

PCCEO Celebrates Community Action Month

This year marked a national celebration of fifty years of community action. On August 20, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act into law. The act created community action agencies, and other programs such as job corps, Medicare, and vista, all to fight the war on poverty.

On May 17, 2014 PCCEO celebrated Community Action Month with a community event that featured all of PCCEO programs such as: Head Start, Early Head Start, Foster Grandparents, Energy Services, Weath-

erization, Home Rehab, Urban Weatherization, Peoria Area Food Bank, Emergency Services, and Central IL Catering.

The event was very well attended with over 200 participants. Children and adults alike engaged in games and activities like face painting, a giant slide, cake walk and more. Participants

could fill up on hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy all free to every participant. To top the day off Power 92.3 with Lord Mike was live and on the scene!!!

Each participant had to stop at each table to learn about each of the programs PCCEO offers to be eligible for the drawings that took place which included tickets to the Peoria Riverfront Museum, Landmark Bowl lanes, Lariat Steakhouse, the Grand Hotel, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club to name a few and the grand prize a 29' LED Magnavox flat screen TV.

Thanks to all who participated in helping us celebrate the nationally celebrated 50 year Anniversary of Community Action!



Helping People. Changing Lives.
Community Action
 PARTNERSHIP
 AMERICA'S POVERTY FIGHTING NETWORK

PCCEO

Peoria Citizens Committee for Economic Opportunity, Inc.
 711 W. McBean St.
 Peoria, IL 61605

THE PROMISE OF COMMUNITY ACTION

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live.

We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

PCCEO

HELPING PEOPLE. CHANGING LIVES,
 FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE.

PEORIA CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY, INC.

people helping people

July/August 2014

VOLUME 23

ISSUE 4

Head Start Site Changes

Full Day Sites (8:45 am – 3:00 PM)

Manual Academy Head Start Center

811 S. Griswold
 309-672-6600

Sterling School Head Start Center*

2315 N. Sterling
 309-672-6557

Tri-County Urban League Head Start Center

317 S. McArthur Hwy.
 309-673-7474

Part Day Sites

8:00 am – 11:30 am (morning session)

12:30 pm to 4:00 pm (afternoon session)

Webster Head Start Center

923 W. Millman
 309-671-3960

Trewyn Head Start Center

2219 S. Idaho
 309-671-3958

Sterling School Head Start Center

2315 N. Sterling
 309-672-6557

*Sterling serves as a full day and part day Head Start site.

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Head Start Welcomes New Director



Sandra Burke is no stranger to PCCEO's Head Start program. Mrs. Burke has served Head Start families as a Speech Therapist, Educational Coordinator and as assistant Director. Sandy, as she is affectionately called, served as Director of PCCEO's Early Head Start program before leaving to continue her work for children and families with Peoria School District 150.

Mrs. Burke has worked extensively in the community having also worked for PARC, the Tri-County (Peoria) Urban

League and KinderCare Learning Centers.

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Residential Weatherization Available

PCCEO, Inc. Residential Weatherization Program is now accepting applications from homeowners desiring to have their homes weatherized. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's purpose for the Residential Weatherization Program is to 1) Create jobs and increase skills and career opportunities for the under/ unemployed; 2) Improve energy efficiency and reduce energy costs in disadvantaged communities; and 3) Stimulate local economies by purchasing supplies from local distributors and manufacturers.

Residential Weatherization Program benefits low-income households and communities and generates an average energy cost savings of \$300 per home each year. Professionally trained weatherization auditors/inspectors perform on-site home energy audits using state of the art equipment to identify out-side drafts, and inspect heating and cooling systems for efficiency.

Weatherization crews seal off air leaks, install insulation, make modifications to (or replace) existing heating systems, and make minor repairs to ensure safety. Once installed, these energy saving measures help reduce heating and cooling costs for years to come.

This program is offered on a first come first served basis. No preference is given to applicants based on age. You may also be eligible for assistance if your income meets the federally estab-

lished income guidelines of an income equal to or less than 60% of the Area Median In-come. (Area Median Income or AMI is used to determine eligibility in a variety of state and federal programs.

Service area for the Residential Weatherization Program includes Peoria County with emphasis on zip codes 61602, 61603, 61604, 61605, and 61606. Recipients may receive a maximum benefit of up to \$6,500 (per unit). Qualified applicants must own their home. If it is a multi-family housing complex, the owner, must live in one of the units. Multi-family buildings only apply to buildings with 2-6 units. Mobile homes are not eligible.

To apply for services or to get additional information on the Residential Weatherization Program, contact Robin Gathers, PCCEO Urban Weatherization Department, 427 W. Main St., Peoria, IL 61606, 309.671.3900, ext. 285.

Household Size	30 Day Income	Annual Income
1	\$2,335	\$28,020
2	2,665	31,980
3	3,000	36,000
4	3,330	39,960
5	3,660	43,920
6	3,990	47,880

Head Start Welcomes New Director (cont.)

Mrs. Burke believes in serving the community. She currently serves on an all-volunteer committee working to re-establish Carver Community Center as a community hub on Peoria's Southside..

Throughout all of her career Sandy's focus has been on creating meaningful and purposeful relationships with parents and creating quality programs for children.



Sandra Burke has come home to PCCEO to serve as the new Head Start Director, a position overseeing a staff of nearly 100 individuals and Head Start enrollment of 670 children ages 3 to 5 years old. Mrs. Burke reports directly to the President/ CEO of PCCEO, Inc., McFarland A. Bragg II, CCAP.

Welcome back Mrs. Burke!

Food Bank News

We want to thank the employees of Federal Express located at the Morton office for the wonderful donation of two Federal Express vans. Holly Woods, along with her team, worked so hard getting these trucks and we are extremely excited about them. We will be using them for various deliveries and pickups of products. Thank you Holly, for all of the support you have given to our food bank. We are so happy to partner with you.

A HUGE thank you to Kent and his family, from Tazewell County, for the wonderful donation of sweet corn. This is the second year that Kent's family has donated this wonderful sweet corn. Last



year they donated 4,206 pounds. This year, they broke the record, bringing in over 3 tons!! It was absolutely flawless. There were 8 pickers at the farm to help pick and they picked all of this corn, by hand, in 2 hours. We are so grateful for this donation. Produce is so very expensive and our pantries were thrilled to be able to receive it.

We have been very busy so far this year---the food bank has distributed over 2,100,000 pounds of food as of the end of June. We hear from our pantries on a daily basis that the distribution lines are getting longer and they see new faces every week. We always ask our pantries to tell their clients to check in on their neighbors to make sure they aren't going hungry. We are concerned about our wonderful seniors and want to make sure they are not doing without the basic necessities, such as food.

Once again, we are extremely grateful for all of our monetary donors, food partners and volunteers. We couldn't do what we do without the support of all involved.



www.facebook.com/peoriacommunityaction

contact

Administration

Central Illinois Catering
Emergency Services
Energy Assistance
Human Resources
Media Services
Small Business Assistance
Weatherization

(309) 671-3900

Foster Grandparents

(309) 671-3950

Peoria Area Food Bank

(309) 671-3906

OKPARA Leasing (Affordable Housing)

(309) 673-1508

Spring Grove Development

(309) 497-1098

Early Head Start

Administration

(309) 495-5254

Pierson Hills

(309) 839-2106

Valeska Hinton

(309) 282-0222

Harrison

(309) 672-6522 ext. 6851

HEAD START CENTERS

Webster

(309) 671-3960

Trewyn

(309) 671-3958

Manual

(309) 672-6600

Sterling

(309) 672-6557

Urban League

(309) 673-7474