



Two Clients Get 'New' Cars

Reliable transportation is more of a necessity than a luxury for people living in the rural Green Hills region. Residents need vehicles to get them to and from work, school, doctor's appointments and even routine trips to the grocery store.

Lack of reliable transportation is a barrier to self-sufficiency faced by many low-income residents of the nine counties served by Green Hills Community Action Agency. To help solve this problem, the agency started a car donation program.

Recipients get reliable transportation and donors get an income tax deduction based on the fair market value of the vehicle. Recipients must set personal goals, provide full-coverage insurance and agree to meet all program

(Continued on page 2)



Executive Director Scott Long, left, is ready to hand the keys of this 1996 Buick LeSabre to Jessica Barnes, center, the first recipient of the agency's car donation program. Heather Swymeler, Director of Employment and Training, right, worked with Barnes on the program.



William Coyle receives the keys to this 1998 Chevrolet Cavalier from Heather Swymeler, Director of Employment and Training.

GHCAA Gets Grants for Rehab Projects

Green Hills Community Action Agency was awarded three grants totaling \$286,000 for home rehabilitation projects.

The grants were awarded in December by the Missouri Housing Development Commission. Two of the

grants, \$110,000 each, are to be spent in cooperation with the Downtown Revitalization and Economic Assistance for Missouri (DREAM) programs in Chillicothe and Trenton.

The money will be available April 1 and will be spent on

projects that make homes safer and more habitable, said Marvin Meeker, GHCAA Weatherization/Rehabilitation Director. Eligible homes must be within each city's designated DREAM boundaries,

(Continued on page 2)

◆ **Read news from your county on Page 3**

◆ **Read news from other counties on our Web site: www.ghcaa.org**

Car Donation: Recipients Get Vehicles and Donors Get Tax Deductions

(Continued from page 1)

requirements. GHCAA holds the lien to the vehicle until the recipient completes the program. During the program, recipients attend a budgeting workshop; learn basic car maintenance and show proof of regular maintenance; maintain a good driving record; have monthly contact with a GHCAA case manager; and make

timely monthly payments. Upon completion of the program, the recipient will receive the sum of monthly payments to spend on vehicle maintenance.

Jessica Barnes, the program's first recipient, was driving a 1992 Dodge Dynasty that needed a new heater, air conditioner and motor mount when she applied for the program. She needed a

better vehicle to commute from her home in Marceline to Trenton to attend North Central Missouri College.

William Coyle of Trenton, the second recipient, needed transportation to his job at Dollar General. Coyle plans to attend a retail management training program this year.

Grants: GHCAA Receives Money for Home Rehabilitation Projects

(Continued from page 1)

must be owner-occupied and the homeowners must meet GHCAA income guidelines.

GHCAA is partnering with the City of Trenton on its DREAM Program and with the City of Chillicothe and Main Street

Chillicothe on its DREAM Program.

"The DREAM Program fits GHCAA's mission of working through partnerships to empower individuals and families with the knowledge, skills and motivations needed to build strong families and communities," said Executive Director Scott Long.

The application process started in February and construction work will start in a few months.

The Missouri Housing Development Commission also awarded GHCAA \$66,000 for the rehabilitation of other homes in the nine counties served by the agency.

Benefit Dinner, Auction Raise Funds for Chillicothe Women's Shelter

Diamond earrings, a family portrait session, framed prints, scented candles and garden shoes were among donated items sold at the fifth annual Domestic Violence Benefit Auction. The dinner and auction raised thousands of dollars for Chillicothe Women's Shelter operated by Green Hills Community Action Agency.

The planning committee, led by co-chairpersons Martha Berry and Ken Lauhoff, spent months organizing the event held Oct. 25 at the Chillicothe Elks Lodge. They garnered donated items, solicited table sponsors and sold tickets.

Before and after dinner, attendees browsed the silent auction items that lined the walls of the banquet hall. Attendees placed silent bids, checking



Tracy M. James, Project Manager for Nebraska Furniture Mart, talked about his experiences in an abusive relationship with an alcoholic.

often to see if they needed to bid higher.

Guest speaker Tracy James put a different face on domestic violence when the young man told his story of being the victim of domestic violence.



Attendees feasted on pork loin, ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, oriental cole slaw, rolls and desserts.

The evening concluded with a live auction of more than 30 items, including a one-week stay in a condominium in Sarasota, Fla. The live auction raised nearly \$7,000.

Grundy County in Action

Grundy County Service Center

1506 Oklahoma Ave.
Trenton, MO
660-359-6863



Debbie Cribb
Director

Money Donated to County's Emergency Fund

Grundy County Senior Citizens donated \$2,080 from its Services Fund Board to the Grundy County Service Center.

