

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Community Services Program of Beaver County



Women's Center of Beaver County
Annual Summer Day Camp

Director's Report

This year has brought many challenges and opportunities to the County as a result of the volatile state of the national and global economy. Although the economic recovery programs began at the end of 2008, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) was brought into full swing in 2009. This aggressive program forced all of us in public leadership to assess our community conditions and identify the areas of greatest need. Not only were we charged with the responsibility of establishing need, we needed to find ways to assist individuals and communities that had the greatest potential of recovering from loss or potential loss. We needed to find ways to help people gain or retain jobs. Financial stability is a fundamental component to personal and community well-being. The County is committed to making the best use of the additional funds it has received through the recovery program. The following is a brief summary of the programs that are underway:

Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing:

HUD-\$1,596,719

PA DCED-\$279,682

Funding for homeless prevention and/or housing assistance for those already homeless. This program includes comprehensive intake and case management and provision of support

services to help people re-achieve self-sufficiency.

Community Services Block Grant-Recovery

PA DCED-\$629,954

Funding for eligible low-income benefit programs that focus on financial well-being through employment programs, training, consumer advocacy, budgeting, etc.

Community Development Block Grant-Recovery

HUD-\$1,043,769

Funding will be utilized to provide gap financing for grocery store development in the downtown areas of our lowest income communities.

Neighborhood Stabilization Program

PA DCED-\$1,291,682

Funding for home ownership projects through rehabilitation and new construction on properties in foreclosure.

It is our hope that the resulting benefit of these funds will be that individuals, families and communities not only achieve sustainability, but will prosper in the future.

*Lisa Signore, Director
Community Services/Community Development*

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM OF BEAVER COUNTY 2009

Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG-R)
American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
\$629,954

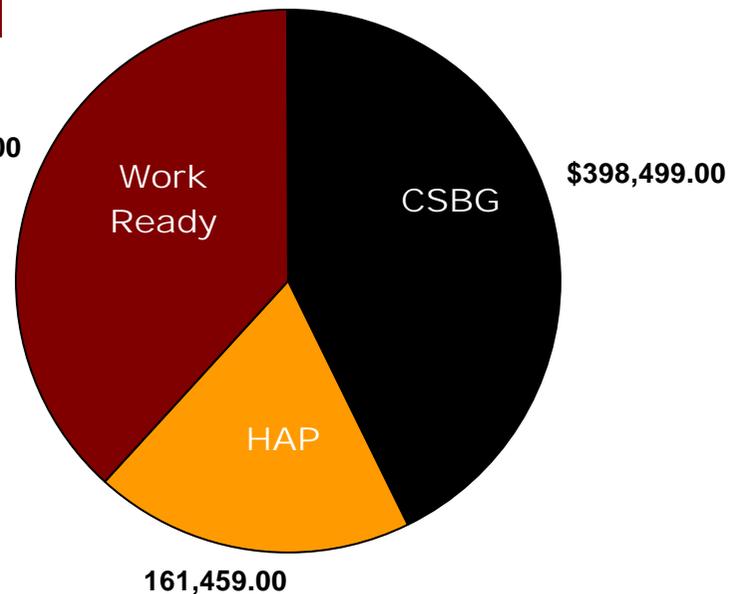
Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)
\$398,499

Work Ready Program
\$328,541

Homeless Assistance Program (HAP)
\$161,459

328,541.00

2009



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The Community Services Program of Beaver County is Beaver County's official "Community Action Agency", charged with the responsibility of carrying out a mission of combating poverty and promoting self-sufficiency among our low-income citizens. The Program is a component of the Community Development Program, a department of Beaver County government and is funded through the PA Departments of Community and Economic Development and Public Welfare. We would like to thank the Board of Commissioners for their ongoing support:

Tony Amadio, *Chairman*
Joe Spanik
Charles A. Camp

A Home of Their Own

The clean out and rehabilitation of the Beaver house in Aliquippa started on May 1, 2009. The Beaver family was approved to receive a Habitat home in September 2005. Due to the size of their family and a change in their financial status, there was a longer wait than usual for them to become homeowners. Habitat for Humanity focuses on families becoming successful homeowners, and a change in the families' income prevented us from moving forward with the rehab of their home. Once their finances were in order, the families' size had

grown! Therefore, another

hurdle was finding an appropriate sized house. It was an exciting day in September of 2009 when the Beaver family was able to finally move into their own home! The Beaver family consists of three generations, which includes four children and two grandchildren.

