (NYRA) received and award for working collaboratively with us to improve conditions and quality of life issues for backstretch workers. For the past three years, NYRA has provided EOC office space, six months a year for our Latino Advocacy Coordinator at the track, where we provide tax preparation in conjunction with VITA (United Way), translation of documents, English as a Second Language, referrals for immigration and other legal issues.

For the past to years, NYRA has partnered with EOC to provide incredibly scenic and beautiful space on the Clubhouse terrace for our Vision event. Vision is a celebration and reception at which photographs taken by our students in our English as a Second Language classes are displayed.

NYRA also partners with EOC to provide kitchen space from which we serve dinner 2-3 months a year to backstretch workers, when no other food is available at the race track. New York Racing Association has also supported the EOC emergency food pantry in conjunction with their annual open house, partnering with EOC to collect food at the gates. Attendance during the Saratoga Race Course Open House exceeds 20,000.

The Giving Circle, Inc., a local not for profit, celebrates community and the concept of one person, one community reaching out to another in a cycle of giving and were awarded a Community Action award for their efforts. Through interconnectedness, interdependence, and the expanded power and possibility created by love, support, compassion, and cooperation, their goal is to make a difference in the quality of people's lives.

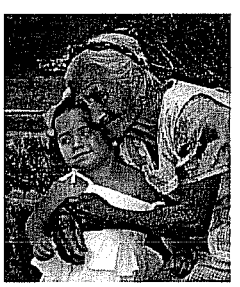
The Giving Circle's mission is matching communities in need with those who can provide resources. Giving Circle has made significant contributions to our Latino Advocacy Program. They have helped rebuild homes in Waveland, Mississippi, devastated by hurricane Katrina and are currently helping build an orphanage for children who have lost their parents to AIDS in Uganda. Closer to home, they are helping rehabilitate the Frederick Allen, "Black Elks" Lodge on Beckman Street here in Saratoga Springs.

Bruce Thompson, Ron Maenza, Julie Hoxsie, Ron Deutsch (accepting for The Giving Circle), Karyl Maenza, Sharon Maenza, Kelly Bertrand, Krystle Nowhitney

"Vision" for the future of EOC's Latino Community Advocacy Program

The Saratoga County EOC Latino Community Advocacy Program is dedicated to meeting the special needs of the growing Spanish-speaking population in our county through ESL classes, direct services, advocacy and referrals.

On August 10th, Saratoga County EOC hosted the 3rd annual *Vision* fundraiser for its Latino Community Advocacy Program (LCAP). The event, an opening reception for a black and white documentary photo exhibit by Saratoga's Latino workers, raises funds for services like English as a Second Language Classes, bilingual advocacy and interpreting, tax preparation and employment assistance. The Best in Show Award was presented to Eleuterio Martinez Ramirez, a 16 year old native of Oaxaca, Mexico who now resides in Saratoga Springs. The event raised desperately needed funds for the continuation of the program. Fundraising efforts for the program continue and support is greatly needed.



Best In Show - 1st place

"A Grandmother and Her Granddaughter"

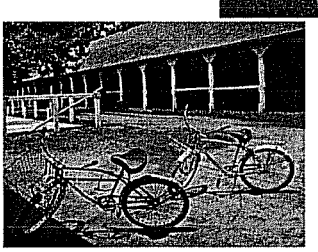
Photographer: Eleuterio Martinez Ramirez

Best in Show—2nd Place

"Xiomara"

Photographer: Nelson Jaime

Fall session English as a Second Language classes in Saratoga Springs begin Monday, September 13, 2010. Volunteer instructors are needed. Bicycle donations and volunteers are also needed for the LCAP's bike project with Saratoga Healthy Transportation Network. To volunteer for English classes, bike workshops or to donate a bike, please contact us at (518) 339-4609 or (518) 937-7237.



Best in Show - 3rd Place

"Bicycles"

Photographer: Henry Sanchez

Head Start Screenings

A comprehensive child development program, Saratoga County EOC Head Start serves children from birth to age 5, pregnant women, and their families with the overall goal of increasing school readiness and fostering healthy development in young children of low-income families.

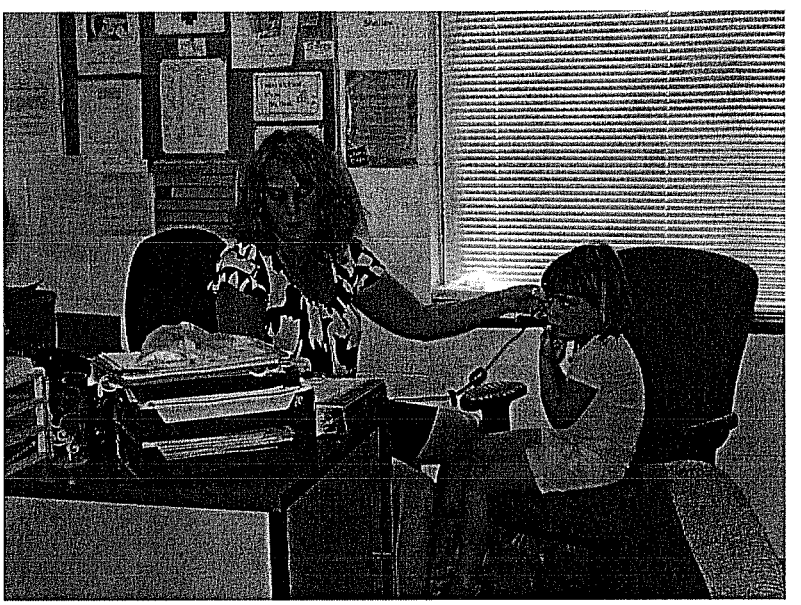
As children grow, their health needs constantly change, especially during the early years. A child who has undetected medical conditions is at risk for emotional and learning problems. When children are ill, tired, hungry, or poorly fed they are unable to function well. Without the provision of early screenings in Head Start, a child may face unnecessary challenges and may exhibit disruptive behaviors that interrupt their ability to learn.

