



Winter, 2012

# C-SCDC UPDATE

"KEEPING YOU INFORMED"

## C-SCDC's Community Dental Clinic Has New Home

On February 3, 2012 the Community Dental Clinic had its Open House. Several people, including current and former Board members, came by to take a tour of the new building and have some "tooth" cake.

The Clinic is already showing a 40% increase in applications being taken per month. With new dentists coming in and volunteering, there has been an increase in patients being treated as well. The University of Arkansas Fort Smith's Dental Hygiene Program is also taking advantage of the new Dental Clinic. Hygiene students come to the clinic on Thursdays and are able to get hands-on training in a dental office setting cleaning our patients' teeth.



# *James Family Donates Building*

In a tremendous gesture to assist in conquering hunger in West Central Arkansas, the James Family, based in Little Rock, has donated their property holding at 1617 South Zero Street in Fort Smith, formerly Price Cutter, to Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council, Inc to house the River Valley Regional Food Bank and the C-SCDC offices.

In a coinciding gesture, Harps Food Stores, Inc. (dba Price Cutter) out of Springdale, AR has also donated significant fixtures and equipment from the building to the food bank to greatly ease in its transition. On Wednesday, March 14th at 10:00 a.m. representatives from both the James Family and Harps participated in the transfer of the deed ceremony that was held at the building.

Dave Constien, spokesperson for the James Family said, "The family is very concerned about the increasing food insecurity in Arkansas and wanted to make an impact." In noting that Harps and Price Cutter has been a longstanding food donor to the food bank, Scott Stout, Harps Project Manager, added, "By providing freezers and coolers to the food bank, we know more people will get more wholesome and fresh foods, which is an important component to feeding the hungry."

The building will provide just over 57,500 square feet to the food bank and the C-SCDC offices. Karen Pearson, C-SCDC Board Chair remarked, "This will allow the food bank to expand its warehouse space and offer a greater selection." Mark Whitmer, Executive Director was both surprised and thrilled by the donation. "This gift will allow the RVRFB and the other C-SCDC programs to serve our clients and agencies, new and old, more efficiently and effectively," Whitmer said. Food Bank Director, Ted Clemons, referred to the donations as a miracle and said, "I would like to thank the James Family and Harps from the bottom of my heart and may God Bless your entire families and employees."

The preliminary redesign of the building is being facilitated by Galen Hunter at MAHG Inc. to repurpose the building to meet the needs of the food bank and C-SCDC. The Food bank hopes to transfer its operation to its new facility by September 2012 to coincide with Hunger Action Month and prepare for the expected increase in holiday need.

According to Ken Kupchick, RVRFB Marketing Director, "A new food bank means increased variety, more frozen meals, greater protein availability, the ability to accept truckloads of produce and increased responsiveness in the event of a natural disaster. Most of all, it means more people will be helped."



*Pictured from left to right: Dave Constien, Mark Whitmer, Karen Pearson, and Ted Clemons*



# "Beating Hunger: Strategy is Everything"

A partnership program has been organized by the library and the food bank. It was built upon teen excitement surrounding the March 23 film release of "The Hunger Games" to encourage reading, understanding about food insecurity and nutrition.

Teens participating in the after school programming who brought a non-perishable food item for the food drive received their choice of either a "Hunger Games" button or a "Strategy is everything" wristband. The phrase on the wristbands relate to a movie premise: *to win the Hunger Games, strategy is everything*. According to Ken Kupchick, Director of Marketing and Development at the Food Bank, "to fight hunger, strategy is everything." He explains, "For people without enough food, life becomes a strategy of choices that impact a family's available food budget. For those with enough food, the strategy becomes finding food insecurity solutions. And for all of us, when we assure good reading habits and good eating habits, we tackle our states hunger, obesity and poverty problems."

The teens also earned chances to win several great "The Hunger Games" prizes including movie passes and small posters, compliments of **Carmike Cinemas**, trading cards and box office posters compliments of **Lionsgate**, or copies of the book by answering trivia questions about hunger issues. At the Windsor branch library every Thursday during the month of March, Clarence Smith, Food Bank Agency and Volunteer Relations Coordinator, discussed fighting hunger strategies and the hardships of food insecurity in Arkansas, help to break the myths about food insecurity and discussed strategies in advocating for a hunger free Arkansas.

The month of March included Spring Break, which could adversely affect the 64% of area children that rely on free or reduced meals in public schools. "How can a community allow a child to go even one day without a decent meal?" asked Ken Kupchick. When asked about food insecure children, Library Director, Jennifer Goodson noted, "We know there will be perhaps 20 children who will spend all day at a branch during the break without eating. For them, Spring Break is a difficult week."

In learning about this need, Golden Corral, Joe's Cantina, George's Restaurant, as well as Golden Living and the Sack Lunch Program stepped forward to offer a helping hand with nutritious, kid friendly meals delivered to the library during Spring Break. Also on the 21st of March at the Main Library Branch, Davis Iron & Metal stepped up and grilled 400 hotdogs and supplied chips and condiments. Mrs. Baird's Bread supplied the buns and fruit pies and the Food Bank supplied the fruit and water.



**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**

*Ted Clemons*

**Editor**

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# ***New Faces***



**Linda Gabriel**

**Community Outreach Coordinator**

**Board Members**

*Karen Pearson, Chairperson*

*Abigail Taylor-Cox, Vice Chairperson*

*Patricia Free, Secretary*

*Tim Hodges, Treasurer*

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*Ling Ling Moorman*

*Tricia Hall*

**Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 4069, 4831 Armour**

**Fort Smith, Arkansas 72914-4069**

***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.*