



"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"

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## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 } Kamera's Success Journey
- 2 } Q & A With Carl Cannon
- 2 } Food Pantry Spotlight |
- 2 } Community Harvest Food Bank
- 3 } A Client's Story
- 3 } PCCEO & Ameren A/C Donation
- 4 } Head Start/Early Head Start Recruitment
- 4 } Ameren Illinois Energy Services Appointment Dates

## Kamera's CNA to RN to BSN Success Story

As a child Kamera J. knew she wanted to be a nurse. Years later, when she earned her LPN, she was well on her way to realizing the dream - earning not just a job, but a rewarding career that her and her children could be proud of. Just when healthcare's shifting realities seemed to threaten that dream, Kamera found the solution she needed right in her community.

After the birth of her daughter in 2011, Kamera decided that she wanted more for her family. "I kept thinking about the many low income jobs I was getting," Kamera recalls. "I wanted to have a career and raise my family the right way". After giving birth Kamera found a brochure on the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program at Illinois Central College (ICC). "That's how my journey started".

During her time at ICC she realized just how quickly she could accomplish her Registered Nurse (RN) goal. The team at ICC was encouraging



and motivated Kamera to go for her RN. As she began to pass classes, her confidence continued to grow.

While attending ICC, Kamera discussed her RN plans with family and friends. During one of these discussions she was made aware of two programs offered by PCCEO, the CSBG Scholarship Program and the Health Careers



Program. She applied and was awarded both times in 2017 and 2018. "I always understood how important it was to utilize community resources. When you come from a community such as Peoria with limitations on financial resources it can be tough. I believe it's equally important to give back to the community once you achieve your goals." Kamera reflects. "This is why I am always looking for different volunteer activities and remain active in the community".

In May 2019, Kamera completed her BSN in Nursing and is looking forward to starting her career at OSF. It has been a long and rewarding journey for this young woman and PCCEO would like to congratulate her on all of her accomplishments.

Kamera is always looking for new opportunities and can be contacted at [kamerajordan1@gmail.com](mailto:kamerajordan1@gmail.com).

For more information on the CSBG Scholarship Program and the Health Careers Program call 309-671-3900.

## Q & A With Carl Cannon Board Chairman of Peoria Housing Authority



Carl Cannon, Board Chairman for the Peoria Housing Authority, has worked for more than 8 years to turn around public housing in Peoria, IL. Carl is a devoted community leader. Growing up, Carl lived in the Taft, Harrison, and the Warner Homes. "It was tough. But it's like I tell the kids, it's not where you come from that matters. It's how you choose to live," he said.

**What do you hope to get accomplished during your tenure as Board President?**

Carl: "I hope to get Taft Homes reestablished as a legitimate part of this community. I have devoted my term to be an ambassador for the residents who are really dedicated to doing the right thing."

**Where do you want to take PHA?**

Carl: "I want PHA to be national role model for how housing authorities can co-exist with these residents. Its as close today to being a village as most neighborhoods in the city. Neighbors are becoming familiar with each other and getting closer where they can correct kids in the neighborhood without fear of retaliation. It truly takes a village to raise a child and thats

what we are beginning to see."

**What would you say to residents that are skeptical the Taft Homes area will be redeveloped for housing?**

Carl: We will have a community committee that will ensure residents voices are heard. I can ensure you.

**Do you see this as a way to reduce crime in the area?**

Carl: "Yes I do. It's going to take us all to get to where we need to get to. I'm confident in our leadership and our residents. If we can get the village to raise up our children. It would be powerful to the parents in the neighborhood."

**What are the current plans for the Harrison Homes?**

Carl: Plans are in place to complete the second half of Harrison. Our focus is on Taft Homes at the moment. Once we are where we want to be

there. We will shift our focus to Harrison Homes.

**Thoughts on Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson?**

Carl: "I don't believe he comes from the same place I come from."

**Do you feel PHA is being supported by city government? If no, how can they better support?**

Carl: "We have a great relationship with the City of Peoria and other governing bodies in the city. The mayor and council members have backed initiatives that we have proposed. They understand and trust that PHA leadership knows what our residents need.

## Food Pantry Spotlight | Friends In Deed - Providing Healthy Food For Families In Need

Peoria Area Food Bank would like to recognize The Community Harvest Food Pantry as a difference maker in Peoria County.



The Community Harvest Food Bank is located at Trinity church in Morton, IL. They have been a member of the PAFB since April of 2008. Over the past 10 years they have received more than 3,000,000 pounds of food from PAFB and have served more than 225,000 people.

The director for the Community Harvest Food Pantry is Paula LaFond. She is a very enthusiastic leader and visionary who continues to improve the pantry for the people they serve. She never fails to express her deep appreciation for what the PAFB does to help her achieve her goals

Food Bank Would Like to Say Thank You to Our Generous Donors!!!

Richard Hart  
Ray Lahood  
Linda Whitney  
Gayla Johnson  
Richard Hart  
Martha Hudson  
Kirk W. Bode  
Cleo J. Koch  
Lori Carroll  
William F. Bond  
Alan Kenworthy  
Myra Robinson

# The Weatherization Assistance Program

## A Clients Story

The low-income weatherization program has had a substantial impact since its inception in 1976. Since then more than 7.4 million homes have been weatherized in the U.S. Over the past six years, PCCEO has served -- low-income households.

