

Community Action of Greene County, Inc.

# CAGC TIMES

Creating Opportunities, Fighting Poverty, Changing Lives



SERVING GREENE & COLUMBIA COUNTIES

FALL 2010

53 S. JEFFERSON AVENUE CATSKILL NY 12414

FOR INFORMATION ON ANY PROGRAMS COMMUNITY ACTION OFFERS VISIT US ONLINE: [WWW.CAGCNY.ORG](http://WWW.CAGCNY.ORG)

## THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

By Florence Ohle  
Executive Director

This year, the National Community Action Partnership chose as the theme for their annual convention "The Power of Partnerships". This coincides with one of the National Goals set for our agencies by federal statute "PARTNERSHIPS AMONG SUPPORTERS AND PROVIDERS OF SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE ARE ACHIEVED" With cuts to funding streams on the federal, state and local levels, and with ARRA grants set to expire within the next few months, it is more important than ever that agencies such as ours work together and pool resources to meet the needs of those we serve. Our survival depends on it. Highlighted in this issue of the CAGC Times are examples of how we are working in partnership within our community in order to make a difference.

New features in this edition are the "Meet the Board" column and "Community Action at Work" We feel that it's important that the public understands who we are, who we serve, and why what we do is so very important. Getting the story from policy-makers and recipients of services, we believe, will lead to a greater understanding.

Fundraising also takes on more importance in this economy, and we ask for your support on February 26, 2011 when we hold our "Casino Night & Mardi Gras on the Mountain" event in Windham! Come on out and play Blackjack, Texas Hold'em, Roulette and more, while enjoying Cajun inspired music, munchies, masks and beads! The chips you win will be turned in for tickets to enter into raffles for great prizes. Come on out and support a great cause, we promise you a great time!

### SIMPLY HOME

Simply Home raffle winners



The winners of Community Action of Greene County, Inc.'s "Simply Home" fundraising raffle were recently announced. Pictured, from left, are Tracy McNally, winner of an Ulla Darni nightlight; Bonnie Greer, winner of a gas grill; Margaret Moree, winner of an Apple iPod Touch; and Florence Ohle, Executive Director. Community Action is the designated anti-poverty agency for Greene County and offers programs and services to help individuals and families achieve and maintain self sufficiency.



## SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2011  
WINDHAM MOUNTAIN

CASINO NIGHT  
&  
MARDI GRAS  
ON THE MOUNTAIN



WE NEED  
YOUR VOTES!!

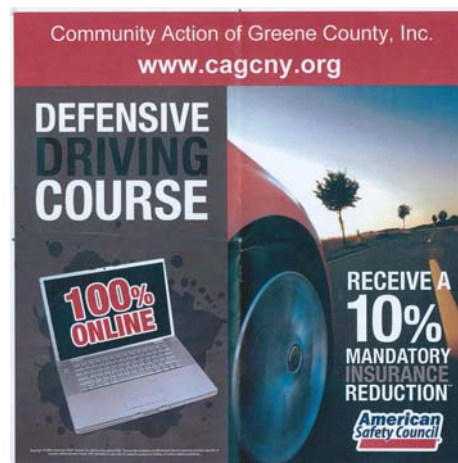
We will be applying for a Pepsi Refresh Grant on October 1, and need your votes in order to win!! We will be requesting \$25,000 to purchase a new pickup truck. One of the services we provide (for which we receive no funding), is that we pickup good, used furniture from the public, and place it in storage. Families effected by homelessness, victims of fire, or those setting up permanent residence after leaving our shelters are then able to furnish their new apartments with these items! The truck we use now for this purpose is quite old and is becoming too expensive to maintain. So, please, effective October 1, log onto [www.refresheverything.com](http://www.refresheverything.com) and VOTE FOR US!!