The donation has been deposited in the county's emergency fund, said Director Deb-

bie Cribb. That fund is used to cover a variety of emergency needs. Fund money is spent to buy prescription medicines, eye glasses, minor vehicle repairs, minor housing repairs and to cover transportation costs. Mrs. Cribb anticipates using the emergency fund to

also cover utility bills not paid through another GHCAA program.

All donations to the emergency fund are appreciated, Mrs. Cribb said. To donate, call her at (660) 359-6863.

Partnering Agency Helps File for Property Tax Credits

Angie Kirchner of Access II joined County Director Debbie Cribb in helping qualifying Grundy County residents file for a Missouri Property Tax Credit.

Mrs. Kirchner and Mrs. Cribb presented a workshop on the

program to residents of Friendship House in Trenton. The residents have developmental disabilities. Mrs. Kirchner also has spent a couple of days at the Service Center, helping qualifying senior citizens and people

with disabilities file for the tax credits.

Eligible renters can receive a tax credit of up to \$750 and eligible homeowners can receive up to \$1,100 through the MOPCT this year.

GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ____ No ____
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ____ No ____
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ____ No ____
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____

5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ____ No ____, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development

Permit No. 227
Trenton, MO 64683
PAID
U.S. Postage

Non-profit Organization

Green Hills Community Action
1506 Oklahoma Ave.
Trenton, MO 64683

Green Hills Community Action
Central Office
1506 Oklahoma Ave.
Trenton, MO 64683
www.ghcaa.org

Scott Long
Executive Director

Tammy Taylor
Community Services Director

Deena Smith
Director of Communications
and Resource Development

Phone: 660-359-3907
Fax: 660-359-6619
Email: longs@ghcaa.org
taylor@ghcaa.org
smithd@ghcaa.org

Our Promise

Green Hills Community Action Agency positively impacts people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes our region a better place to live. We care about the community, and are dedicated to empowering people to help themselves and each other.

If you have information about projects or efforts that will help build stronger families and stronger communities that you would like to see highlighted in future issues of "Our Community in Action," or if you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list, please contact:
Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development,
Green Hills Community Action Agency
1506 Oklahoma Ave.
Trenton, MO 64683
660-359-3907, ext. 133

Caldwell County in Action

Caldwell County Service Center

101 S. Frame St.
Hamilton, MO
816-583-2022



Jo McKinney
Director



Paula McCoy
Coordinator

Utility Donates to GHCAA for Energy Conservation

Missouri Gas Utility, Inc., contributed \$3,717 to Green Hills Community Action Agency to promote conservation of natural gas usage.

"We greatly appreciate the partnership we have with Missouri Gas Utility in providing these funds for energy conservation, and for their assistance with our educational classes," said Scott Long,



Scott Long, left, GHCAA Executive Director, accepts a check from Bret Brown, District Manager of Missouri Gas Utility.

Executive Director of GHCAA.

Last fall, GHCAA presented energy conservation workshops in each of the nine counties it serves. Utility partners, including MGU, were invited to help present the workshops.

MGU provides natural gas service to approximately 1,600 customers in Caldwell, Daviess and Harrison counties.

Classes Teach Clients How to Become Leaders

How to build working relationships, how to conduct a meeting and understanding conflict are just a few of the skills being taught to GHCAA clients

taking a 12-week Step Up to Leadership class.

Classes started Feb. 5 and will continue through April 23.

The goal is to teach class participants the skills to work with others to improve their communities.

GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ___ No ___
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ___ No ___
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ___ No ___
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____

5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ___ No ___, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development

Daviess County in Action

Daviess County Service Center

Clay & Jackson streets
Gallatin, MO
660-663-3211



Phyllis Heckenbach
Director



Chasidy Lynch
Coordinator

Housing Complex Opens in Jamesport

The Meadowview Senior complex opened earlier this year in Jamesport for income-eligible senior citizens and people with disabilities.



It has 10 one-bedroom apartments and four stand-alone cottages, all equipped with energy-efficient appliances. The complex includes a landscaped picnic and outdoor area and a community room

Meadowview Senior complex provides affordable and safe housing in the Jamesport community.

for all residents; and a laundry facility for residents living in the apartments. The cottages have clothes washers

and driers.

GHCAA built the complex with federal funds.

Gallatin Native Working to Better Her Community

Chasidy Lynch is GHCAA's new Community Coordinator for Daviess County. She started Dec. 15 and is busy working with County Director

Phyllis Heckenbach, program participants, office volunteers and community partners.

Mrs. Lynch is a lifelong resi-

dent of Daviess County. She and her husband, Jon, have three children, Kelli, 9; Klayton, 8; and Mason, almost 2.

GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ___ No ___
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ___ No ___
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ___ No ___
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____

5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ___ No ___, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development

Harrison County in Action

Harrison County Service Center

4114 Miller St.
Bethany, MO
660-425-3755



Tammy Taylor
Acting Director



Ann Pettit
Coordinator

Utility Donates to GHCAA for Energy Conservation

Missouri Gas Utility, Inc., contributed \$3,717 to Green Hills Community Action Agency to promote conservation of natural gas usage.

"We greatly appreciate the partnership we have with Missouri Gas Utility in providing these funds for energy conservation, and for their assistance with our educational classes," said Scott Long,



Scott Long, left, GHCAA Executive Director, accepts a check from Bret Brown, District Manager of Missouri Gas Utility.

Executive Director of GHCAA.

Last fall, GHCAA presented energy conservation workshops in each of the nine counties it serves. Utility partners, including MGU, were invited to help present the workshops.

MGU provides natural gas service to approximately 1,600 customers in Caldwell, Daviess and Harrison counties.

Classes to Teach Clients How to Become Leaders

How to build working relationships, how to conduct a meeting and understanding conflict are just a few of the skills to be taught to GHCAA clients

taking a 12-week Step Up to Leadership class.

Classes start March 5 and will continue through May 21. The

goal is to teach class participants the skills to work with others to improve their communities.

GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ___ No ___
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ___ No ___
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ___ No ___
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____
5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ___ No ___, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development

Linn County in Action

Linn County Service Center

105 W. John St.
Brookfield, MO
660-258-2211



Debra Wade
Director



Dianne Patterson
Coordinator

County Commission & Utility Give Needed Funds

The Linn County Service Center recently received two donations to its emergency fund.

The Linn County Commission donated \$2,000 that can be spent to meet a variety of emergency needs, said County Director Debra Wade. Money from the emergency funds is spent to pay past-due

water bills, to buy prescription medicine, to buy gasoline for a trip to the doctor or a hospital and to pay a utility deposit.

Basically, money from the emergency fund is spent to cover a bill not paid by a GHCAA program, she said.

Macon Electric Co-operative donated \$1,000 to the emergency fund, with the stipula-

tion that the money be spent to help its customers who are GHCAA clients pay their electric bills.

All donations to the county's emergency fund are appreciated, Mrs. Wade said. To donate, contact her at (660) 258-2211.

GHCAA Staff Meets with Missouri Lawmakers

Green Hills Community Action Agency joined with other community action agencies in the state for a Legislative Day on Jan. 14 in Jefferson City.

At right, Rep. Tom Shively,

meets with Debra Wade, Linn County Director; Deena Smith; Director of Communications and Resource Development; and Scott Long, Executive Director.



GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ___ No ___
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ___ No ___
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ___ No ___
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____

5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ___ No ____, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development

Livingston County in Action

Livingston County Service Center

511 Elm St.
Chillicothe, MO
660-646-3379



Sherrie Wohlgemuth
Director



Linda Allen
Coordinator

Employment Workshop Helps Client Get a Job

Just a few weeks after 30 people attended an Employment & Training Workshop at the Livingston County Service Center, one attendee has a new job.

"I'm so proud of her. She's working at the Chillicothe Correctional facility," County Di-

rector Sherrie Wohlgemuth said.

During the two-day workshop, attendees learned skills for setting goals, having a positive attitude, how to prepare for an interview and more.

They also took a battery of tests to ascertain their skills

levels and aptitude for a variety of jobs.

Licha Kelley-King, GHCAA Youth Services Coordinator, was the facilitator.

"Everyone left with a new resume and referrals to area employment services," Mrs. Wohlgemuth said.

Volunteer Helps Clients File for Tax Credit

Amy Kelchen is volunteering two days a week in the Livingston County Service Center. She spends her time helping clients file for the Missouri Property Tax Credit.

Through this program, qualify-

ing senior citizens and disabled individuals can get back a portion of the real estate taxes or rent they paid in 2008. The maximum tax credit for homeowners is \$1,100 and eligible renters can receive up to \$750. April

15 is the last day to file for this credit.

Ms. Kelchen is a graduate of the Step Up to Leadership class offered last year by the Livingston County Service Center.

GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ___ No ___
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ___ No ___
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ___ No ___
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____
5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ___ No ___, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development

Mercer County in Action

Mercer County Service Center

606 W. Main St.
Princeton, MO
660-748-3565



Melissa Galbreath
Director

Food Pantry Moves to United Methodist Church

Mercer County's Emergency Food Pantry now is located at the United Methodist Church at 804 E. Main St. in Princeton.

For years, the pantry was in the GHCAA Service Center in Princeton. More than a year ago, an area needs assessment and long-range planning

by GHCAA staff showed a need to increase the participation of local churches, service providers and community groups in the operation of the pantry. It serves as a vital resource for families and individuals in an emergency or crisis situation.

