

## MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

West Ohio  
Community  
Action Partnership is  
thrilled to announce the  
appointment of Kimberly  
Bruns as our new Chief  
Executive Officer



Kimberly brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her new role. Serving as one of two Acting CEO's since August 2023, Kimberly has exemplified exceptional leadership qualities, overseeing all aspects of WOCAP's day-to-day operations with efficiency and expertise.

Her impressive background includes extensive work within the community, notably as the Director of Community Services and Director of Employment and Training Services at WOCAP. Kimberly's commitment to serving individuals and families in our communities has been evident throughout her career. From developing innovative programs to ensuring compliance with regulations and managing budgets responsibly, Kimberly's contributions have made a significant impact on the lives of those we serve.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Kimberly is actively involved in community initiatives, serving on boards and committees dedicated to improving the well-being of others. Her commitment to social justice and community development aligns perfectly with WOCAP's mission and values.

We are delighted to announce Kimberly Bruns as our new CEO," stated Board President Josh Unterbrink. "Kim's exemplary leadership, unwavering dedication, and profound commitment to serving others position her ideally to guide WOCAP towards its forthcoming era of achievement and growth."

Please join us in congratulating Kimberly Bruns on her new role as CEO. Under her guidance, WOCAP will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and families throughout our community.

### WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

My role model would definitely be Jackie Fox. Her dedication to WOCAP and her compassion for others was the heartbeat of our mission. As I undertake the responsibility, I will carry forward lessons learned from her wisdom and the example of leadership that she set for all of us. Jackie Fox may no longer be with us, but her legacy will continue to inspire and shape the way we serve our communities here at WOCAP. I will honor her memory by committing to the work with the same passion and integrity that she taught me every day.

### DREAM JOB IF YOU WERE NOT CEO?

If I wasn't CEO, my dream job would be to have a flower shop. I absolutely love love flowers, the amazing colors, and smells brighten my day! I also love making flower arrangements. I enjoy playing with all the wonderful colors, and creating the beautiful bouquets, It is so relaxing and incredibly fulfilling to me.

### FAVORITE THING ABOUT WORKING AT WOCAP?

Knowing that we (agency & staff) make a huge difference in the lives of people on a daily basis in our little corner of the world

### FAVORITE VACATION?

Hands down, Hawaii. It was paradise and sharing all the beauty of the Hawaiian islands with my sister made the experience all the more spectacular. The beaches were the most beautiful I have ever seen, with the whitest sand and the most crystal-clear blue & green water. I absolutely love Maui with all of the natural beauty. We spent a day on the road to Hana which offered so many waterfalls, rainforests, and many, many turns that revealed new wonders all along the way. My sister and I also attended an authentic Luau. It was such a vibrant and joyous celebration of the Hawaiian culture and tradition with lots of music, dance and food. This was a trip of a lifetime for both of us!

**Promise of Community Action**

Community Action  
changes people's lives,  
embodies the spirit of hope,  
improves communities,  
and makes America  
a better place to live.

We care about the entire community,  
and we are dedicated  
to helping people  
help themselves  
and each other..

# Community

# Action

# Month



In the month of May, we celebrate Community Action Month. This May is a very special Community Action Month, as this year marks the 60th Anniversary of the Community Action Network! Community Action Agencies are vitally important in the ways we address local needs, build social capital, empower individuals, promote equity and inclusion, maximize resources, foster civil engagement, and promote resilience by fostering networks of support, sharing resources, and developing contingency plans. Here at West Ohio CAP we offer a variety of services and programs to help individuals and their families succeed in all areas of life that they may find themselves in need or in a crisis. None of this would be possible without our staff, volunteers and local community partners. We thank each and every one of them for their efforts in providing for our local communities that we serve.

## 60TH ANNIVERSARY



By coming together and taking action, we can build stronger, more resilient communities and create positive change that benefits everyone. Community Action Month is a reminder that each of us has the power to make a difference, no matter how big or small our contributions may seem.

**Follow WOCAP on social media as we celebrate throughout the month of May**

# How Has Community Action Helped You?

In the month of May, we celebrate Community Action Month. This is a time to recognize and celebrate the efforts of individuals and organizations working to make a difference in the lives of those in our community. We strive to make a positive impact in the lives of each and every one of our customers. We believe that every success story deserves to be celebrated and shared. That's why we're inviting WOCAP customers to share their personal success stories that occurred as a result of one or more of our services, for a chance to win a Gift Card!



