

# GATEWAY COMMUNITY ACTION

Quarterly Newsletter

February 2016



## Tips For Winterizing Your Home

### Gateway's Weatherization Program

With the colder months here many Americans are looking for ways to save money on the rising cost of heating their homes.

#### Sealing Up and Insulating Your Home

The main goal of sealing up and insulating your home is simple – keep the warm air in and the cold air out! In the average home, if you added up all the cracks and gaps, the area would be approximately three square feet! Just imagine the amount of cold air that can come in through those spaces and of course the amount of warm air that can sneak out. Check out the following areas where the biggest losses can occur:

#### Attic Insulation

Since warm air rises, it goes without saying that if you don't have enough insulation in the attic, your heating bills are quite literally going through the roof. One of the most common and effective ways of saving heat is by making sure you have enough. If you're not sure, go in your attic and see if the ceiling joists are visible. If they are, you need more. Also, different areas of the country require differing R-values of insulation, which translates into a thickness of the insulation. Check with your local home center, and they will be able to advise you on the recommended R-value for your area.

#### Sealing Up Cracks

Cracks around windows, on perimeter walls and at electrical outlets that are located on an exterior wall can create a tremendous leak of warm air out and cold air in. Caulk any gaps and seal up cracks and holes to provide a more airtight envelope around your home. Also, check your weather stripping, and replace or adjust any that is worn or doesn't fit tightly.

#### Inefficient Windows

While this is a time of year that many homeowners choose to replace old windows that rattle and the wind blows right through, purchasing new insulated glass windows is expensive and requires some planning. A terrific interim solution is to install window insulation kits that contain plastic sheeting to cover the window. They are very easy to install, can completely insulate the window, and costs only about \$3 per window.

#### Getting the Most of Your Heating System

Now that you have insulated your home and made sure that there are no critters gnawing away at your foundation, the next step is to make sure you are getting the best possible performance from your current heating system. One of the first steps is to have your heating system serviced by a professional to make sure it is operating at maximum efficiency. It is also a good idea to change your air filter at least once a month.

#### **In this Issue:**

- Cover Story
- From the Executive Directors Desk
- CSBG & Transportation
- VITA Tax Program
- WIOA Happenings
- Head Start Updates
- Housing Program Outreach
- Fatherhood News
- Upcoming Events & Anniversaries

# From the Executive Director's Desk



*We are excited to see what 2016 will hold for our agency, and are profoundly confident in the ability of staff to build on new opportunities and navigate the challenges that accompany change and growth.*

*Our December holiday training and luncheon has received rave reviews. When the planning phase began, we had three goals; for staff to build or enhance their knowledge base, to support positive staff morale throughout the agency, and to promote an attitude of collaboration among all Gateway operated programs. Based on staff feedback, it appears we successfully achieved those goals!*

*Establishing our Human Resource Department has been pivotal in realizing many of our initiatives in 2015. Ensuring our policies and practices promote the highest level of safety for our staff, customers, vendors, and visitors is always our top priority. The HR/EEO Director is working toward her 30-hour OSHA certification and has, implemented an on-site, bi-annual health and safety review of all sites.*

*We expect all staff to be responsible for promoting & maintaining safety, to identify potential concerns, and as necessary, submit written request for needed repairs. We also expect our facilities to be clean and aesthetically pleasing. Anyone visiting our offices and/or classrooms should immediately realize the pride we take and the professionalism of our approach.*

*Please continue to follow us on Facebook and visit our website often. I enjoyed the opportunity on December 18th to be in the company of such an amazing group of people and I'm proud to be a part of this wonderful organization. I wish everyone a year filled with health, success, wonderment, and kindness.*

*Happy New Year!*

**Charlene Engle**

Executive Director

A Publication of :