(Story contributed by Habitat for Humanity of Beaver County)



The Beaver Family at the dedication of their new home

Summer Fun for Children

The Women's Center of Beaver County held its annual summer Day Camp for children June 22 to 26, 2009. Day Camp is held at the Women's Center for child clients or children of clients of the Center. Approximately 15 children participated in the weeklong camp. Educational activities facilitated by Women's Center staff focused on cooperation, building friendships, family relationships, decision making, teamwork, and appropriate emotional expression. For fun, several recreational events were offered. Highlights included a field trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo with parents, a magic show and a visit from therapy dog, Tucker and owner Sandy Davis. The final day of camp was a carnival and cookout with parents invited to attend. Throughout the week, children earned coins for positive behavior such as participation and helping others. The coins could be exchanged for prizes at the carnival. The Women's Center Day Camp provides children who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend a camp with the positive experience of learning new things, making friends, and being valued for who they are, as well as having a good time! Special thanks to Pizza Joe's, Beaver, Vocelli Pizza, Rochester and Chick-Fil-A, Monaca for donating lunch, and to the volunteers who assisted at Day Camp including seniors from Center High School, Mary Ellen Medich and Marcia Rymarchyk.



Another special event was enthusiastically enjoyed by children who participated in a back to school picnic held for residents of the emergency shelter. Children and adults participated in a drumming circle facilitated by Mark Bodrog, Terri Comei and Bryan Fazio. Each child, no matter what their age, got to use a drum, join in the beat and become a part of the celebration. Women and children swayed and danced to the music, truly an "all ages" show. As the pulsating drums sent their rhythms into the air, a new school year was welcomed in.



(Story contributed by the Women's Center of Beaver County)

Problem Solving through Legal Advocacy

Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) receives Community Services funding to assist residents of Beaver County with their consumer and contract problems. This year NLSA was able to help many clients including one individual who came to us without electric and gas service. NLSA attorney, Stacy Harris Slater, was able to file an emergency petition in this case and secured the restoration of services. Ms. Harris also accomplished a successful intervention in a sheriff sale saving a car the client needed for work and other family transportation. In another matter, she was able to stay a sheriff sale of a family home long enough for the client to acquire the funds needed to satisfy the mortgage.

(Story contributed by NLSA)

Consumer Power

Consumer mediation and public awareness are key components of the Alliance for Consumer Protection (ACP). Another critical focus of the agency; especially during this time of economic instability, is to help people eliminate debt. Credit counseling, budgeting and savings education are a large part of helping families and individuals overcome misconceptions of credit debt and poor money management.

A recent involves a young mired in credit education loans collection enabled her to set plans and she will of her outstanding new year. Her soared as she can see how becoming financially responsible can improve her life. Paying off high interest loans and credit debt is a priority that we want people to recognize.



success story woman who was debt and that had gone to agencies. ACP up payment be paying off one loans before the self esteem has

(Story contributed by ACP)

Head Start Working Beyond the Classroom



There are many families who are in great need in Beaver County. For our Head Start families success often comes in small doses and the simplest of events have gotten parents over what they found to be insurmountable in their lives.

Many of our children are exposed to situations that one may never experience in his or her lifetime. Families have lost everything due to fires or foreclosures in the past year. Success was helping them quickly find new places to live and helping set up a new stable home.

One family came from a victim of domestic violence who was at the Women's Center. In five days, mom and her three children were out of the shelter and living in their own apartment for the first time. The Social worker assisted this family to obtain services through the County Assistance Office, CAP, Domestic Relations, Legal Aid, food, beds, clothing, etc. Today, with a "tiny" amount of help, she has a Driver's License, a car, full custody of the children, is taking three courses at CCBC, and has a job. She repeatedly tells our Social Worker she never thought she could be self-sufficient like this and is very grateful to HS!

(Story contributed by Head Start of Beaver County)

Social Worker/Family Mentor Statistical Data

	Number	Response Time
Beds for Head Start children.	89	24 to 48 hours
Emergency clothing	234	24 to 48 hours
Emergency children's coats	192	Same Day
Emergency food	43	24 hours
Emergency utility assistance	37	1 to 3 Days
Furniture delivered to Head Start families	41	Based on Supply
Holiday Food Baskets (all 4)	105	N/A