



Director's Corner

Values and Cuts

by Hugh Daly

Last Wednesday, while in Harrisburg, I read that the United States had launched 112 Tomahawk Cruise Missiles at targets in Libya on the previous Saturday. I took some time to "google" the cost of a Tomahawk missile, and found a US Department of Defense (DOD) press release from 2010 that stated the DOD had awarded a contract to Raytheon Corp to purchase 196 Tomahawks at a cost of \$209,027,172. That amount works out to \$1,066,465.16 each. So the 112 we shot at Libya on Saturday cost approximately \$119,444,098. Now that's just the cost of the missiles alone, not the Navy's cost to run the ships that launched them, or the cost of doing the programming to target the missiles. That one-day cost that the federal government incurred that Saturday would have paid for more than two months of the entire yearly amount of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) for all 1,100 Community Action Agencies in the United States. To break that cost down on a more local basis, the one-day cost of the Tomahawks would pay PA's share of the CSBG for over four (4) years, or, Central PA Community Action's CSBG grant for over **200** years. As much as I value the ideal of Democracy for the Libyan people, I also feel that it should be "Americans First" when it comes to government spending.

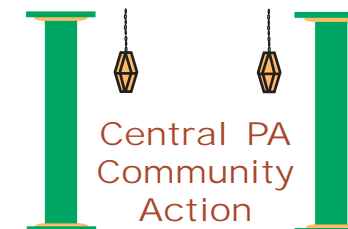
Community Action Agencies Nationwide, are facing some extremely tough times ahead. In his State of the Union Address, President Obama said that he would be willing to cut in half, the amount of money that Community Action Agencies (CAAs) got per year. That would be \$350 million per year instead of last year's \$700 million dollars. Republicans in the US Congress took that as a sign that the President would not fight for CAAs, and they proposed ELIMINATING CSBG altogether in their budget proposals for 2012. And, potentially worse than that is the fact that, there is no federal budget yet for this year, which for the federal budget, started on October 1, 2010. In Pennsylvania, our new Governor has proposed a budget that eliminates a number of programs, including the Human Service Development Fund (HSDF). In Clearfield County, we administer HSDF, and share it with the Area Agency on Aging, the County Children and Youth (Child Welfare), Clearfield-Jefferson Mental Health and Mental Retardation (MHMR), and with Drug and Alcohol. The total amount for HSDF for Clearfield County was \$244,000 in 2004, and \$144,000 last fiscal year. This year beginning in July of 2011, the Governor has proposed "zeroing out" the fund. Because HSDF is made up entirely of State funds, I really expect that it will receive a substantial cut. In fact our legislators in PA will cut HSDF before cutting the Department of Welfare's budget, because they know that what we spend on welfare is "matched" from federal funds, and they won't want to lose that funding.

There is one very important fact that you need to understand about both the Federal and State budget processes: The President, or the Governor "**Proposes**" a budget, while the U.S. Congress and the Pennsylvania Legislature "**Disposes**" of the budget. In other words, the President and Governor give a road map to the Congress and Legislature of what they think the spending priorities should be, but it is the Congress and the Legislature that actually put a budget into law. Frequently the Congress and Legislature move in an entirely different direction with what they make as the final budget. NCAF (The National Community Action Foundation) is our lobbying organization in Washington D.C. Their Executive Director, David Bradley, is telling us that he is feeling pretty positive that CSBG will receive a cut, but not be eliminated. In fact, he had our NCAF delegations tell our Congressmen that we could live with our 2008 CSBG appropriation of \$654 million dollars for 2012. We got \$700 million dollars nationwide in 2010, and probably will get the same in 2011. *Fairness* is one of our chief values. We won't mind getting some cuts if others share the pain. Our services under CSBG have as a goal and a value, helping people become *self-sufficient*. Yes, we value *Democracy*, even for citizens of other countries. I do think our federal legislators need to think about what is best for our own citizens *first*, and I think our National budgets ought to be based on that "*value*". What do you think?



