

spotlight

on community action

A Newsletter of the Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies

Number 13-Issue 2 < September 2013

Jimmie Samuel Day of Service: A Tribute

"Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve."

– Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King

What better way to kick off the start of the conference than to honor the legacy of one of SEACAA's visionary and purposeful leaders by engaging in the Jimmie Samuel Day of Service to support our future generation and fellow community action agency. Jimmie Samuel was the former SEACAA Vice-President and had served as Executive Director of Macon-Bibb County EOC, Inc., GA since 1986. Samuel also served as president of the Georgia Community Action Association for the last 7 years. His death earlier this summer came as quite a shock to many, but he will be remembered as a "giant" in his community who touched thousands of lives and lived to provide opportunities for others. Macon City Councilman, Lonnie Miley is quoted

as saying, "Jimmie believed in what he was doing as director of the Macon-Bibb EOC agency" - www.macon.com. As a tribute to Jimmie Samuel, the SEACAA Board voted to name the pre-conference Day of Service event in his honor.

John Finney, Executive Director of Economic Opportunity Authority for Savannah-Chatham Co., has planned an invigorating day of giving by providing conference participants with the opportunity to put into practice *The Promise of Community Action* as readers for Head Start children in their classes followed by a brief tour of the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum.



The EOA Head Start program serves 824 children three to five years of age and offers high quality early childhood education, mental health, disability, medical, nutritional, and social services support for families. ♦

Day of Service Volunteers to Visit Georgia Museum

Ranked #23 of 110 attractions in Savannah, this museum, named for an early Civil Rights leader, documents the history of the Civil Rights Movement in Savannah. [Trip Advisor.com](http://TripAdvisor.com)



Located at 460 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
(Five blocks south of the Visitors Information Center)

The Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum is named in honor of the late Dr. Ralph Mark Gilbert, the father of Savannah's modern day Civil Rights Movement and leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Dr. Gilbert came to Savannah as pastor of the historic First African Baptist Church on Franklin Square for 16 years, 1939 to 1956. A graduate of the University

of Michigan, Gilbert was nationally known as an orator, tenor, and religious playwright. Gilbert, with members of neighboring churches and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, organized Savannah's Greenbrier Children's Center. In the late 1940s, with financial help from twenty-four people, both blacks and whites, he also developed the West Broad Street YMCA in the McKelvey-Powell Building, which had served as a USO facility during World War II. In

continued on page 8

SEACAA Volunteers Read to Children in EOA Head Start Program



SEACAA volunteers will participate in the Jimmie Samuel Day of Service preconference event as Readers for EOA's Head Start program, the City of Savannah's largest community based mainstream early childhood education program. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, it is designed to serve the educational, psychological, and health needs of low-income families. The EOA Head Start program serves 824 children, three to five years of age and offers high quality early childhood education, mental health, disability, medical, nutritional, and social services support for families.

In 1998, the program was expanded to include Early Head Start. The EOA Early Head Start program serves 75 children birth to two years of age, and provides services to pregnant mothers. The Head Start program makes a concerted effort to recruit Hispanic children and families.

Head Start reached out to these communities by employing bilingual staff and translating print media into Spanish. As a result, they have enrolled more Hispanic children and families now than ever in their forty plus year history.

EOA Head Start understands that exposing pre-school children to different cultures and languages helps stimulate their cognitive growth. This is why Head Start teaches basic Spanish to its students. ♦

WELCOME TO *Savannah*

Rich in history, architecture and culture, Savannah is ranked as one of the Top 10 cities to visit in the U.S. A "must-see" for visitors, the Savannah Historic District is filled with beautiful natural scenery, architecture and history – some dating back to the 1700's. One of the highlights of the historic district is the city square. Originally founded in 1733 as the Colonial capital of the Province of Georgia, Savannah was originally laid out as 4 open squares. By 1851 the city expanded to 24 squares, 22 of which are in existence today and is the largest National Historic Landmark District in the country. Some squares have monuments and others have fountains, but each of the squares helps to make Savannah a remarkably beautiful and unforgettable city. All of the Squares offer a glimpse back into the history of Savannah. Filled with museums, churches, mansions, monuments and famous forts of the Revolutionary & Civil War eras, most of Savannah's squares are named in honor or in memory of a person or persons of interest or historical event and many contain tributes, including monuments, markers, statues and plaques.