53 South Jefferson Avenue  
Catskill, NY 12414  
*Community Action of Greene County, Inc.*

### DID YOU KNOW.....

.....that since 2007, the number of households accessing our food pantry has increased by **166 %**, from 481 households served in 2007, to 1,284 in 2009? That number does not include visits to pantries in Cairo, Greenville, Windham, Jewett, Coxsackie- you get the picture. If you would like to make a real difference in your community, please consider donating to an area pantry. While food is good, money is great!! Due to our relationship with the Regional Food Bank of Northeast NY in Latham, each dollar donated can purchase between \$10 and \$12 worth of food!

.....that CAGC Weatherization program gave out 500 compact fluorescent lamps (CFL's) at the Greene county Youth Fair. If you were to replace 500—60 watt incandescent bulbs that were on eight hours a day with the 13 watt CFL's, the savings would be approximately \$11,600 yearly!



Community Action of Greene County, Inc. has recently partnered with the American Safety Council, Inc.! Log onto our website, [www.cagcny.org](http://www.cagcny.org) and take the New York Defensive Driving Course and receive a mandatory 10% auto insurance reduction for 3 years!! The course is 100% online and there are no quizzes or tests!



"LOSE FOR GOOD"



Community Action of Greene County, Inc and the Weight Watchers members at the Washington Irving Senior Center have teamed up for the "Lose for Good" campaign. For every pound that Members lose, they will donate the equivalent weight in food, to benefit the Community Action food pantry. The six week goal helps members refocus. The actual food collected gives members a visual of their weight loss and builds a true team spirit. The end result, the food collected, goes directly to people in need. It's a win, win for all!



### BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM The Wheels on the Bus Go round and round.....

When you think of back to school, you think of new backpacks, fresh pencils, and a great assortment of fun and colorful school supplies. Unfortunately with times being tough, many families can't afford to buy school supplies for their kids at all. Through donations received from the Stewarts Holiday Fund, Holcim Cement, Price Chopper and Salvation Army's Tools for Schools, as well as local community members, Community Action of Greene County, Inc provided approximately 300 local area youth with back to school supplies such as back packs, notebooks, binders, crayons, folders, pens, pencils, highlighters and various other items.



Board Member Carrie Multari donates school supplies to staffer Sara Coons

### HPRP, IMPORTANT LETTERS, BUT JUST WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Community Action of Greene County, Inc faces an increase in the demand for the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, which was first implemented in October of 2009. The purpose of this program, funded through ARRA dollars, was to provide temporary financial assistance to either prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless or help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized. The intent of this program is to serve persons who are homeless or would be homeless *but for* this assistance and can remain stably housed after this temporary assistance ends. The program though a little slow to start has recently been inundated with calls and applications and a new face of homelessness has emerged. College educated, those who had maintained steady employment for years, were forced to seek out services they never ever thought they would have to. Everyone has a story and in the end it all comes down to current economic times and not enough money to pay all the bills. With these grant monies we are pleased to say that 67 families have been helped and were able to avoid homelessness. Unfortunately, we know all too well that the calls will continue, we just hope that the grant monies will too.



### TURN YOUR OFFICE PURPLE!!



October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and as we do each year, the Columbia Greene Domestic Violence Program has several outreach, education, community appreciation, and fundraising events planned. As part of this effort, we want to help "Turn New York State Purple". An initiative started by the NYS Office of Prevention of Domestic Violence (OPDV) "Turn New York State Purple", now in its 3rd year, is a campaign to bring attention to the issue, and is a no cost or low cost way for individuals and organizations to show support of ending family violence. Purple is the color that signifies courage, honor and survival, and was chosen to

remember victims of domestic violence. This year, the Mid-Hudson Bridge in Poughkeepsie will be draped in purple lights in October, and Niagara Falls will be illuminated in purple for a day. Locally, last year Catskill Main Street merchants hung purple flags in support of this effort and recommitted for this year too! This year, the NYS OPDV has designated October 20th as Wear Purple Day and we would like YOU to encourage your workplace to do just that. The more purple, the better! Then, take a photo and submit it to us, either by email or in person! The office with the most purple participation will win a FREE lunch, generously donated by Tori G's! Go ahead, Go purple!!



There are several opportunities to contribute to local food drives in the coming months, any contribution is greatly appreciated.

