



Newsletter



June 2010

Volume 5, Issue 10

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"HOPES CAP, Inc. programs are funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services".

HOPES LOCAL RECOVERY ACT PROJECTS CONTRIBUTE TO NEW NATIONAL REPORT

Ora Welch, M.Ed.
President / CEO

HOPES CAP, Inc. has assisted 106 clients with employment support services, more than 50 individuals and families with obtaining affordable groceries and opened two Early Head Start programs serving 122 pregnant women, infants and toddlers thanks to federal funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Additionally the agency has created 8 jobs in the first quarter of 2010. During that same time first quarter period, the agency has utilized \$186,263 in federal Recovery Act funds. HOPES CAP, Inc. ensures these funds are circulated back into the local economy and that every cent is accounted for.



"Recovery Act resources continue to help rebuild our uncertain economy in Hudson County and Plainfield, NJ," said HOPES CAP, Inc. President/CEO, Ora Welch. "Our organization has been assigned responsibility for a number of programs that help see the people of Hudson and Union County through hard times."



HOPES CAP, Inc. is a Community Action Agency that through ARRA funding has been able to implement the Employment Support Program which assists individuals with developing the academic and job skills necessary for obtaining and maintaining employment. In addition to offering classes in ABE, ESL and computer literacy, career counseling, resume preparation and employment search assistance are also provided to all enrolled in this program. The agency's Low Cost Food Program provides

financial relief to while shopping for food. As a registered partner site with Mt. Calvary Baptist Church and Angel Food Ministries; individuals are able to purchase nutritious food for significantly reduced prices. Additionally ARRA funding allowed HOPES to expand upon its early childhood programs by offering Early Head Start services in Hoboken, Jersey City and Plainfield, New Jersey. Funding has also allowed the agency implement quality improvement initiatives such as staff training and development.

"These high-impact activities have pumped resources and hope into the communities we serve," Welch said. HOPES Early Head Start initiative will continue to be funded through Head Start while the agency's Low Cost Food and Employment Support Programs (both scheduled to expire September 30th, 2010) are estimated to have assisted close to 250 individuals by the end of the contract year.

HOPES Highlights

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HOPE FOR HOBOKEN’S KIDS FUNDRAISER IS A HOLE IN ONE!

On May 17th sixty-eight individuals showed up at White Beeches Golf & Country Club to play golf. However, this was no ordinary golf game. This was the *Hope for Hoboken’s Kids Golf Outing* presented by Park & Sixth Comfort Food in Hoboken, New Jersey to support services provided by HOPES CAP, Inc. and the Make a Wish Foundation. Brian Dowling, the Owner and Executive Chef of Park & Sixth Comfort Food who opened his business in June of 2009 wanted to find a way to give back to the community of Hoboken, hence the first annual *Hope for Hoboken’s Kids Golf Outing*.



During this event participants had an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful day on the golf course, win awards and prizes and participate in a silent auction and 50/50 raffle. The successful day finished off with a dinner reception and awards ceremony. HOPES CAP, Inc. President/CEO Ora Welch stated, “We are so grateful to have been selected as one of the recipients of this fundraiser. Our agency’s mission is to provide services that respond to the social, educational and training needs of individuals so that they are able to overcome the barriers and causes of poverty. HOPES CAP, Inc. has been providing direct client services to some of the neediest residents of Hoboken for more than 45 years and we truly appreciate the financial support of our community partners to assist us with these efforts.”

HATS OFF TO LITERACY! PLAINFIELD SITE

HOPES CAP Inc. hosted an English language learners workshop with a focus on early literacy on May 18, 2010 for the entire family. Both parents and children discovered fun and effective ways to foster literacy at home. The three

main focuses were reading, writing and print awareness. The workshops were conducted in the families’ home language; Ms. Musa and Ms. Lighten conducted the English Workshop, and Ms. Lupp and Ms. Salcedo hosted the Spanish Workshop. Parents in both workshops had the opportunity to learn ways in which they can help their children develop early literacy skills at home, in the car, or even at the beach.

The event was fun for all. Staff and children performed songs and there was also a special appearance by Curious George, who encouraged parents to model a love for reading and to make reading fun. A special thank you goes out to the staff that helped make this event special. Stay tuned for more events like this to be held in the future. You don’t want to miss it.