The squares are home to a number of cultural institutions and museums, including the Museum Savannah Theatre, on the oldest theater site in continuous use in the United States. Churches in the Savannah historic district offer visitors opportunity to enjoy historic architecture, including some of the most important churches in the country, both historically and architecturally. 13 churches and synagogues adjoin squares, including the largest Roman Catholic



church in the Southeast, and the oldest African-American church in North America. The historic district is home to several museums showcasing the history of Savannah. The Jepson Center for the Arts is a surprisingly modern structure in the middle of historic Savannah.

The Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, toured by volunteers for the Jimmie Samuel Day of Service, is just one more of the several museums worth visiting in the Savannah Historic District. 15 exhibits tell the story of segregation, beginning with emancipation, straight through the Civil Rights Movement. Permanent exhibits include archival photographs detailing desegregation in Savannah.

Make sure you leave some time to explore the Squares of Savannah during your visit.

<http://visithistoricsavannah.com/savannahs-squares/>

[http://issuu.com/islandcommunications/docs/01ss-64sscropped?mode=embed&layout=http%3A%2F%2Fskin.issuu.com%2F\(historic squares\)](http://issuu.com/islandcommunications/docs/01ss-64sscropped?mode=embed&layout=http%3A%2F%2Fskin.issuu.com%2F(historic+squares))



Tour the Squares

Calhoun Square

This southernmost square on Abercorn Street was added in 1851. The shady trees in Calhoun Square provide a perfect place to take a break from the heat and enjoy the leisurely pace of Savannah. Abercorn & Wayne Streets.

Chatham Square

Gordon Row, 15 identical townhouses admired for the ironwork and unique doorways, is located on this square. Named in honor of William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham, an early supporter of the colony. Barnard & Wayne Streets.

Chippewa Square

Named in honor of the American victory in the Battle of Chippewa during the War of 1812, Chippewa Square is the square where Forrest Gump's bench was placed during the filming of the popular movie by the same name. Bull & McDonough Streets.

Columbia Square

Named in honor of the United States, this square offers a tranquil spot away from the hustle and bustle of downtown. Nestled within the northeast quadrant of the historic district, this serene square is a favorite stop for Savannahians. Habersham & President Streets.

Crawford Square

Crawford Square features a basketball court and is located on the eastern edge of the historic district. Houston & McDonough Streets.

Ellis Square

Designed in 1733 and named in honor of Henry Ellis, the second Royal Governor, Ellis Square has recently been restored by the City of Savannah. Here the "Old City Market" was located and merchants sold crops and wares. Barnard & St. Julian Streets.

Franklin Square

Dedicated in 1790, this square is named for Benjamin Franklin, an agent for the colony of Georgia from 1768 to 1778. Just

off of City Market, this westernmost square has traditionally attracted a number of day laborers seeking work. Montgomery & St. Julian Streets.

Greene Square

Named in honor of General Nathaniel Greene, an aide to General George Washington during the Revolutionary War, Greene Square is one of the most beautiful squares in Savannah. Houston & President Streets.

Johnson Square

A center of activity, Johnson Square was the first square laid out by General James Oglethorpe in 1733. Savannah's largest square is named for Robert Johnson, a close friend of Oglethorpe. Bull & St. Julian Streets.

Lafayette Square

Named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, this square features a number of benches and quaint cobblestone sidewalks. Abercorn & Macon Streets.

Madison Square

Named for U.S. President James Madison, this square features vintage cannons from the old Savannah Armory. The Savannah College of Art and Design originally opened on this historic square. Bull & Macon Streets.

Monterey Square

With a statue of Casimir Pulaski at the center, Monterey Square is widely considered Savannah's most picturesque square. The Mercer House, the setting for the murder in "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil," is located on this lovely square. Bull & Wayne Streets.

Oglethorpe Square

Named in honor of General James Oglethorpe, founder of Savannah and the colony of Georgia, this square is a perfect place to enjoy a picnic lunch or a shady break. Abercorn & President Streets.

Orleans Square

Located near the Savannah Civic Center, Orleans Square commemorates General Andrew Jackson's 1815 victory in the Battle of New Orleans, part of the War of 1812. This square features beautiful red tulips in the

Spring and a bubbling fountain all year long. Barnard & McDonough Streets.