## Criteria:

- Minimum of 1 paragraph
- Describe your need/crisis
- What services were provided to you/family
- Explain how these services positively impacted your life

## Submission Deadline

**MAY  
24**

## CONTEST WINNER PRIZES:

1st Place: \$150 Gift Card  
2nd Place: \$100 Gift Card  
3rd Place: \$50 Gift Card

STORIES CAN EITHER BE  
DROPPED OFF AT ANY OF OUR  
LOCATIONS, OR EMAILED TO  
[KROXO@WOCAP.ORG](mailto:KROXO@WOCAP.ORG)

Please leave your name & contact  
number with submission. Stories can  
be made anonymous, and we will ask  
permission before sharing



# YOU'RE INVITED MEET & GREET

Join us as we celebrate  
Community Action Month

At our Open Houses you will have the opportunity to meet our newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Kimberly Bruns



## OPEN HOUSES

We are thrilled to invite you to join us for our upcoming Open Houses!

Come and explore our community-focused environment, meet dedicated team members, and learn more about the innovative work we're doing to provide a local approach to address the causes and conditions of poverty through programming, advocacy and leadership

At our Open House, you'll have the opportunity to:

- Meet talented team members and learn about their roles and contributions
- Discover exciting career opportunities
- Enjoy light refreshments and engaging conversations
- Learn more about the programs and services our agency offers

### ALLEN COUNTY



**May 31, 2024**

1:00 - 3:00 PM  
540 S. Central Ave.,  
Lima, OH

### AUGLAIZE COUNTY



**May 17, 2024**

1:00 - 2:30 PM  
38 E. Auglaize St.,  
Wapak, OH

### MERCER COUNTY



**May 17, 2024**

3:00 - 4:30 PM  
420 N. Brandon Ave.,  
Celina, OH



419-227-2586



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

## HOUSING DEPARTMENT

### Fair Housing

Providing information, training & educational materials to community

Please call Housing Specialist for more information  
Allen & Mercer Counties

### Financial Management

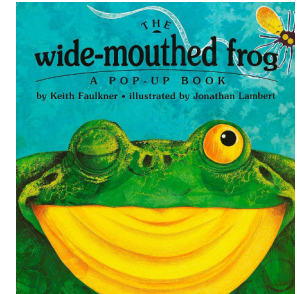
Education on aspects that affect financial security

Please call  
419-227-2586 Ext. 105 if interested

## BOOKS

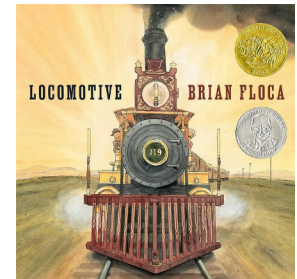
### The Wide-Mouthed Frog

This pop-up book is perfect for Frog Jumping Day on May 13th! The story follows a wide mouthed frog who wants to know what all the critters in the swamp are eating. He gets a little more than he asks for when he meets a neighbor who loves to eat frogs!



### Locomotive

Go back in time when families were traveling by train in this colorful book full of incredible detail about all of the sounds, sights, and places you experience while traveling by train. Oh! Did I forget to mention, National Train Day is May 13th!



## BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to all of our staff  
celebrating in May

- 3 - Erica Lutz
- 6 - Vance Cuthrell
- 6 - Megan Groves
- 8 - Monica Glenn
- 9 - Ceara Caudill
- 12 - Shannon Sien
- 15 - On'Yae Jones
- 18 - Kristen Jordan
- 21 - Lue Bradley
- 29 - Angela Montgomery
- 31 - Ginger Gossard
- 31 - Jen Smith

## CALENDAR

- 10th - Home Based Family Day
- 16th - Policy Council Meeting
- 17th - No EHS Classes
- 22nd - WOCAP Board Meeting
- 24th - Agency CLOSED  
(Agency In-Service)
- 27th - Agency CLOSED  
(Memorial Day)
- 31st - Home Based Family Day

**ENROLL IN EARLY  
HEAD START &  
HEAD START  
TODAY!**

Early Head Start and Head Start are free programs for children birth – 5 years old that qualify.

We Also Offer A Home-Based Option  
A home-based teacher, child, and family work together to provide activities and experiences designed to meet the child's needs in the home

More information can be found at our website  
[www.wocap.org](http://www.wocap.org)

**Call 419-227-2586 &  
ask for our Enrollment  
Specialist**



# THANK YOU TO OUR RSVP VOLUNTEERS

It's wonderful to hear about people who generously give their time and effort to support education! Classroom volunteers play a crucial role in enriching the learning experience for students. Whether they're assisting with activities, providing one-on-one support, or simply being an extra pair of hands, their contribution can make a significant difference. Working with young children can be both incredibly rewarding and challenging, requiring patience, creativity, and a whole lot of energy. These volunteers are often instrumental in creating a nurturing and stimulating environment where young children can learn and grow. Their dedication to supporting early childhood education is invaluable, and they deserve heartfelt appreciation for their commitment to helping our youngest learners thrive.

**WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE AREA AGENCY ON AGING 3'S RSVP PROGRAM STAFF**



## EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE

Our goal is to prepare your child for their next stepping stone of education whether it is Head Start or Kindergarten. Regular Attendance is an important part of your child's educational, social, and emotional development. When children are absent from school they are missing out on a lot of educational and social opportunities. We would like to thank those parents who assure their child is attending school every day. In the month of March, we had 62 children with Perfect Attendance.

Way to Go Parents!

### Central A

Braylyn C.  
Kirmon N.

### Central B

Giovanni A.  
Jalani C.

### EHS Home Based (GG)

Kolton K.  
Abel M.  
Willow T.

### EHS Home Based (JJ)

Ace F.  
Blossom F.  
James K.  
Harley P.

### Lima Sr. I

Ariel T.

### Smart Start

Ah'Zhuri B.  
Maasai S.  
Mamie S.

### Kingdom Daycare

Isabella D.

### Little Rascals B

Jenesis A-J.

### Shawnee Tiny Toddlers

Natalina M.

### Trinity Creative Daycare

Kai M.

### Allen East

Grayson R.  
Maverick S.

### Central D

Jordan J.

### Central G

Karlia B.  
Zander M.

### ELC-Howard B

Zanyla G.  
Carter W.

### ELC-O'Neal A

Kayven C.  
Ralph P.  
Cadence W.

### ELC-O'Neal B

Olivia C.  
Keillan C.  
Za'Kiya E.  
Amiyah M.  
Armani S-M.

### HS Home Based (KC)

Olivia K.  
Xzavier M.  
Meena S.  
Illana W.

### Market St. I

Evelyn B.  
Jazara C.  
Jeremiah J.  
Hezekiah M.

### Market St. II

Douglas S.

### Philippian

America B.  
Ryleigh L.

### St. Matthew's

Messiah R.  
Nasir R.  
Lillyanna S.  
Asher S.  
Khi'Avion T.  
Alayna W.

Let's talk about grief. We all learn to deal with it, but sometimes we forget there is no wrong way to grieve. I would like to remind you no matter how you grieve, or how long it takes, it is right for you. I found it to be an important topic to discuss this month.

Grief is defined as "deep sorrow, especially that caused by someone's death". I've learned that it doesn't subject itself to just the loss of a human someone, but also the loss of our pets. What I have also learned with this is that some people can grieve for only a little time, and others grieve for weeks, months or years to come. Neither is wrong.

Sometimes it can be that everything is absolutely fine one moment, and out of nowhere the tears start running. It can be just going through the motions of everyday life. It can also be the incapability of getting out of bed. While this is not a wrong way to grieve, it is important to seek help if the grief takes over you too much, for too long.

Some resources for grief recovery:

<https://www.griefshare.org/countries/us/states/oh/cities/lima>

<https://www.creativecounselingsolutions.com/>

<https://www.caclima.com/>

## PARENT TO PARENT

### GRIEF

SUBMITTED BY  
MICHELLE PEAKE-WARREN,  
HEAD START PARENT

## Board of Trustees - 2024

Representatives must be One Third Private Business, One Third Public Entity, and One Third Low-Income

Josh Unterbrink (Private) (President)  
Activate Allen County

Mayor Sharetta Smith (Public)  
City of Lima

Natalie Bice (Private) (Treasurer)  
J. M. Green & Associates

Connie Dershem (Low-Income)  
Allen Co Council on Aging

Susan Hord (Private)  
Rhodes State College

Ann Miles (Public)  
Lima City Schools

Janae Lane (Low-Income)  
Policy Council Representative

Elizabeth Muether (Private)  
Mercer County District Library

Hellen Douglas (Low-Income)  
Family Promise

Jerome O'Neal (Public)  
Allen County Commissioner Appointee

Shannon Tyler (Private)  
Premier Bank

Warner Roach (Private)  
City of Lima

Shelly Vaughn (Public)  
Mercer Co. Commissioners Appointee

Linda Chartrand (Private) (VP)  
Retired

Homer Burnett (Low-Income)  
C.A.L.L. Ministries

James Mehaffie (Public)  
City of Delphos Appointee

Anna Schnippel (Low-Income)  
MET Housing Board-Auglaize Co.

Amy Freymuth (Public)  
Auglaize Co Commissioner Appointee



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