

**COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF DELAWARE COUNTY, INC.**

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## Employers Needed for Summer Youth Program



This summer, 45 high school students will participate in CAADC's Summer Career Exploration Program. Partner businesses are still needed for this valuable program that helps develop our youth. Students between the ages of 16-18 are placed in paid professional internships in Delaware County for 6 weeks. The wages are all paid by the program, so the only cost to employers is their time to mentor these motivated youth. Some of the worksites already participating include: Crozer-Chester Medical Center, Mount Pleasant CDC and Surrey Senior Services Centers. Students are required to work 17 hours/week and attend one professional development workshop which assists students with money management, exploring educational opportunities and creating a cover letter, resume, and reference list. This program is a part of WorkReady Philadelphia, a cross-sector partnership dedicated to improving the economic outcomes of the region's youth. Overseen by the Philadelphia Council for College and Career Success, a committee of the Philadelphia Works board, WorkReady programs are funded by investments from government, employers, foundations, and individuals. Students interested in enrolling or businesses interested in partnering with this program should contact Jennifer McClellan at 610-891-6327.

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COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY OF DELAWARE COUNTY, INC.

# Community Action NEWS

Patrick G. Tomlinson, President — Edward T. Coleman, Chief Executive Officer

### Service Profile Jan. 1 - Mar. 31, 2013

Program	Number Served
Utility Assistance Programs	29
Weatherization	72
Rental Assistance	22
Transitional Housing	57
Hotel/Motel Stays	6
Emergency Shelter	129
Permanent Rental Housing	248
Food Distribution Program	19,390
Employment & Training	166
Food Vouchers	5
Child Care Program	54
After School Program	25
Recreational Therapy Assess.	19
Play Group Participants	40
Counseling	1,038
Information & Referral	7,891
Donations Warehouse	17
Food Stamp Participation	150
Individual Development Accounts	27
Financial Education Participants	375
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance	777
<b>Total Units of Service</b>	<b>30,537</b>

## CAADC Selected as Top Workplace 2013



Community Action Agency of Delaware County, Inc. was selected as one of "The Top 100 Workplaces 2013" for the Philadelphia Region. This is the fourth consecutive year that CAADC has appeared on the list. CAADC was chosen by Philly.com based on their survey of current employees. Their goal was to uncover the best employers in the Philadelphia region from the workers' point of view. Only 100 local businesses were selected for this impressive list that covered public, private and non-profit employers with headquarters or major operations in the region. CAADC was selected as a winner in the Small Companies category and was recognized in a special section on Philly.com that was posted on March 17, 2013. Mr. Coleman, CEO of CAADC, stated, "This award was especially gratifying to receive since it was awarded based on survey results from our employees. As a non-profit with limited resources, we continuously try to find ways to make the Agency a rewarding place to work. It is great to see our employees acknowledge our efforts." The full posting can be found at: [www.philly.com/philly/business/workplaces/](http://www.philly.com/philly/business/workplaces/).

## Top Shelter Chef Contest Raises \$18,000 for Save Our Shelters (S.O.S.) Campaign



Pictured above from the left are Michael Economou from St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, volunteer organizer Stephanie Abbott, Upper Darby Mayor Thomas N. Micozzie, volunteer organizer Ann Shiffer, CAADC Board Member Jack DiEnna, Jr., Life Center Shelter Director Jim Shelton and CAADC CEO Edward T. Coleman.

The 2nd Annual Top Shelter Chef Contest raised over \$18,000 for Community Action Agency of Delaware County, Inc. (CAADC) homeless shelters. 327 people attended this unique and fun event on March 2nd at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Upper Darby. Five groups from the community that serve dinners to homeless individuals at the Life Center Feeding Program provided samples to all attendees and vied to be named the Top Shelter Chef 2013.

The shelters that will benefit include the Wesley House, Family Management Center and the Life Center of Eastern Delaware County. The five community groups that participated included St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, Temple Shalom in Broomall, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Bethany Evangelical Presbyterian Church and St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. In a close vote by the attendees, St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church from Upper Darby was declared the winner.

If you would like to support the homeless families and individuals in Delaware County please make checks payable to Community Action Agency of Delaware County, Inc. and mail to Save Our Shelters (S.O.S.) Campaign, c/o CAADC, Government Center, 201 W. Front Street, Media, PA 19063. You may also go on the CAADC website at [www.caadc.org](http://www.caadc.org) and click on "Donate."

### Inside this issue:

CAADC Healthy Homes Initiatives	2
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)	3
Recent Development Activity	3
Walk+Run Against Hunger	3
Employers Needed for Summer Youth Program	4

### How You Can Help

Please consider supporting CAADC by making a contribution through the United Way. Simply designate CAADC and include our number (#06194) on your United Way Donor Choice form.

- United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey
- United Way of Delaware County



On behalf of those we serve, thank you for your interest and support.

## CAADC Healthy Homes Initiatives

*A Message from the Chief Executive Officer, Edward T. Coleman* – CAADC is often associated with the assistance we provide to homeless residents and/or families facing a crisis. However, CAADC also operates many programs that provide assistance to home owners, make our communities healthier and strengthen the local economy. These efforts are detailed below including our Healthy Homes Initiatives and Homeowner Assistance Programs.