Pulaski Square

One of the few squares without a monument, Pulaski Square is named for Polish Count Casimir Pulaski, a hero of the Revolutionary War. This square features some of the most beautiful live oaks in the city, as well as thick ivy groundcover. Barnard & Macon Streets.

Reynolds Square

Originally called Lower New Square, Reynolds Square was once home to the Filature, the place where silkworms were housed in an effort to create silk in the Georgia colony. Abercorn & St. Julian Streets.



Telfair Square

Named in honor of the Telfair family, this scenic square also has a Girl Scout tribute and a number of benches for an afternoon respite. Barnard & President Streets.

Troup Square

Troup Square features an armillary, an astronomical centerpiece made of iron, that is supported by small metal turtles. Named by Georgia governor George Michael Troup, this is one of the most picturesque squares in the historic district. Habersham & Macon Streets.

Warren Square

Located in one of the oldest areas of the city, Warren Square is named in honor of General Joseph Warren, a Revolutionary War hero and was added in 1790. Habersham & St. Julian Streets.

Washington Square

Built at the same time as Warren Square, Washington Square once bordered the original Trustees' Garden, where colonists grew a variety of experimental crops. Today it is the northeasternmost square in the city. Houston & St. Julian Streets.

Whitefield Square

A popular place for weddings, Whitefield Square has a lovely white gazebo that has hosted countless marriage ceremonies over the years. The square is named for George Whitefield, an English clergyman who founded the Bethesda Orphan Home and served as a minister to the city's earliest colonists. Habersham & Wayne Streets.

Wright Square

Originally called Percival Square, Wright Square is also the final resting place for Tomochichi, the Native American leader who helped General James Oglethorpe found the colony of Georgia. Bull & President Streets.

Savannah.com ♦



SEACAA SPOTLIGHTS

Western Carolina Community Action, Inc. Receives National Merit Award in Affordable Housing

HENDERSONVILLE, NC (July 18, 2013) — Western Carolina Community Action (WCCA) has been chosen as a winner of the prestigious National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) Awards of Merit for its work with the Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC) to provide housing for low-income families in an affluent community.

“NAHRO members have been leading the way with innovative solutions to address resident services, management and operations, affordable housing preservation and sustainable development, and economic revitalization in their communities,” said NAHRO President Betsey Martens.

WCCA, in partnership with the Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC), is helping families acquire new, energy efficient homes through the wedding of the HUD Housing Choice Voucher Homeownership Program with the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development Mutual Self-Help Housing Program.

“While the future housing authorities and community development agencies have never been more uncertain with the sequester and continuing budget shortfalls, these awards showcase those agencies and authorities who overcame the adversities and flourished,” said NAHRO CEO Saul N Ramirez Jr. “This years’ award winners have proven themselves to not only be collaborators, forward thinkers and at times, creative geniuses, but they are also economic drivers and change agents in their community.”

The 2013 NAHRO Awards of Merit recognize outstanding achievement in housing and community development programs in five categories.

Administrative Innovation recognizes innovative methods in areas such as maintenance, community relations, and interagency cooperation. Program Innovation — Affordable Housing includes special programs for homeownership, public/private partnerships, and innovative financing. Program Innovation — Community Revitalization includes innovative use of programs in areas such as economic development, neighborhood preservation, and creative financing. Program Innovation — Resident and Client Services includes innovative use of programs such as special activities for children, families, and the elderly, anti-drug programs, social services, and self-sufficiency. Project Design includes efforts such as new housing design, housing modernization, enduring design, and landscape design.

About NAHRO

The National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, established in 1933, is a membership organization of over 23,000 housing and community development agencies and professionals throughout the United States whose mission is to create affordable housing and safe, viable communities that enhance the quality of life for all Americans, especially those of low- and moderate-income.

www.nahro.org

About WCCA

WCCA assists low income and underserved people in Henderson, Transylvania and Polk counties in achieving their full potential through quality services and advocacy that demonstrate compassion, respect, and the belief that all people are worthy.

www.wcca.net ♦

Mountain Projects Awarded Health Care Navigator Grant

Mountain Projects Community Action Agency was awarded a grant for Health Care Navigators for the seven Western counties in North Carolina, in partnership with Macon Program for Progress and Four Square Community Action. The Affordable Care Act requires states to establish a Navigator program to help enroll individuals in health plans on the Health Benefits Exchange. The role of Navigators also includes outreach and education efforts, providing unbiased and accurate information, and helping individuals apply for coverage.

