



Winter, 2010

C-SCDC UPDATE

"KEEPING YOU INFORMED"

Weatherization Saving Lives

Weatherization is a program designed to make homes more energy efficient but in some cases weatherization can save lives.

The metal heat exchanger of a furnace, expanding and contracting hundreds of times each year as the furnace cycles "on" and "off", will eventually produce hairline cracks. Hairline cracks in the exchanger permits some of the products of combustion (including carbon monoxide) to be absorbed into the air stream and enter the house.

Carbon Monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas that becomes a killer when linked to faulty heating equipment. Within the last year 10% of the houses weatherized by C-SCDC have been found to have cracked heat exchangers.

After weatherization was complete and new heating units were installed, a follow-up was done on clients who had cracked heat exchangers. Below are a few of their comments.

M. Pickartz stated "I had been very ill, even the doctor could not figure out what was wrong with me. Since the new heating unit was installed I'm just fine, all symptoms are gone. I'm very grateful. You literally saved my life."

D. Royal stated "My daughter and I had been very ill. I thought I had been keeping the flu and my daughter's eyes had been staying red and watery. Now I do not feel sick and my daughter's eyes are clearing up. I feel that you have saved our lives."

Whether you're a weatherization client or not, here are some preventative measures you should take. Heating units should be checked at the beginning of each heating season by a qualified heating contractor and UL-listed carbon monoxide detectors should be in every home.



Ronnie Miller, Weatherization Auditor checks the CO Levels through a register.



Pictured front row left to right: Kathy Lord, Debbie Biggs, WX Director. Back row left to right: Kevin Harrison, Alex Harrison, and Ronnie Miller.

Individual Development Account Program Success

Tonie Scaife, small business owner and proud mother of two boys ages 15 and 11, saw our pamphlet and came into our office wanting more information on the Individual Development Account program that we offer. She is the owner of a childcare facility in her home in Fort Smith, called Cotton Candie Childcare and Preschool which is also a participant in C-SCDC's Child Care Food Program. Cotton Candie Childcare and Preschool was founded two years ago by Ms. Scaife after she worked as a licensed nurse for 13 years. However, she wanted to expand her business to a new location in Van Buren.

The new property's renovation and start-up costs were minimal and estimated at approximately \$4,745.00. We were able to help her pay the first months rent that was due in advance. Her center is open 24 hours a day seven days a week. Additionally, the new facility offers a "Parents Night Out" program and holiday specials such as New Years Eve, etc. This is remarkable due to the fact that she is providing childcare for several families that work third shift, all while providing several job opportunities. It is conveniently located near several large employers, including Summit Healthcare. She has now completed our IDA program, and thanks to her saving up her hard earned money and C-SCDC leveraging two different types of funds (Arkansas Recovery & Reinvestment Act and Rural Housing Economic Development) she now has been able to expand her business while acquiring no additional debt in doing so. It is conveniently located near several large employers, including Summit Healthcare.

She currently has 40 kids enrolled, and still has room for 33 more kids, ages 6 weeks to 12 years old, before she reaches her capacity limit. Cotton Candie Childcare has created four new jobs, in a time where jobs are much needed, and will continue to create more new jobs as she continues to reach full capacity. Scaife is a Mentor/Life Coach for Fort Smith Christian Women's Job Corp; she has opened the first 24 hour daycare in the state of Arkansas, also she is the only daycare in the state of Arkansas to have two military contracts. She works very closely with WAEDA, TEA Program through DHS, Crawford Sebastian Workforce Services. She is also a member of The ARC (disabled children and adults), NWA Childcare Association, NACEYC (National Association for Education of Young Children), TYC (Teaching Young Children), and NAFCC (National Association of Family Childcare), and she currently serves as the Assistant Secretary of the Juneteenth Committee.

It has been an honor for Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council to provide matching funds to help capitalize an existing business that has been able to expand and do very well in these difficult times.



Home Energy Assistance Program

The C-SCDC Li-HEAP Winter Program started on January 11th issuing Regular assistance in Crawford and Sebastian Counties. We are experiencing large numbers of people who need help with their utilities and the amount of help they need is greater.

As of February 26th, the Home Energy Assistance Program has assisted 2,875 households with Regular Assistance with an amount totaling \$394,543.00.

On February 1st, the Li-HEAP Winter Program began taking Crisis applications which assist a household with a shut-off notice or assists in getting utilities turned on.

As of February 26th, the Home Energy Assistance Program has assisted 312 households with their crisis assistance with an amount totaling \$75,755.73.



Pictured left to right: Sheryl Breedlove, Carol Jenkins, Candy Cooper and Barbara Cox

New Faces



*HEAP Data Entry Clerk
Sheryl Breedlove*



*River Valley Regional Food Bank
Marketing and Development Director
Ken Kupchick*



*Li-HEAP Intake Specialist
Candy Cooper*

Executive Director

Mark Whitmer

Personnel Director

Darlene Hill

Financial Director

Sally Fisher

Homeownership Center

Director

Karen Phillips

Weatherization Director

Debbie Biggs

Child Care Food Program

Carol Jenkins

Community Dental Clinic

Nenya Perry

**River Valley Regional Food
Bank Director**

Stephen Dye

Editor

Michele Trawick

479-785-2303 ext 118



Ted Clemons, Product Procurement Director has been with the River Valley Regional Food Bank for over 7 years. Ted is married with 5 children and in his spare time (when he has spare time) enjoys fishing and hunting.



Lonnie Long, Warehouse Specialist has been with the River Valley Regional Food Bank for almost 2 years. Lonnie is married with 2 children and 2 grandchildren. In his spare time he helps around the house and watches the grandkids.

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Abigail Taylor-Cox

Mayor Kenneth Edwards

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Mission Statement

Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council, Inc. is a community action agency whose purpose is to make improvements in the lives of low-income individuals, families and the communities in which they live, so that a greater level of self-sufficient living can be achieved.