### Healthy Homes Initiatives:

- **Weatherization Assistance Program** – The goal of the Weatherization Assistance Program is to help low-income families permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient. The program provides quality energy education and home conservation modifications up to \$6,500. On average, the program reduces heating bills by 31%. All services are free of charge. **Funding provided by US Dept. of Energy through PA Dept. of Community & Economic Development.**
- **Energy Conservation/Energy Audits** – Energy services available to clients include energy conservation education and energy usage analysis. These efforts help to identify ways to reduce energy consumption resulting in reduced bills and a greener planet.
- **Lead Hazard Control Program** – Program is designed to remove lead-based paint hazards from the homes of income-eligible families with children under the age of six. The Agency can spend up to \$5,000 per house and all services are free pending proof of eligibility. Applicants must be a homeowner (renters are not eligible at this time) and be a resident of Delaware County except residents in Upper Darby, Haverford, or Chester. Funding is provided by the **Lawrence County Community Action Partnership** through the **Office of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**.
- **Helping Hand Program** – Through CAADC's Helping Hand Program, water conservation measures and plumbing retrofits are available to eligible households serviced by **Aqua PA**. These efforts help to reduce the bills of residents while also reducing water consumption.



### Homeowners Assistance Programs:

- **Renovations & Repair Grant Program (R&R Program)** – The R&R Grant Program has the goal of providing low-income residents with financial assistance to repair their homes and/or make it accessible to a resident with a permanent disability. The program is funded by the **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency**.
- **Homeowners Energy Efficiency Loan Program (HEELP)** – HEELP is an affordable loan program designed to help homeowners make their homes more energy-efficient. Funded by the **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency**, this program offers a great way to reduce high energy bills and make home improvements at a very affordable rate. HEELP offers loans between \$1,000 and \$10,000. The loans have a fixed interest rate of 1% for the 10-year term with no prepayment penalties.
- **Keystone Home Energy Loan Program (HELP)** – Keystone HELP provides preferred rate financing with special low rates for ENERGYSTAR and other qualifying improvements exclusively for Pennsylvania homeowners. This loan program is operated through a partnership between the **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and AFC First Financial**.
- **Keystone Renovation and Repair Loan Program (R&R Loan)** – The R&R Loan Program can be used to pay for repairs and improvements that increase the livability of a home, including making it safer, more energy efficient, or more accessible to people with disabilities or people who are elderly. This loan program is operated through a partnership between the **Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and AFC First Financial**.
- **Private Weatherization Program** - CAADC has now made its Weatherization program available, at an affordable cost, to home owners, landlords and business owners to help them save on energy costs. By sealing gaps in a property and insulating attics and roofs, Weatherization can save up to 35% on utility bills during the winter and the summer. Financing options are available including home loans as low as 1%. This program was initially funded by the **PA Department of Community and Economic Development**.
- **Delaware County Construction Company** – This is a full-service commercial and residential construction company (see ad to the right) operating since 2000. All proceeds benefit CAADC's non-profit activities. An area of expertise includes Americans with Disability Act (ADA) modifications.
- **Rehab-Resale Program** – In this program, CAADC acquires vacant dilapidated homes in targeted neighborhoods in Delaware County. The program restores and revitalizes distressed properties and returns these rehabilitated properties to the market at prices that are affordable to low- and moderate-income homebuyers. The program removes blight from communities and the houses all meet or exceed local codes. CAADC employs "green technology" techniques as part of its Rehab-Resale program. Funding is provided by the **Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development**.

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Completes 1,070 Returns



This year CAADC's VITA program was a huge success once again. The VITA program serves families who qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit with free income tax preparation services. This year, CAADC hosted five VITA sites, including a new one at St. Alice Church in Upper Darby. Sites are staffed with trained volunteers that are IRS-certified. This year, 41 volunteers donated over 550 hours of time between January 25th and April

15th completing 1,070 tax returns. In addition to preparing federal and state tax returns, volunteers also assisted taxpayers with applying for the state rent/property tax rebate. Information on savings programs, benefits screening, free credit counseling services, and savings bonds was also made available.

**TOTAL FEDERAL AND STATE REFUNDS: \$1,600,671**  
Approximate Savings of Income Tax Preparation Fees: \$156,150

## Recent Development Activity

CAADC has been fortunate to receive the following private contributions from the community during the last quarter: The **16<sup>th</sup> Annual PECO Universal Services Best Ball Golf Tournament** raised \$5,600 for the Agency's Matching Energy Assistance Fund. The **Morris S. and Florence H. Bender Foundation** donated \$3,000 to support women and children through our emergency housing programs. The **12<sup>th</sup> Annual Hoops from the Heart** event on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day raised \$12,700 to support Delaware County residents in need. The **Marple Newtown Clergy Association** donated \$1,000 to support the Save Our Shelters (S.O.S.) Campaign including the Life Center. **Elam United Methodist Church** also supported the S.O.S. Campaign with a donation of \$1,973. See the related article on page 1 about the Top Shelter Chef Contest and how you can support the S.O.S. Campaign as well. Thank you also to everyone that designated CAADC during your United Way Campaigns.



Students from the Notre Dame de Lourdes school collected and donated items for homeless families at the Wesley House and the Family Management Center.



On Saturday, April 13, thousands of dedicated individuals came out to the Stroehmann Bakeries Walk+Run Against Hunger, raising funds for more than 100 food pantries, soup kitchens and hunger-relief agencies in South-eastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey. Team CAADC participated to raise funds for our emergency shelters and food pantries for shelter clients. Donations to the cause can be made through May 21st by visiting: [www.hungercoalition.org/hungerwalk](http://www.hungercoalition.org/hungerwalk) and clicking on "Make a Donation" and designating Team Community Action Agency of Delaware County.

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All proceeds benefit our non-profit activities.