

### Special points of interest:

- We believe in self-sufficiency
- 34.3% of children in the City of Columbus are living below poverty
- Columbus ranked last in poverty statistics among comparable metro areas
- Real hope is grounded in struggle to achieve and the triumph of empowerment

### Inside this issue:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Ingram-White Castle Foundation Invests In IMPACT                  | 2 |
| Competitors Unite to Support 2012 Heat The Town Event             | 2 |
| Buy Car Program Paves road to self-Sufficiency                    | 2 |
| Employment Plus Program Boosts Capacity to Serve More Job Seekers | 3 |
| Connect Ohio Donates computers To IMPACT                          | 3 |
| Re-Entry Work Readiness Program Breaks Down Barriers              | 4 |
| Success Story – Re-Entry Work Readiness Program                   | 4 |
| Success Story – Financial Services: Buy Car Program               | 4 |

# IMPACT Advocate

## CEO Message: The Ripple of Hope



On January 7, 2013, I will celebrate my fifth year anniversary as the CEO of IMPACT Community Action. I have been blessed to have inherited the leadership of an organization with such a rich legacy and a staff that is the most passionate and dedicated group of people that I know. I am proud to lead an organization whose mission is to provide hope-inspiring help and real opportunities for self-sufficiency. And I am most proud of our accomplishments and the people that we have empowered. You will read about a couple of them in this newsletter.

Yet when I look at our community and witness how poverty continues to increase, I cannot help but wonder what more can we do? In this premiere edition of our quarterly newsletter, *The IMPACT Advocate*, we will share our successes with you; but we will also challenge you to get involved so that Columbus can truly be the best place to live, work and raise a family for all of our residents.

According to the U. S. Census 2011 American Community Survey, 34.3 % of the children in the City of Columbus are living below poverty and 15% of our civilian labor force is working and still lives below poverty level. Community Research Partners' study, "Benchmarking Central Ohio 2011," compared the eight-county Columbus Metropolitan Area to 16 other metropolitan areas, including Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago and Indianapolis and found that: **Columbus ranked 16<sup>th</sup>** (that's last), for persons below the poverty level; Columbus also ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in the highest percent of children under 18 living in families with unemployed parent(s).

*The IMPACT Advocate* is our opportunity to provide a glimpse into the partnerships and programs that we offer. More importantly, it is an opportunity for you to see the people whose lives have been transformed through Community Action, people who defy the stereotypes. When we take a closer look and go beneath the surface, we find a quiet strength, a sense of resiliency, and a glimmer of hope among people who want to believe in the rhetoric of building a sense of community also includes them.

By providing hope-inspiring help, we have witnessed the transformation in the people that we serve. We have seen how their transformation has inspired their family, friends and the community. Their restoration and their renewed sense of hope have inspired us and the work that we do. This is the ripple effect! Real hope is not about naïve projections of a better future but is grounded in struggle and the triumph of doing the real work. Here at IMPACT we do not simply throw stones to create a ripple effect in the water while watching safely from the shore. Instead we have chosen to dive into the water and create waves...waves of change that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

Sincerely,

Robert "Bo" Chilton, CEO  
IMPACT Community Action



**Providing assistance for clothing, food and shelter.**

**“Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day ...”**



**Competitors Unite to Serve Our Community!**

## Ingram-White Castle Invests in IMPACT

The Ingram-White Castle Foundation awarded a grant to IMPACT to boost real opportunities for self-sufficiency. IMPACT’s Central Case Management Program (formerly Support of Self-Sufficiency), will administer the grant, which is geared to assist families and individuals in need that establish Individual Goal Plans (IGP). The IGP serves as a road map to identifying multiple barriers and specific strategies

to address and overcome them, through case management, financial and material assistance, and linkage to other programs and services.

Through this program, a single mother avoided eviction, following her unpaid maternity leave. Although she’s worked for more than 14 years at the same job, she doesn’t receive benefits and has never earned more than \$9.00/hour, which falls below the living wage

for one adult with two children. Her IGP calls for enrolling in basic literacy classes within 60 days, securing a GED by the end of 2013, and pursuing higher-paying work opportunities as her literacy and job skills develop.

For more information on the Ingram-White Castle Foundation Grant and its implementation, please contact Carol Winchester at 614.453.1725 or [cwinchester@impactca.org](mailto:cwinchester@impactca.org).

## By Car Program Accelerates Vehicle Ownership

Fueled by matching funds available through IMPACT Community Action and the Finance Fund, income-eligible Franklin County residents have one less barrier to car ownership! “The By Car Program,” also known as “Cars for Jobs & Diplomas,” is a matched-savings program that helps residents purchase used vehicles to commute to work, school or both. For every dollar that a participant

saves up to \$1,333.00, the By Car Program will match it with another two dollars up to \$2,666.00, for total of \$3,999.00 to use toward a vehicle purchase.

The demand for this new program was phenomenal and exceeded expectations. Since July 30th, 40 By Car Program customers received one-on-one financial coaching, budgeting tips, and consumer education on the costs

of car ownership. Nine customers leveraged their savings potential to earn the full matching funds available to purchase cars, which pumped more than \$35,000 into the local economy prior to the late-August depletion of 2012 program funds.

The 2013 By Car Program will kick-off in Mid-January. For more information, contact Jarod Taylor at 614-453-1620 or [jtaylor@impactca.org](mailto:jtaylor@impactca.org).

