



## Agency Happenings

### Two Community Action Agencies Receive Best Practice in Weatherization Awards

The Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC) and the Community Action Committee of Pike County (CAC Pike County) both recently received Best Practice Awards for their outstanding achievements in Weatherization. NOCAC received the award for the single family home category and CAC Pike County received the award for the manufactured home category.

The competition was open to all 54 Weatherization providers and delegates for program year 2012. Agencies submitted a written application that detailed the work completed on the job, including energy savings, health and safety concerns alleviated, innovative leveraging of funds, and benefits to the homeowner and community. The Ohio Development Services Agency's Office of Community Assistance (OCA) then conducted site visits of the semi-finalists. There were a total of six semi-finalists, and NOCAC and CAC Pike County were selected as the winners from those six for demonstrating the best practices for their applicable categories.

#### Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission

NOCAC weatherized a home in Defiance, Ohio for an elderly client who spent most of her time staying with her daughter because of safety concerns with her home.



*NOCAC Weatherization crew with the homeowner outside her house*

The agency was able to weatherize her house, update the electrical wiring, replace the hot water heater, and provide a new 90+ heating unit. These measures have made it possible for the homeowner to live safely in her home. Additionally, this home was used by the Ohio Weatherization Training Center to train future weatherization

crew members on basic weatherization techniques. Both the homeowner and her daughter were extremely grateful and sent NOCAC handwritten thank you notes. "The home demonstrates best practices because the elderly client was able to return to her home, living independently, because of the work performed," commented Katrina Metzler, Weatherization section supervisor with OCA.

On October 28, NOCAC held an open house at the weatherized home where OCA and OACAA presented the Weatherization team with their best practice award.

Representatives from OCA and OACAA were present, as well as NOCAC's Board Chair Robert Hastedt, Executive Director Deb Gerken, the Weatherization crew, the homeowner and her daughter. Metzler made some remarks, commenting, "Out of every entry in the state of Ohio, this best exemplified the best practices for a single home." Greg Bollenbacher, fiscal director for OACAA presented the award, stating that, "NOCAC's efforts to reduce energy costs while increasing health and safety are to be commended."



*From left to right: NOCAC Board Chair Robert Hastedt, Katrina Metzler, OCA Weatherization section supervisor; Kelly Fenney, NOCAC director of housing & energy; Deb Gerken, NOCAC executive director*



*The grateful homeowner and her daughter*

The group then went on a tour of the home where Weatherization crew members Eric Sandys and Chris Hageman explained what was done. Sandys said the home had a lot of issues. "The furnace and water heater

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were non-operational. There were major electrical issues, insulation was lagging and there were other odds and ends... The electrical had to be addressed first.” And the homeowner expressed her gratitude, “I still can’t believe it all happened. Thank you so much. It’s a blessing.”

An article was published in the *Crescent News* about the event and NOCAC’s award as well. Congratulations to Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission!

### Community Action Committee of Pike County

CAC Pike County weatherized the 980 square-foot mobile



From left to right: Homeowner, Melinda parks; Colleen Stoker, OACAA communications director; Keith Pitts CAC Pike County deputy director; Clinton Throckmorton, CAC Pike County energy, maintenance & housekeeping director

home of Mr. and Mrs. Parks in Latham, Ohio. When CAC of Pike County’s weatherization inspector arrived to perform his initial inspection of the home, the only source of heat was from several resistant electric space heaters and a propane wall heater. The overall heat distribution in the home was inconsistent and uncomfortable to

the homeowners, not to mention very inefficient and a safety hazard. Pike CAC workers were able to remove the space heaters, repair the existing ductwork, and install a new Coleman electric furnace. In addition, they were able to install floor insulation, water heater insulation, replaced the refrigerator and replaced light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs, and performed general air filtration sealing. Their efforts resulted in an air leakage reduction of 32 percent, which is a difficult task in a mobile home.

CAC Pike County greatly improved the safety and energy efficiency of this home, which will save the homeowners on their energy bills. This is of particular importance now that the homeowners have adopted their infant granddaughter. “The best practice demonstrated in this home is outstanding energy savings in a difficult home to weatherize, a mobile home,” Metzler stated.

On October 30, in honor of National Weatherization Day, CAC Pike County held an open house at the Parks’ home where the best practice award was presented and CAC Pike County’s Weatherization crew gave a tour and demonstrations. Representatives from OCA, OACAA, and the Corporation for Ohio Appalachian Development (COAD) attended, as well as Kaci Compton from Congressman Brad Wenstrup’s office. Remarks were made by CAC Pike County Deputy Director Keith Pitts and Metzler. OACAA Communications Director Colleen Stoker presented the award and Clinton Throckmorton, energy, maintenance & housekeeping director for CAC Pike County presented a thank you gift to the homeowner for

allowing the use of her home for the celebration. Attendees then toured the home and saw demonstrations of the work done and the Weatherization program.



The first stop on the tour was the kitchen where Jaquelyn Leeth, baseload auditor explained how a monitoring device was used to determine the efficiency of the refrigerator, which was subsequently replaced, and discussed the benefits of the compact fluorescent light bulbs that were

used to replace the homes existing bulbs. Sid Royster, HWAP coordinator demonstrated how a blower door works and explained that it is used to determine where there are air leaks and cold spots in the home. Ms. Metzler commented that Ohio was one of the first states to implement the use of blower doors back in the 1980s. Wesley



Wilburn, quality control coordinator then showed the group how infrared cameras are used while the blower door is running to “view” the cold spots. Participants were allowed to use the cameras to see for themselves.

Dale Throckmorton, HVAC technician then showed attendees the new furnace. While there was not an existing gas furnace to test in this home,



Throckmorton showed the group the high-tech monitoring tools the Weatherization program uses. He commented that prior to starting with CAC Pike County he had been self-employed as an HVAC contractor for 12 years and that the equipment they use is much more advanced than what most HVAC contractors use. “When I came here I thought I would have nothing new to learn, but I’ve learned a lot more here than I did when I was self-employed,” Throckmorton said.



Matt Francis, Weatherization technician demonstrated what was done to update the dryer line and wrapping the water heater for efficiency and safety. Kim Yoakem, baseload assistant, explained the new low-flow shower head. The tour then moved outside where Paul Rice,

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Weatherization crew leader discussed the duct sealing and vapor barrier that was installed in the underbelly of the home. Mark Francis, Weatherization crew leader discussed the new insulation that was used, letting participants feel it's softness, while Tony Hawk, Weatherization technician demonstrated the process underneath the mobile home.



Lastly, Mike Strennen, Spectrum coordinator discussed the work that Spectrum, the for-profit HVAC and Weatherization company run by CAC Pike County, is doing. The company was started by the former Weatherization director, Don Watts, who recognized the need for such a company with ARRA money coming to an end. It allows CAC Pike County to keep people employed while providing valuable Weatherization services to people that do not meet the income guidelines for HWAP. Ms. Metzler commented that it is a model program.



COAD's mobile heating lab was also on-site. The RV is equipped with numerous furnaces of different efficiencies, a boiler, oil burner, water heater, air conditioner, on-demand water heater and a kitchen to provide training to Weatherization crews throughout the state and beyond.



An article was published in the *Pike County News Watchman* about the event and CAC Pike County's award as well. Congratulations to the Community Action Committee of Pike County!