(Public Law 111-148). This historic legislation provides an exciting performance management opportunity for HHS, and HHS is committed to using these measures to monitor our progress and to ensure that the promise of the Affordable Care Act is fulfilled for the American people. HHS personnel regularly monitor more than a thousand performance measures to examine effectiveness and to improve program processes. This Strategic Plan includes a selection of important milestones and broad outcomes and provides links to full sets of performance measures to demonstrate progress. Among the performance measures monitored by the Department are several measures that support the Department's High Priority Performance Goals. These goals, established with the President's FY 2010 budget request, are a set of ambitious, but realistic, performance objectives that the Department will accomplish by the end of FY 2012. The HHS High Priority Performance Goals support, and are aligned with, the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan (for more information, visit <http://www.goal.performance.gov>).

Mountain Projects Community Action

Agency is a community based non-profit organization, founded in 1965 as a Community Action Agency, that provides vital services to the elderly, disadvantaged and general public in Western North Carolina. It was begun as part of the “War On Poverty” with a \$52,000 Office of Economic Opportunity grant and a pilot summer Head Start program. Since then the agency has grown to an annual budget of nine million dollars, a staff of 140, and provides a broad diversity of services to the community in response to its changing needs. ♦

Project Supports An Aging Population

City Builds Picnic Shelter at KCEOC Housing Project

BARBOURVILLE, KY – Several local elected officials and community members gathered at KCEOC Community Action Agency's Mixon Manor apartment complex on July 16th to celebrate a New Picnic Shelter and Sidewalk funded by the City of Barbourville and to show support for the area's aging population.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the proportion of people age 65 and older will grow to 17.7 percent in 2020. That's a 41.6 percent increase from only 12.5 percent in 1990. "The need to provide seniors with a variety of living options is more important now than ever" said KCEOC Vice-President, Jennifer Smith, "As a community, we want to stand by our older neighbors by ensuring there are adequate resources in our communities to accommodate the needs of this growing population. This new picnic shelter and sidewalk will help support a socially and physically healthy lifestyle for senior residents as they enter the next stage of their lives."

The new shelter offers an outdoor space for residents to be social without excluding those with special physical needs. "The sidewalks provide handicap accessibility where before, there was none [to this outdoor area]" explained Mayor David Thompson, "This is another project that shows if you work with partnerships, something like this can happen—something that people can use."

Mixon Manor is a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 202 Project Rental Assistance Contract (PRAC) housing project designed to serve the low-income population, ages 62 and older. The facility is designed to help its tenants live with independence in a safe, friendly environment and provides 20 affordable housing units for the elderly population in the area. KCEOC Community Action Partnership developed and owns the housing project managed by Franklin Asset Management. This project is funded, in part, under a contract with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services with funds from the Community Services Block Grant Act of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. www.kceoc.com ♦

SEACAA CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER

Visit the website for more details.

SEPTEMBER 2013

SEACAA Annual Conference

September 10-13, 2013
Hyatt Regency Savannah
Savannah, GA

SEACAA Board Meeting

September 10, 2013
Hyatt Regency Savannah
Savannah, GA

NOVEMBER 2013

November 7-8, 2013

Barbourville, KY

Certified Community Action Management Program (CCAMP)

Developing Skills and Resources

DECEMBER 2013

Certified Community Action Management Program (CCAMP)

*Building Organizational Trust in
Community Action*

(Re-certification session)

December 5-6, 2013

Barbourville, KY

Certified Community Action Management Program (CCAMP)

Certification Session Title: TBA
(Re-certification session)

December 9-10, 2013

Ft. Walton Beach, FL

Certified Community Action Management Program (CCAMP)

Certification Session Title: TBA
(Re-certification session)

KCEOC Earns PRIDE Volunteerism Award

BARBOURVILLE, KY - KCEOC Community Action Partnership has earned southern and eastern Kentucky's 2013 PRIDE Spring Clean-up Award for Greatest Volunteer Participation. Congressman Hal Rogers was on hand August 8th at the Harlan Boys & Girls Club to present KCEOC staff with a trophy acknowledging KCEOC volunteer efforts. KCEOC recruited 930 volunteers in the Agency's Service Area to participate in the annual PRIDE Spring Cleanup. Most of the volunteers were children and families from KCEOC's Child Development Program as they picked up litter in safe areas close to their buildings and playgrounds.