The primary focus of a weatherization program is to reduce energy consumption in the home. A fully weatherized home in cold weather states can provide 30% in energy savings. This savings is critical for low-income citizens who have a much higher energy burden.

Energy consumption in a home is based on two basic components: the physical building and the behavior of people living in the building. Weatherization programs seek to address the building by making it more energy efficient through the installation of measures

that are shown to have a positive savings to investment ratio, meaning the cost of the measure will be paid back in energy savings over the life of the measure. Typical energy conservation measures include air sealing, adding insulation, and replacing inefficient heating or cooling systems.

Weatherization has long been seen strictly as an energy efficiency program, yet its impacts go much further. Guided by building science and treating the home as a system, weatherization programs ensure that once a home is weatherized it also is a healthier and safer place to live.

A recently completed PCCEO weatherization project illustrates the benefits of having a home weatherized. Raeshawn Grant is a mother of four and suffered a serious back injury at work in May, 2016. Since the injury, Raeshawn has been unable to work. That was three years ago. In January 2019, Raeshawn and her family members began to get sick and was unaware of why. It was later determined that her home was releasing carbon monoxide. As if things couldn't get any worse, Raeshawn's furnace had



**Raeshawn Grant**

gone out as well. So she reached out to PCCEO.

"I always wondered what PCCEO was all about," she said. "When I spoke with Darin Pleines for the first time I could tell he respected me and went out of his way to help me."

The weatherization team evaluated her home and replaced her furnace, stove, fridge, and provided foam insulation in her crawl space.

## PCCEO and Ameren Illinois Gives Away 50 AC Units

### PCCEO and Ameren Illinois Continues Partnership

In an effort to keep residents cool during the summer months, Ameren Illinois has partnered with PCCEO once again providing 50 AC units to households who qualified. To meet qualifications residents must be a senior or have a child five years of age or younger. "Heat has really began to pick

up especially with the heatwave that occurred. It's tough for people to want to do much of anything when outside feels like the inside of their home," says Anisha Hughes, Program Manager of LIHEAP. "Extremely hot days can jeopardize the health of senior citizens and small aged children. This is just another way of giving back to the community during our downtime."

Military veteran and senior Samuel Barkley, was especially grateful for the AC Unit. "My prior AC unit had just went out and I had no way financially to purchase another one. Most days were miserable due to the heat." PCCEO and Ameren Illinois hopes to continue this program for residents during the summer months.

*Samuel Barkley and Anisha Hughes*



## Peoria Area Food Bank Donation Opportunities

Staff at the Peoria Area Food Bank has been hard at work on increasing donations for the program. Now you can donate by just shopping online with Amazon at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and select Peoria Area Food Bank from the drop down list.

Email Jeanette Wennemacher at [foodbank@pcceo.org](mailto:foodbank@pcceo.org) for additional information.

### It's Prime Day!

Shop epic deals at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and Amazon donates.

amazon smile



# Head Start and Early Head Start Are Now Accepting Applications



**HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START**



**NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS  
★ FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

NOW ENROLLING CHILDREN BIRTH TO AGE 5

**ITEMS NEEDED TO APPLY:**

- Current physical no older than 6 months (including immunizations, lead, T.B. & Hemo)
- Medical or Insurance card
- Certified birth certificate
- Proof of income (for the past 12 months or last calendar year)
- Proof of residency (piece of mail with current address)

We Encourage Parents of Children With Disabilities and Foster Families to Apply

Transportation Is Provided On A Limited Basis. For Transportation Resources, Call Head Start and Early Head Start.

Accepting Applications Monday through Friday

8:00 to 4:30 or by Appointment

Head Start at 923 Millman (309) 671-3960

Early Head Start/Prevention Initiative at 616 Abington Suite G

(309) 495-5254

Funded In Part By ISBE



PCCEO Energy Services will begin its fall application period beginning October 1st. October is priority month for households with persons age 60 and over or disabled person, and households with persons age 60 and over or disabled who are currently without utility services.

Eligible households must meet the above guidelines, as well as income guidelines. Applicants should present proof of income for the last 30 days, the most current utility bill, and social security cards for everyone in the household.

November 1st, Energy services will begin accepting applications for households with children age 5 and younger, households who have been disconnected from utility services, and households with elderly or disabled persons.

December 1st, Energy services will accept applications for all income-eligible households.

- October 3rd, 2019
- November 7th, 2019
- December 5th, 2019
- January 2nd, 2020
- February 6th, 2020
- March 5th, 2020
- April 2nd, 2020
- May 7th, 2020

For more information, contact PCCEO at (309)671-3900 ext. 228

**YES,** I want to help empower people living in poverty to reach economic stability.

Please accept my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Your donation will go toward supporting:**

- Feeding those who are hungry
- Preparing children for success in school
- Preventing and eliminating homelessness
- Helping families learn financial skills/save for a home, post-secondary education, or small business start-up

I would like to designate my gift to the following program

(e.g. Peoria Area Food Bank, Head Start, Early Head Start, Foster Grandparent Program, Mitchell "JJ" Anderson & Dana J Davis All Star Basketball Camp

May we publish your name?  Yes  No

If so, how would you like your name(s) to appear? \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Options:**

- Check payable to PCCEO
- Visit [www.pcceo.org/donate-now](http://www.pcceo.org/donate-now)

**For more information contact:**

**Gregory Wilson, Public Relations Specialist (309) 999-3824 | [gwilson@pcceo.org](mailto:gwilson@pcceo.org)**

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