**Gateway Communi-  
ty**

**Action Agency**  
151 University Dr.  
West Liberty, KY 41472  
606-743-3133

**Charlene Engle**  
Executive Director

**Kristy Gamble**  
Chief Finance Office

**Tristan Daniel**  
Technology Director

**Kristy Lewis**  
Human Resource/EEO  
Director

**Linda Elam**  
Administrative  
Assistant

**Wallace Rose**  
Weatherization Director

**Wendy Crain-Lawson**  
WIA/Kynect Director

**Martina Roe**  
Head Start Director

**Rebecca Allen**  
CSBG//Transportation  
Director

**Leah Kohr**  
Director of Community  
Initiatives

# Community Service Block Grant & Transportation

---

LIHEAP Crisis is in full swing! LIHEAP Subsidy was completed on December 11, 2015. During subsidy staff were able to assist more than 2,300 clients and spent over \$360,000. Compared to last year's subsidy numbers we spent \$90,000 less this year. Crisis has been open since January 11<sup>th</sup> and will remain open until all funds are exhausted or until March 31<sup>st</sup>, whichever occurs first. If you or anyone you know need help with heating please call your local outreach office.

CSBG currently has money to assist those clients who wish to obtain their GED or those clients who wish to become a self sufficiency client. To qualify for the GED assistance you must be working with the GED Testing center in your area. Outreach staff need a letter stating you have taken the practice test and are ready to take the actual GED test. To be eligible for the self sufficiency program, clients will need to meet with the outreach worker in their county and set up a case management plan. Outreach staff can assist t in overcoming the barriers faced when working toward self-sufficiency.

There are exciting changes that will occur in our transportation program during the upcoming fiscal year. However, for now we continue to provide services within the city limits of West Liberty for a small fee. If you or anyone you know would like a ride to the grocery, dollar store, or doctor within city limits, please call the central office and schedule an appointment.





## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

VITA Tax Preparation is available online at [www.myfreetaxes.com](http://www.myfreetaxes.com). If you make less than \$60,000/year, you can file your taxes free.

If you are interested in sitting down onsite with a tax preparer, Morehead State University is offering onsite services in Room 111 of the Combs Building in Morehead, KY. Hours are 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm. They will stop taking walk ins at 5:30 pm. Dates include: Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. April 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. No appointment necessary.

The Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCADV) will provide onsite tax services at the Rowan County Public Library. Dates include: January 27<sup>th</sup>, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and February 5<sup>th</sup>.

For an appointment call Andrea or Elizabeth at 859-608-1375.

**Open Enrollment with kynect ended on January 31st. If you are Medicaid eligible you are still able to apply with a local kynector. For more information call 606-743-3133.**

## Workforce Investment Opportunity Act (WIOA) Happenings

The Kentucky Career Center JobSight will be hosting new Job Clubs in Menifee and Morgan Counties through mid-March 2016. Job Clubs assist job seekers with creating a game plan for a job search, meeting with employers in the area who have job openings, learning interview skills, and tapping into the hidden job market.

Menifee County Job Club – begins Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm at the Menifee County Public Library. For more information call 606-768-3352.

Morgan County Job Club – begins Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Morgan County Public Library. For more information call 606-743-3133.

The Kentucky Career Center JobSight will be hosting a Job Fair in Morehead, KY at the Hampton Inn on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. This is a multi-employer job fair. For more information or to make an appointment to update your resume please call 606-768-3352 or 606-743-3133.

## Programs

- CSBG
- Head Start
- Responsible Fatherhood
- LIHEAP
- Kynect
- Transportation Delivery
- KY Career Center
- Weatherization
- Home Tenant Based Rental Assistance

## Outreach Offices

Bath County  
108 Gudgeon St.  
Owingsville, KY  
(606) 674-2502

Menifee County  
Bible Camp Lane  
Frenchburg, KY  
606) 768-2369

Montgomery County  
103 Bruce Professional  
Plaza Suite A  
Mt. Sterling, KY  
( 859) 498-5345

Morgan County  
151 University Drive  
West Liberty, KY  
(606) 743-3133

Rowan County  
136 Lee Ave Suite E  
Morehead, KY  
(606) 784-7735

## Head Start News



Insured and uninsured populations face numerous financial barriers to accessing affordable health care services. Health fairs are one of the most recognizable forms of community-based health promotion and offers health education and medical screenings at little or no cost.