The annual Spring Cleanup is hosted by Eastern Kentucky PRIDE, a nonprofit organization that encourages environmental cleanup and education in a 38-county region. KCEOC was also chosen as a 2013 recipient of the PRIDE Education Grant, designed to promote environmental education and raise awareness of personal responsibility.

KCEOC wishes to thank all the volunteers who represented KCEOC in the effort to make southern and eastern Kentucky a cleaner, more beautiful place to live!

KCEOC is a nonprofit corporation in Barbourville, KY serving the residents of southeastern counties. ♦
www.kceoc.com

For Northern Kentucky, the 10 a.m. ribbon cutting was a celebration of those families and of the power of public-private partnerships, like the one between the Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission, Jonesboro Investment Corporation, the Kentucky Housing Corporation and US Bank that brought this vision into being.



Ribbon Cutting Celebration Held for Magnolia Glen

FLORENCE, KY - For sixty families, August 23rd was another day closer to their goal of economic independence. For Northern Kentucky, the 10 a.m. ribbon cutting was a celebration of those families and of the power of public-private partnerships, like the one between the Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission, Jonesboro Investment Corporation, the Kentucky Housing Corporation and US Bank that brought this vision into being.

Magnolia Glen, the \$10.4 million, 60 unit apartment complex in Florence, is a joint venture of the NKCAC and Jonesboro Investments Inc., a Cleveland based real estate development firm, with funding provided by the Kentucky Housing Corporation and US Bank. Construction began on the project in August 2012 after approval of funding in January 2012. The vision of the project was to offer excellent housing to working families who earn up to 60 percent of the median income for Boone County. According to 2012 U.S. Census estimates, the median income for the county was approximately \$68,000.

The complex, which was already at 95 percent occupied and expected to be completely rented by the time of the ribbon cutting, includes amenities such as air conditioning, oversized closets,

balconies, patios, and a clubhouse with a computer lab and laundry facilities. The two and three bedroom apartments start at \$570 per month. The property is being managed by Wallick Communities, a Columbus based company that specializes in affordable multi-family housing.

"This is a great opportunity to continue to realize our mission and our vision for the region," says NKCAC Executive Director Florence Tandy. "We know that given the opportunity to have a place to call home and a chance to live in affordable housing, these working families will continue on their path to self-reliance and will continue to be a valuable part of our economy," says Tandy.

For NKCAC housing director Ashley Pate, "the most exciting part is the community we are building. There is a great playground and a huge common outdoor area that residents can use." He is also excited about creating a new idea of what income-based housing looks and feels like. "This may not be what people think of when they hear about a place that has an income limit for people to move in," says Pate, "but I think as we move forward, more and more people will realize the impact of affordable housing, not just on the families in the complex, but on the community as a whole."

Jonesboro Investments Corp is active in the development of multifamily and retail properties throughout the mid-west and southeast United States. "Our hope is that this housing development will serve as a lasting community asset, providing safe and affordable quality housing for families of Boone County," says Tim Morgan, President of Jonesboro Investments Corp.

"Today, through the hard work of many, Magnolia Glen is an example of how public-private partnerships can help build and strengthen communities," says Dan Groneck, U.S. Bank Regional President for Northern Kentucky. "We're proud to partner with Jonesboro Investments Corp., Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission, and other valued leaders to create a space for families in Boone County to live and grow for years to come."

Northern Kentucky Community Action Commission lifts up families and children to help them achieve a brighter future. Through a comprehensive, regional approach, NKCAC helps low income individuals and families develop the knowledge, opportunities and resources they need to achieve self-reliance. For more information about programs, services and volunteer opportunities, visit www.nkcac.org or call 859-581-6607.