The Pillars

March /April 2011



The prom season is in full swing now with area girls looking for the perfect date and the perfect dress! The Prom Closet is again there to help out those girls that might not be able to afford the high cost associated with the dresses these days. The Prom Closet is enjoying their new home at The Presbyterian Church in Clearfield. Thanks to the youth groups from St. Francis Catholic Church, Center Grove United Methodist Church and The Presbyterian Church a work party was held on March 20th to move from the Multi-Service Center building to the church. With over 30 volunteers it took less than 2 hours to have everything moved and most of the dresses hung back on the racks! Becca Byerly a sophomore at Clearfield High School has taken The Prom Closet as her senior project and has been a great

help to Tia this year. She and her mother Tammy, along with other volunteers including our CPCA volunteer Sharon Cummings and her daughter Sarah Bellmore, have been donating time to help the girls "shop" for dresses. Since opening on March 24th, 48 gowns have been given out. New to The Prom Closet this year is the Tux Voucher. In years past we were never really able to assist the young men who wanted to attend the prom but who were also facing a financial hardship. Through fundraising efforts and a collaboration with Tie The Knot Bridal Shop in Curwensville we are now able present these young men with a voucher worth \$50.00 off a tuxedo rental. So far this year we have had 6 students request vouchers. Thanks to the Clearfield County Career and Technology Center a Cinderella Dream Come True Prom Fashion and Hair Show was held on March 31st to benefit The Prom Closet. This event raised over \$300 and collected around 75 gowns to be distributed at The Prom Closet. The students did a wonderful job organizing the event and had 47 chinese auction prizes that were given out during the event. Several CPCA staff members were seen in attendance at the event including Joan Domico, Stacy LoCastro, Tia Lansberry and Penny Gladden (who won a couple of the prizes!)

Do you have your 2010 income taxes filed yet? If not better hurry, this year's deadline is April 18th. The Clearfield Money In Your Pocket Program has been busy completing income tax returns for individuals and families of our area that earn less than \$49,000 free of charge. Through our dedicated volunteers we have offered assistance in Clearfield on Wednesday evenings, Senator John Wozniak's office in Philipsburg on Tuesdays, the Irvona Boro building on Fridays and the Curwensville Moose on Mondays. Also this year through a partnership with Timberland Federal Credit Union and Goodwill Industries, Clearfield Money In Your Pocket West was formed. The volunteers from these two agencies do income tax preparation for the DuBois area at Timberland Federal Credit Union. As of April 1st, between the two Money In Your Pocket Programs, 536 income taxes were prepared!



By the Numbers

CPCA employees work hard, and here are just a few examples of programs and the number of people that they have served since January 1, 2011.....

- Rental Assistance Program - 32 people
- Enrolls in Supported Work Program - 11 people
- Assisted through HPRP - 11 people
- Receiving Emergency Food - 91 people
- Utilized one of our Food Pantries - 6148 people
- Attended Congregate Meal - 59 people
- PENELEC CAP enrollment - 332 people
- Penelec WARM Program - 58 households
- ARRA state weatherization - 85 households
- LIHEAP furnace crisis program - 281 households
- Medical Transportation - 1386 people
- Housing Units currently rented - 240

Total Unduplicate Number of Individuals served through one or more of our programs in just 3 months - **9274!**



We Need You.....A long time ago and far, far away, we used to have a small “fundraising committee” but as time has passed it has slowly dissipated to only a few of us...

Let Stacy know if you would like to be a part of the “committee”, helping us come up with event/fundraising ideas, staffing events, promotions, sales, etc. We would like to have some fresh ideas from some new faces!

Safety Corner
By Stacy LoCastro

Safety Committee

CPCA has had a Safety Committee in place since 2005. This committee of 7 staff members from each department meets on the first Tuesday of each month to review any worker’s compensation issues and work and office safety issues, and any needed training issues for the agency regarding safety. The Safety Committee is approved by the Department of Labor and Industry. The current members of the Safety Committee are: Mike Luzier, Regina Puzzuto, Dave Shaw, Michelle Stiner, Nicole Harris, Suszanne Muirhead and Stacy LoCastro.