## Competitors Unite to Serve the Community

More than 150 volunteers from IMPACT, Columbus Division of Fire, and the Central Ohio Chapter of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA), a trade association comprised of 50 local heating and cooling companies, joined forces recently at Carr Supply, Inc. for the 9th Annual Heat The Town event to provide free

furnace cleanings, tune-ups and carbon monoxide (CO) checks to more than 275 families in need throughout Columbus and Franklin County.

Since 2004, ACCA members, IMPACT and the Columbus Division of Fire have contributed more than \$1.2 Million in parts, labor, other services and resources through Heat

The Town; and more than 1,900 households have been served over the years through this program.

For more information on IMPACT’s Weatherization program, contact Cheryl Grice at 614.453.1704.



## Employment Plus Program Raises Capacity to Train More Job Seekers

Employment Plus Program provides cutting-edge training to help dislocated workers secure and maintain employment through a five-week curriculum that includes computer literacy, résumé writing, mock interviewing, academic course work and financial literacy. Program graduates receive one-on-

one job coaching to hone their interpersonal and technical skills to increase their marketability to potential employers.

Since January, more than 175 dislocated workers have been trained. Two sessions remained for 2012 (Oct. 8th-Nov. 9th & Nov. 12th –Dec. 7th); however, given the demand for this

service, a third class will be offered on Dec. 4th–Jan. 4th (2013).

Also, the maximum capacity for these three remaining classes has been raised from 30 participants to 45 participants. For more information, please contact Amber Scott at 614.453.1712 or [ascott@impactca.org](mailto:ascott@impactca.org).



**Financial Literacy makes sense!**

**Invest in your future!**

***“... Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.”***

## Connect Ohio Partners with IMPACT

Connect Ohio donated more than 20 Dell desktop computers to IMPACT recently to help establish a new computer lab. These computers will help support Connect Ohio’s state-wide computer training program at IMPACT, Every Citizen Online (ECO), which is an introductory

course to help adults understand the computer, the internet and the benefits of broadband access.

The goal of ECO is to showcase the many educational, economic, and communication benefits of broadband use, and to encourage statewide usage. Since March 26th, when

classes began at IMPACT, more than 250 adults have completed these free, six-hour computer training sessions. For additional information or to register for ECO or other computer training at IMPACT, please contact Elizabeth Keyes at 614-453-1616 or [ekeyes@impactca.org](mailto:ekeyes@impactca.org).

## Work Readiness Impacts Self-Sufficiency

IMPACT’s Re-Entry Work Readiness Program, which began in 2009, teaches critical skills and techniques to restored citizens who are within one year of release from prison, jail and/or half-way houses. The program helps participants confront and address significant barriers to self-sufficiency, such as intra/inter-personal development,

material needs, and peer support through a holistic approach and a certified curriculum geared to mold and strengthen each one’s core competencies, including motivation, commitment and perseverance.

Since January 2012, eight three-week classes have been held, with 156 restored citizens enrolled in the program. Year to date,

100 restored citizens (64%) have completed the course successfully and have engaged other opportunities.

The final Re-Entry Work Readiness class for 2012 is scheduled for Monday, November 26th to Friday, December 14th.

For more information, please contact Todd Lewis at 614.453.1724 or [tlewis@impactca.org](mailto:tlewis@impactca.org).



**Motivation and Empowerment lead to Self-Sufficiency**

## Creating the Ripple Effect



700 Bryden Road  
Columbus, OH 43215

[www.impactca.org](http://www.impactca.org)

Phone: 614.252.2799  
Fax: 614.453.1453  
E-mail: [communications@impactca.org](mailto:communications@impactca.org)



**"Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance."**

**~Senator Robert F. Kennedy, 1966**

Community Action was founded in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson's Vision for A Great Society that ushered in Civil Rights reform, Economic Opportunities for all citizens and began the War on Poverty.

*IMPACT Community Action* is one of 50 Community Action Agencies in Ohio that is on the front line in the War on Poverty. Our mission is "to reduce poverty by providing hope-inspiring help and real opportunities for self-sufficiency."

Despite tough economic times and increasing demands for our programs and services, Community Action will never back down or shy away from its commitment to the community.

### Mark Your Calendar

IMPACT Board Meeting	10/25/12
HEAP Winter Crisis Kick-Off	11/1/12
Mobile Medical Unit—Health Screenings at IM-	11/6/12
IMPACT Board Meeting	11/22/12
Work Force Development Class #46 Graduation	12/7/12
Re-Entry Work Readiness Class #23 Graduation	12/14/12
2nd Annual "Ripple of Hope" Awards Luncheon	5/16/2013

## Motivation Breeds Success

### Sandra Hogan

I come from a broken home, an addictive life style, and living on the streets. I dropped out of school in 9<sup>th</sup> grade. I was homeless and felt



helpless and I did not believe that I had a future. Through case management, I accessed the Re-Entry and Workforce Development programs. IMPACT helped me re-instate my driver's license and receive my GED.

Today I am employed as a Heavy Equipment Operator with Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. I make \$35.00 an hour and I am part of a construction team. I am living my dream!

### Carolyn Thompson

I am a single parent of four school-aged children. My car broke down and after it was gone my life changed tremendously. My dreams were to



obtain my certification as a Dental Lab Technician, get a job making more than minimum wage and take care of my family.

Transportation was the greatest barrier that I had to my future. Thanks to the By Car Program, I am the proud owner of a 2000 Chevy Impala with 76K miles on it! I am a graduate of Columbus State Community College and I have accepted a job offer in my field making \$14.00 an hour!