<http://www.nkcac.org/media/files/Housing-and-Economic-Development-Report-2011.pdf>

Northern Kentucky Community Action www.nkcac.org
Kentucky Housing Corporation www.kyhousing.org
US Bank www.USBank.com
Wallick Communities www.wallickcommunities.com

SCACAP Hosts Youth Leadership Professional Development Conference

COLUMBIA, South Carolina – Over 150 community action youth, youth professionals, community leaders, mentors, and business leaders came together for the 6th Annual Statewide Youth Leadership Professional Development Conference, held June 19-20, 2013 in Columbia, SC. The conference was hosted by the South Carolina Association of Community Action Partnerships (SCACAP), Executive Director, Jessica McMoore. The quote of the day was “Developing Our Leaders of Tomorrow.”

The Conference specifically targeted professionals who share an interest in helping vulnerable youth. The theme was “Empowering Youth, Families, and Communities”. Organizations that presented workshops for both days included Springfield College-Charleston Campus, Transamerica Financial, SC Governor’s Office of Economic Opportunity, Orangeburg/Calhoun/Allendale/ Bamberg (OCAB) Community Action Agency HIV/AIDS Prevention Department, and the SC Youth Challenge Academy. There was also a Youth Forum that addressed Bullying, HIV, High School Dropout Rate, Teen Pregnancy and Youth Suicide.

On Youth Day, June 20th, youth presided over all activities. Luncheon speakers were from the 2012 Oratorical Forum, 1st Place Winner Ms. Destiny Laurie from Waccamaw EOC and the keynote speaker was Ms. Destine Hicks from OCAB Community Action Agency. The day ended with a presentation from Ms. Louisa A. Dobbins, Poet and Storyteller from Columbia, SC.

Ten out of fourteen SC Community



Ms. Jessica McMoore,
SCACAP Executive Director



Luncheon keynote speaker Ms. Destine Hicks from OCAB Community Action Agency

Bank and Boykin & Davis Law Firm. Scholarships were made available to youth who have excelled academically and have been involved in their communities. Door prizes were donated by SCACAP and conference exhibitors.

SCACAP is a Statewide Nonprofit Organization that strives to develop and advocate for programs to promote self-sufficiency and is an approved Low Income Tax Credit Clinic that provides education and outreach services for low income and the ESL population in South Carolina. www.scacap.org ♦

Action Agencies participated in this event. Special scholarships were provided by BB&T

M-Power Teens take ‘Career’ Tour of Lexington and Louisville

When Workforce Investment Act Youth Services staff evaluated the direction of their M-Power program last year, program coordinator Erica Ash says it all came down to one question. “We wanted to be able to help the youth answer the question, ‘If I go to college and study a particular subject, what kind of job will I get?’” Ash recalls. To accomplish this, Ash and the staff developed a year-long curriculum that culminated with 17 local teens taking a career-focused tour of the Lexington and Louisville areas during the week of June 24th.

Most of the youth were high school graduates, Ash explains. “In order to earn the right to go on the tour, the youth had to attend local employer visits and participate in M-Power activities during this past year.” The M-Power program, operated by Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, seeks to empower high school students through leadership activities, work experience opportunities, and a work-readiness curriculum. It is funded by the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and the Eastern Kentucky Concentrated Employment Program (EKCEP).

Ash says while considering employment opportunities for the youth, the staff realized the importance of exposing them to careers outside the region. Therefore, when it came time to plan the tour, the staff focused on job sectors the state had projected to achieve growth between now and 2018. These sectors included business services, healthcare and social assistance, tourism, and automobile and aircraft manufacturing. Tours that corresponded with these sectors were scheduled at businesses and educational facilities such as the Toyota Motor Manufacturing plant, the James W. Stuckert Career Center at the University of Kentucky, and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

The tours and the change in locale were enlightening experiences for participants. “It was eye-opening,” says Kara Tackett, 18, of Paintsville. “I learned you can get out of your small town and find a comfortable place to work. There’s more out there.”

Alex Turner, 18, of Warfield, agreed. “The trip gave me a sense of responsibility,” Turner notes. “I saw a glimpse of what it would be like if I was on my own and out of my county.” Both teens are now considering attending Sullivan University in Louisville. “We learned about different careers and saw hands-on work,” Tackett says. Ash stresses the importance of that first-hand knowledge. “You can take assessments that determine careers you might be interested in, but until you see it first-hand, you don’t know if it will be a fit. This trip

continued at left

M-Power Teens *continued from column at right*

gave them that opportunity,” she says.