The CPCA Handbook has specific policy regarding Safety, #501, page 31:

“Our workplace safety program is top priority at CPCA. We want CPCA to be a safe and healthy place for employees, customers and visitors. The Deputy Director is responsible for implementing, administering, monitoring, and evaluating the safety program. A successful safety program depends on everyone being alert and committed to safety.”

If you have any safety concerns, please communicate your concerns to one of the safety committee members. If you see a safety issue and can do something to resolve the issue (i.e. there is ice on the steps and there is ice melt available, put some on it for the next person passing by!) then please take action!

Reporting Accidents/Incidents

I cannot stress how important it is to report incidents to your supervisor immediately. When you are hired at CPCA, you sign forms telling you how important this is and you received a list of panel Doctors for workers’ compensation claims. We also have posters around the agency sites informing you to report claims immediately.

According to the CPCA handbook under Safety:

“It is very important that you tell the appropriate supervisor, and the supervisor tells the Deputy Director immediately about any accident that causes and injury no matter how minor it might seem at the time. When you report it quickly, we can investigate the accident promptly; follow the laws and start insurance and worker’s compensation processing.”

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please feel free to contact me. I am always willing to discuss this matter as safety in the workplace is an important topic to me.



Bad Girl for a Good Cause!



On December 21st, Stacy LoCastro spent some time “behind bars”, but it was all for a good cause. Stacy was “arrested” and had to ask her friends, family and co-workers to bail her out of the Muscular Dystrophy Association Jail-N-Bail. Stacy did good and raised almost \$300! Doesn’t she look good in stripes??

A Thank You to My Co-Workers

Words can not express my thankfulness and gratitude to each and every one of my co-workers at CPCA during this trying time in my life. It’s hard to imagine what may go through your head or how you will react when you are given a diagnosis of cancer. And yes, my immediate response was a few tears. However, I quickly realized that everything would be ok. I have been able to make it this far through the grace and glory of God and with all your kind words, well wishes, smiles and hugs.

To Regina, Penny, Shirley, Barb and Sharon – I thank the good Lord that he gave me not only a terrific department to work in, but He also gave me such good friends. Along with my family, you all have given me strength to face this battle.

We never know what is in our future but with family, friends and a terrific support group, anything is possible. Thank you all so much again.
Deb Yarger

NEW HIRES/PROMOTIONS

Promotions:

- Francis McGovern, Utility Supervisor
- Brent Snyder, Utility Crew Chief
- Doug Walker, Utility Crew Chief
- Jeb Stigall, Weatherization Crew Chief
- Dale Hudson, Weatherization Crew Chief
- Jose Alicea, Weatherization Auditor Specialist

New Hires:

- Christopher Wingate, IT Tech
- Zachary Murawski, Housing Coordinator

Transfer:

- Nicole Harris, Warehouse Coordinator-Clearfield



*Congratulations to Francis, Brent, Doug, Jeb, Dale, Jose and Nicole!
Welcome to Chris and Zac!*

Family Development Class Completed!



The Family Development Credential (FDC) Program is a professional development course and credentialing program for frontline family workers to learn and practice skills of strength-based family support with families. The FDC course is appropriate for family workers in government, private, and not-for-profit agencies as well as businesses and large corporations. CPCA and Community County Services, Inc. partnered together to provide the course in 2010. Tia Lansberry, Megan Clark and Kristen Drake were Instructors for the 90 hour class that was held over a 7 month time frame. In February 2011, 23 students passed their Family Development Credential Exam, including 2 current (Penny Gladden, MATP, and Connie Harris, Family Services) and 2 former CPCA employees (Gail Webster and Jen Sigvaldson). These students are now Credentialed by Temple University and can receive up to 7 education credits. Congratulations to all involved in a very successful program!