Gateway Head Start will be hosting a health fair at the Morehead Conference Center on April 21, 2016 for families enrolled in the program. The health fair will feature demonstrations from various professionals such as St. Clair Medical Center. Free screenings will include vision, blood pressure, height/weight, cholesterol, and much more. Health professionals will be on hand and information will be distributed about diabetes, dental health, tobacco cessation, heart disease, nutrition, and other health related risk. The event will include giveaways.

These health screenings will assist in identifying abnormalities that may prevent illnesses such as heart attack or stroke. Health screenings are essential to a healthy lifestyle because the sooner a threat is detected, the higher the success of treat-

### Head Start Centers

Bath: 606-674-2766

Botts: 606-768-4175

Camargo: 859-497-8776

ELC: 859-497-2124

Frenchburg: 606-768-3818

East Valley: 606-522-8178

Morgan Central: 606-743-2252

Rowan: 606-780-0118

Wrigley: 606-743-2419

# Housing Program Outreach

The Unemployment Bridge Program (UBP) funding ended on January 31, 2016. This was an excellent program that allowed us to serve citizens in 17 counties. This was a statewide program, funded through the Hardest Hit Funds, which made 148 million dollars available for Kentuckians who became unemployed through no fault of their own. We have operated this program since 2012 and have always been aware of the January 31 completion date for funding. As the program came to an end, we continued to work closely with those eligible for services in order to process their information and ensure they were entered into the system prior to the deadline.

Our Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program (TBRA) funds run through June 2016. We will apply for new funds in February in order to serve the more than 30 clients currently on a waitlist.

Staff continue to remain current on housing counseling principles and regulations. In previous years, our counseling services have consisted primarily of one-to-one coaching, and while we will continue that service, we expect, in the future, to offer more community class settings in order to reach a more diverse group of citizens.



## Fatherhood News

Having been awarded a five-year grant for *The New Pathways to Fathers & Families Program*, we are excited to start meeting with clients. Classes and one-on-one sessions will begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently we are very busy preparing new materials and learning new skills to better meet the needs of our fathers and families. We will work with clients to provide job coaching, financial management tools, and improve parenting and relationship skills. Our goal is to serve 200 clients in this first year. As our clients grow, we hope to grow our staff as well. We are also excited about exploring possible partnering opportunities with other Gateway programs such as Head Start and WIOA to ensure Gateway Community Action clients are receiving a comprehensive and cohesive set of services.

# Upcoming Events

**Menifee County Job Club: Menifee County Library**

1:00 P.M. Feb 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, & Mar 7 & 14

**Morgan County Job Club : Morgan County Li-**

**brary 10:00 A.M. Feb 2, 9, 16, 23, & Mar 1, 8, & 15.**

**Morehead Job Fair: Hampton Inn – Morehead, KY**

10:00 am – 2:00 pm February 12



***“Without ambition one starts nothing.  
Without work one finishes nothing.  
The prize will not be sent to you. You  
have to win it.”***

***— Ralph Waldo Emerson***

# Anniversaries

## November

Dedra Dye 7 years

Virginia Hall 4 years

Yolonda Shockey 3 years

Tina Clemons 2 years

Lisa Risner 2 years

Rhonda Fannin 1 year

Kathryn Jackson 1 year

## December

Jessie Stidham 14 years

Angie Elliott 4 years

Brenda Kendrick 4 years

## January

Susan Hager 25 years

Lisa Holbrook 10 years

Brigitte Love 2 years

Melissa Daniels 1 year

Steven Housewright 1 year

Patrick LeMaster 1 year

Evan O’Neal 1 year