Ash continued, “The youth also walked away with an understanding of the common transferrable skills employers in every industry are looking for. Employers want that get-up-and-go attitude. They can teach you skills, but they can’t teach dependability, ingenuity, excitement, and responsibility and instill a commitment from you to come to work every day.”

Ash says the occupational tours educated and benefitted the teens in other ways as well. The trip also inspired Ash. “Afterward, I heard some of the youth say, ‘I wasn’t thinking about college’ or ‘I didn’t understand the impact college would have on the rest of my life,’” Ash reflects. “The trip gave me an opportunity to witness the difference we make in their lives.” bsacap.org ♦

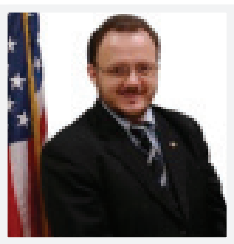
President's Corner



SEACAA

Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies

The 2013 SEACAA Annual Conference is fast approaching. You should be registered for the Annual Conference to



Ricky Baker

be held Sept 10-13 at the Hyatt Regency in Savannah, GA. The theme is Community Action: Paving the Way with Standards, Strategies and Solutions. We look forward to seeing everyone in Savannah!

SEACAA's mission is to strengthen the Community Action Agencies in Region IV. By providing technical support, training opportunities, and advocacy, SEACAA remains on the leading edge in providing support to the Community Action Agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. If you know a way that SEACAA can help you or your state, please let us know how!

Earlier this year we lost a true Community Action voice and advocate. We will all miss Jimmie Samuel and his relentless passion to help people and change lives.

Jimmie was active in SEACAA for many years and most recently was serving as your SEACAA vice-president. He knew how important our work was to the low-income and less fortunate of the southeast region and took every opportunity to tell everyone about the great work that you do.

I ask that if you have not officially joined SEACAA to do so soon. It has never been more important than now to have a unified voice in the Region IV. We must have our message heard and with the strength in numbers to make sure that it is not only heard, but heeded as well. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "There is power in numbers and there is power in unity." So join SEACAA today!

As is our promise, "Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live". See you in Savannah!!!

Ricky Baker
President, SEACAA

SEACAA Executive Committee

President, Ricky L. Baker,
Kentucky

Vice-President, William Holt,
Florida

Secretary, Brenda L. Fox,
Kentucky

Treasurer, Arnold Collins,
South Carolina

Community Action Partnership, Paul Dole, CCAP,
Kentucky

NCAF, Janice Riley, CCAP,
Georgia

Our Mission

SEACAA exists as a professional organization that provides research and policy development resources, education and training to ensure progress toward the elimination of poverty and causes of poverty in the Southeast.

We focus particularly on serving our membership, which represents the interests, issues and concerns impacting the quality of life in communities.

We also link local, state, and national organizations in developing strategies, policies, and actions.

We believe that investing in improving the quality of life of citizens and communities through carefully planned programs and policies is a crucial investment in the nation's well being.

from page 1 Day of Service Volunteers to Visit Civil Rights Museum

1942, he reorganized the Savannah Branch NAACP, served as president for eight years and convened its first state conference. Under his leadership, more than forty NAACP branches were organized in Georgia by 1950.

Although the building is modern in comparison to others in historic Savannah, it has played an important part in Savannah's African-American history. Built in 1914 by Robert Pharrow, an African-American contractor from Atlanta, the building was home to the Wage Earners Savings and Loan Bank, once the largest bank for blacks in this county. It later served as the Guaranty Insurance Company, with Walter Sanford Scott, a local black millionaire, as president, and as the Savannah office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The building now houses the history of Savannah's civil rights movement.

Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum

The Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum chronicles the civil rights struggle of Georgia's oldest African-American community from slavery to the present. Three floors of historic photographic and interactive exhibits provide a glimpse of what life was like during the civil rights struggle in Savannah and in Georgia. The museum also features lecture halls, classrooms, a video/reading room, an African-American book collection for children and a gift shop.

For more information: Contact them via Facebook! ♦

<http://www.visit-historic-savannah.com>

www.georgiaencyclopedia.org