Vision

Most of a child's learning comes through their vision. Vision is fully developed by 5 years old. Vision testing checks how well a child can see and how well the eyes move together. For a child to see correctly, the eyes must work together as a team and must look at the same object at the same time. Children adjust their eyesight to what they are used to. What is "normal" to them may be a visual problem that may need to be corrected. Undetected vision problems can lead to poor school performance and some children may even end up inappropriately in learning disability classes.

Hearing

Hearing is important for learning and communicating with others. Children with even mild hearing loss are at risk for language, learning, and behavioral problems. Hearing is important for learning and communicating with others and could impair speech development. Early identification and treatment of hearing problems can improve a child's development and relationships. Thirty-five percent of pre-school children have repeated ear infections. This is the most common reason for hearing loss.



Growth

Growth is a sign of a child's overall physical and emotional health. Causes of growth problems might include: improper nutrition – not enough, too much, or unhealthy foods, serious medical illness, and/or serious family problems. Treatment may include nutritional counseling and dietary supplements, treatment of medical conditions causing growth problems, and/or mental health counseling for the child and family.

Hemoglobin/Hematocrit

Our bodies need oxygen for growth and energy. Red blood cells, hemoglobin, and iron carry oxygen through the blood to the body. Anemia is when the body does not have enough red blood cells, iron, or hemoglobin. It can slow a child's energy, cause frequent illness, tiredness, a lack of appetite and delay their growth and development.

Lead

Lead is a poison that is very dangerous to young children as they are small and rapidly grow and develop. Most damage is done by age two because that is the height of neurological development. It can cause a lower IQ, hearing loss, anemia, kidney damage, and growth & behavioral problems. Lead testing should be done at age 1 and age 2 according to NYS law.

Dental

Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease. Children with chronic dental pain are unable to focus and are easily distracted therefore their ability to learn and school attendance may be effected. They may also experience problems eating and sleeping sometimes resulting in failure to thrive. Teeth are also important for speech development as well as for appearance for a child's smile and sense of well-being

SARATOGA COUNTY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY COUNCIL, INC.

Contact Information

EOC Administrative Office
The Dennis M. Brunelle Center
40 New St., PO Box 5120
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Phone: 518-587-3158
Fax: 518-580-9293

EOC Head Start Program Administrative Office
64 Hamilton St., PO Box 3476
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Phone: 518-226-0450
Fax: 518-226-0132

Executive Director: Julie Hoxsie @ ext.30 / email: j.hoxsie@saratogaeoc.org

Fiscal & Human Resources: Debi Moore @ ext.28 / email: d.moore@saratogaeoc.org

Community Services: Lillian McCarthy @ ext.37 / email: l.mccarthy@saratogaeoc.org

Energy Services: Michael Seeley @ ext.15 / email: m.seeley@saratogaeoc.org

WIC: Cathy Valenty @ ext.26 / email: c.valenty@saratogaeoc.org

Wheels for Work: Lori Staigar @ ext.31 / email: l.staigar@saratogaeoc.org

Latino Advocacy: Krystle Nowhitney @ ext.13 / email: k.nowhitney@saratogaeoc.org

Administrative Assistant: Theresa Piekarz @ ext.11 / email: t.piekarz@saratogaeoc.org

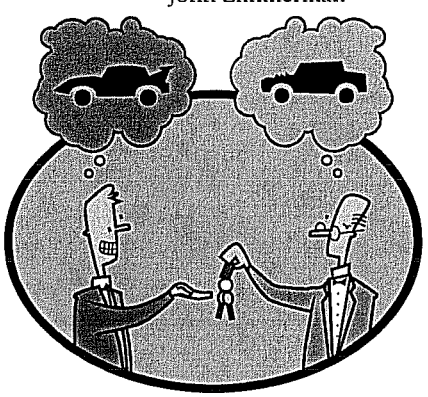
Head Start: Pam Dray @ 518-226-0450 ext.11 / email: p.dray@saratogaeoc.org

General Information email: info@saratogaeoc.org

2010 Board of Directors
Crystal Moore – President
Judy DeLong–Vice-President
Shari Stewart – Secretary
Edward Hart – Treasurer
Nancy Bunting
Ronald Deutsch
Joseph Dragone
Tamie Ehinger
Dianne Freestone
Jazmany Hernandez
Freda Laiacona
Pam Marro
John Munter
Shirley Needham
Robert Pasciullo
Lisa Ribis
Jena Rotheim
Scott Tatro
John Zimmerman

Looking for Cars!

The Saratoga County EOC Wheels for Work Program matches working families with working cars for the purpose of obtaining or maintaining employment.



Do you have a car to donate?

Our Wheels for Work program is looking for donated cars. To be used in the program, the donated vehicle has to be less than 15 years old and have less than 150,000 miles. For a family to qualify to receive a car, they must be low income, have a job or a valid and documented promise of a job, and have dependent children. The family can not have any other vehicle in the household.

The typical family that we work with in the Wheels program is a single parent returning to the work force who lacks transportation or whose only vehicle is no longer road worthy.

We provide the family with budget counseling and connect them with other support services to work towards stability and self sufficiency.

Tax deductions for donations can be taken to the extent allowed by law.

Please call Lori Staigar at EOC 587-3158, ext. 31.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.SARATOGAEOC.ORG