HOPE S CAP, INC. COLLABORATION REACHES FROM HOBOKEN TO MAINE!

HOPE S CAP, Inc. Early Childhood Program extends a warm welcome to Susan Dadaian, a medical intern student from the University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine. Ms. Dadaian will be assisting the ECP program's Health Services content area and will receive collaborative support during her internship from HOPE S Health Consultant Celeste Joyce and Dr. Elise Butkiewicz of the Center for Family Health. The staff of HOPE S CAP, Inc.'s Early Childhood Program is honored that Ms. Dadaian has selected their program for her internship.



EARLY HEAD START PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES



HOPE S CAP, Inc. proudly announced the arrival of Early Head Start Plainfield just a few weeks ago. Since April 5th, home visitors have been visiting infants, toddlers, expectant moms and their families to learn about the families' goals and plan together strategies for moving towards them. Parents are given the time to focus on their children while engaging in fun activities like blowing bubbles, painting, playing with toys and reading books. Already, babies are reaching important milestones during and between home visits. Babies are crawling, cruising and walking and parents are learning how to encourage language development and support their young learners in the home environment. Early Head Start provides opportunities for families to network and provide each other support in a bright, comfortable setting during socialization groups.

Now, HOPE S CAP, Inc. anticipates with excitement the beginning of Early Head Start serving Jersey City and Hoboken. Another wonderful team of home visitors is being assembled to reach out to the families in Jersey City and Hoboken beginning on June 1, 2010. Family Advocates will provide resources for expectant mothers needing prenatal care, nutrition counseling and labor and delivery support. Ultimately, all Early Head Start programs will offer Center Based options which will involve families bringing children to an infant and toddler friendly environment where activities, care and meals will be provided. Families joining the HOPE S Early Head Start programs are encouraged to continue through to the Head Start preschool program allowing HOPE S CAP, Inc. to provide an even stronger foundation for our families.

PUERTO RICO BIRTH CERTIFICATES LAW 191 AFFECTS HOPE S CLIENTS

On July 1, 2010 all individuals born in Puerto Rico will be required to obtain new birth certificates and all existing birth certificates will no longer be valid. This is as a result of a new law that has gone into effect to help combat fraud and protect the identity and credit of all people born in Puerto Rico. The fee for a new birth certificate will be \$5.00 and will have no expiration date. Many of the clients served by HOPE S CAP, Inc. are from Puerto Rico and will therefore be impacted by this law. As a result HOPE S CAP, Inc. staff is prepared to assist individuals will completing the required Birth Certificate Application form and to answer any questions regarding this law. For more information about Law 191 and assistance with obtaining a new birth certificate call HOPE S CAP, Inc. at 201-656-3711 ext.13.



HOPE S HELPS TAX PAYERS SAVE \$

For the 2009 tax season, HOPE S CAP, Inc. provided free tax preparation to taxpayers in Hudson County as well as the city of Plainfield. As a certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Site (VITA), taxpayers were assisted with applying for money saving tax incentives such as Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Child Tax Credit Making Work Pay Credit, and Credit for the Elderly. According to Evelyn Mercado, the HOPE S CAP, Inc. Community Services Manager,



“This year we were able to assist 256 individuals within Hudson County and the city of Plainfield thanks to the dedication of HOPE S CAP, Inc. staff and volunteers. In total we helped our clients to save an aggregated dollar amount of \$315,271.” The individuals assisted with tax preparation trust that as a certified VITA site, they are getting their taxes done accurately. Many clients who come to HOPE S are senior citizens and low-income individuals who rely on this free service.

ARE YOU A PERSON 60 YEARS OR OLDER NEEDING ASSISTANCE WITH:

- Filling out complicated forms and questionnaires
- Learning about and applying for various programs you are entitled to (Medicare, Safelink, FoodStamps, PAAD, Utility Assistance, etc)
- Translating and understanding written correspondence and letters
- Requesting and receiving important documents such as proof of income and birth certificates?

If so, HOPE S Information & Assistance Program can help you free of charge!

Contact or visit us at HOPE S CAP, Inc. at www.hopes.org



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