**10/2** The Martin Luther King Jr. Community Movement will hold a "Stuff the Trolley" event at the Catskill Fire House (near Wal-Mart) from 10-6 pm. Food Donations will benefit our pantry, while monetary donations will be distributed to local pantries registered with the Regional Food Bank.



**11/6** Clearchannel Media will hold their annual "Stuff the Bus" event at the Catskill Price Chopper from 8 am to 5 pm.



Throughout September—Mid Hudson Cable and Price Chopper have teamed up for a month long food drive to benefit pantries in both Greene and Columbia Counties. Donations may be dropped off at either Catskill Price Chopper, Shoprite in Hudson or at Mid Hudson Cable.

Please visit Columbia Greene domestic Violence on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Catskill-NY/Columbia-Greene-Domestic-Violence/155175816359>

### MEET THE BOARD

#### JENNIFER MILLER



Jennifer Miller is the current President of the Board of Directors, and has served on the board since 2006. Jennifer is a Branch Manager for First Niagara Bank, and resides in Catskill with her husband and son. Jennifer has had involvement with many volunteer organizations in the community, such as Rotary, the Fortnightly Club, and the FNFG Employee Volunteer Committee. She believes very strongly in "giving back", and brings her experience in both management and community involvement to our board.

#### WELCOME—CHARLENE HOLDRIDGE



This month we welcome our newest board member, Charlene Holdridge. Charlene lives in Tannersville, and is the Executive Director of the Hunter Foundation. Charlene will represent the low income sector of our community, and will be a voice from the traditionally underserved mountain top.

### BE AN ANGEL BUY AN ANGEL & SUPPORT THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM



Your gift will help us feed, shelter and train people in the community. Through the many services and programs that we offer, we empower people to help themselves. We rely on generous support from organizations and individuals like you to help fund our programs and services. Wear this pin and show your support of ending domestic violence.

The Columbia Greene Domestic Violence Task Force continues its commitment to improving the response to domestic violence issues through communication and coordination of services. Membership to the Domestic Violence Task Force is open to service providers, representatives from local communities of faith and other organizations concerned with the elimination of domestic violence in our community. Recent topics discussed include bullying, media's influence on domestic violence, as well as effects of domestic violence on children. Current members of the Domestic Violence Task Force represent the following organizations and agencies: Columbia County Probation, Columbia County Sheriff, Columbia County CPS, Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York, Greene County Family Court, Greene County District Attorney, The Reach Center, Teen Parent Program, Greene County Family Court, Twin County Recovery Services, Hudson City Police Department, and Healing a Woman's Soul.

The Columbia Greene Domestic Violence Task Force meets quarterly, for details call 943-9205.

### WEATHERIZATION WORKS WITH OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE ENERGY SERVICES



Weatherization has an ongoing commitment to building stronger community relationships. As part of that commitment we have partnered with The Hunter Foundation, Inc, Catskill Mountain Housing, and Western Catskills Revitalization Council, Inc.

Weatherization's role in this partnership is to provide energy audits and energy services to qualified clients of the afore mentioned agencies.

Weatherization Director Robert Rock was invited to become a member of the Columbia Greene Questar III Construction Technology Consultant Committee. The committee provides input to insure Questar III instructors and students are kept informed on developments in the energy field. In the future Weatherization may also be providing training and mentoring to Questar III students. We welcome these opportunities to share our knowledge and to strengthen our ties with the community.

Since April 2009, CAGC Inc. Weatherization received \$ 915,794 in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. With the ARRA funds Weatherization has been able to hire 4 full time staff and will weatherize an additional 106 homes in Greene County. All ARRA funds must be used by September 2011. We will continue seeking additional funding so that any staff layoffs would be kept to a minimum at this grant's conclusion.

### COMMUNITY ACTION AT WORK

April 1, 2010



Dear Community Action,

Thank you for the weatherization work performed on 3/30 and 3/31 on my home. I am looking forward to the progress being completed and enjoying a warm home for years to come.

I also love the Whirlpool fridge from Marcella Appliances, they were generous to deliver the unit to my home and thanks goes to your organization for making this energy efficient home a better running home.