



OCATO Spotlight

Meet IC Pam Crawford

Pam has been an Internal Consultant (IC) for the Ohio Community Action Training Organization (OCATO) – the training arm of OACAA – since November 2004. And she has been working in Community Action for over 20 years. Pam currently serves as the Senior/Social/Transit assistant program director for the Community Action Committee of Pike County (CAC of Pike), but she has held numerous positions within the organization.



“I started working for CAC of Pike as a Summer Youth worker, which led to a Summer Youth supervisor position,” Pam explained. “I then volunteered with the agency as a receptionist and was eventually hired in that position.” Through the years, Pam moved on to a coordinator for Early Childhood, Family Health Center staff person, planner assistant, HEAP coordinator/supervisor, Transportation Mobility manager, to her current position with CAC of Pike. She has a bachelor’s degree in Specialized Studies, with an emphasis in Organizational Communication, and also graduated from the Appalachian Leadership Academy. She is a certified notary public, Ohio Benefit Bank Counselor and CSBG Coordinator. She has also organized numerous agency and community fundraisers. She is very involved in her community, owning a local restaurant and serving as a board member on the Pike County Chamber of Commerce. She also served as a coach for soccer and volleyball from 1992 through 2010.

Pam truly enjoys the work that she does in Community Action, commenting, “My career with CAC of Pike was sealed when I felt the sense of trust and responsibility given to me by the administration. Not only by employing me, but giving me freedom to be involved with activism and fundraising, using my educational experience. I have grown up with many of the

employees in this agency and consider them my ‘extended family.’”

Ms. Crawford was asked by her executive director at the time, Ray Roberts, to become an IC. She teaches Volunteer Management, Customer Service, Collaborations, ROMA, Outcome Management, Bridges Out of Poverty and Fund Development. When asked about being an IC, Pam said, “I like the benefit of endless opportunities to network and share ideas, as well as working with my peers from all over the state. I enjoy the opportunity to meet people in the CAA network and beyond.”

Pam believes the IC program is valuable because, “Who else knows Community Action Agencies better than the existing employees? Employees who have a history with CAAs know and teach about CAA issues. Why pay consultants who are not familiar with the CAA network when there are ample professionals available?”