The last distribution of com-

modities from the GHCAA Service Center was Feb. 24. Beginning in March, commodities will be distributed from the United Methodist Church.

Thank you to all partners who helped in planning and providing a new location for the Emergency Food Pantry and commodity food distribution.

GHCAA Offers Help to Get Property Tax Credit

County Director Melissa Galbreath has been busy since early January helping clients file for a Missouri Property Tax Credit.

Qualifying senior citizens and

disabled individuals can get back a portion of the real estate taxes or rent they paid in 2008. The maximum tax credit for homeowners is \$1,100 and eligible renters

can receive up to \$750.

A credit can be filed by people who do not need to file an income tax return. But, April 15, tax day, is the last day to file for a credit.

GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ___ No ___
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ___ No ___
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ___ No ___
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____

5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ___ No ____, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development

Putnam County in Action

**Putnam County
Service Center**
117 S. 16th St.
Unionville, MO
660-947-2471



Margaret Salisbury
Community Services
Manager



Rhonda Roof
Coordinator

Staff Busy with Taxes, Enhanced Skills Workshop

Eligible senior citizens and people with disabilities have been coming to the Putnam County Service Center since early January, seeking help filing for a Missouri Property Tax Credit.

Qualifying senior citizens and disabled individuals can get back a portion of the real es-

tate taxes or rent they paid in 2008. The maximum tax credit for homeowners is \$1,100 and eligible renters can receive up to \$750.

A credit can be filed by people who do not need to file an income tax return. But, April 15, tax day, is the last day to file for a credit.

Center staff also has been busy planning and conducting an enhanced skills workshop. Nineteen people attended the workshop, "Small Steps to Health and Wealth," on Feb. 5 at the service center. Judy Howard of the Missouri University Extension was the facilitator.

Service Center Gets Money and Eggs for Clients

The Putnam County Service Center recently received two donations. They were very different in substance, but both will help feed hungry clients, said Margaret Salis-

bury, Community Services Manager.

The Putnam County Commission donated \$1,500 to the food pantry operated out of the service center.

Heartland Egg Farm in Bethel, Mo., donated 35 cases of eggs. Each case contained 15 dozen eggs. Everyone coming into the service center in early February received eggs.

GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ___ No ___
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ___ No ___
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ___ No ___
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____

5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ___ No ____, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Develop-

Sullivan County in Action

**Sullivan County
Service Center**
101 E. Second St.
Milan, MO
660-265-4510



Margaret Salisbury
Community Services
Manager



Dianne Hendee
Coordinator

New County Coordinator & Volunteer Start Work

Dianne Hendee was tired of driving into Iowa to work when a GHCAA staff member called her about a job opening.

Ms. Hendee applied for the position as Sullivan County Coordinator and started work Dec. 15.

"So far, I love it," she said.

Ms. Hendee was born and raised in Lemons, Mo., a small town north of Milan, and lives next door to her parents in Lemons. She has three sons, Chris, 22, Jesse, 19, and Skyler, 15.

Ms. Hendee owned a day-care center in Unionville for nine years before selling it in Sep-

tember 2008. She worked briefly as a case manager in Iowa before the telephone call from Rhonda Roof, the County Coordinator in Putnam County and a long-time friend.

Also new to the service center is Vivian Sinclair, who works 16 hours a week through the Experience Works program.

Advisory Board Working on Senior Tax Proposal

A committee has been set up to propose a senior tax levy in Sullivan County. Money raised by the tax would be used to benefit senior citizens, including services offered by Green Hills Community Action

Agency.

Mary Claphan, director of PC Café & Resource, the senior center in Putnam County, met with GHCAA's Sullivan County Advisory Board to discuss how

to get the proposal on a county-wide ballot.

After hearing Mrs. Claphan, Advisory Board members formed a committee to work on the proposal.

GHCAA Wants Your Opinions on Our Newsletter



Please take a few minutes to answer these questions about the Agency's newsletter. Your answers will help us improve our communications with clients, community partners, government officials and others in the fight against poverty.

1. The newsletter keeps me informed on Agency activities and programs. Yes ___ No ___
2. It should have more success stories about people and programs. Yes ___ No ___
3. It should have general stories about poverty (statistics, for example). Yes ___ No ___
4. The newsletter would be more informative if: _____

5. Rather than mail me a copy, please send me an e-mail when newsletters are posted on the Agency's Web site. Yes ___ No ____, keep me on the mailing list.

Please mail the completed survey to: Green Hills Community Action Agency, P.O. Box 278, Trenton, MO 64683, ATTN: Deena Smith, Director of Communications and Resource Development