

APRIL 2026

Quarter 1 Newsletter



Kimberly Bruns, CEO

WOCAP Awarded Department of Children & Youth Fatherhood Grant to Serve Local Families



We are excited to share that West Ohio CAP has recently been awarded the DCY Fatherhood Grant, bringing new opportunities and support to fathers and families across Allen & Auglaize Counties. This grant will allow WOCAP to launch a structured Fatherhood Program designed to strengthen families by equipping fathers with the tools, knowledge, and confidence to thrive in their roles at home and in the workforce. Research consistently shows that engaged and supported fathers contribute to stronger family stability, improved child outcomes, and healthier communities. The DCY Fatherhood Grant will help address barriers that fathers may face while creating pathways toward economic stability, personal growth, and positive family engagement. By investing in fathers, we are investing in children and the long-term well-being of our entire community. We are grateful for this opportunity to expand our services and look forward to partnering with fathers throughout Allen & Auglaize Counties. Stay tuned for more updates as we prepare to launch this exciting program.



WOCAP hosts ODJFS Director Matthew Damschroder

Last month, WOCAP had the honor of welcoming Matthew Damschroder, Director of the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), to our Allen County Central Site. Director Damschroder has made it a priority to visit Community Action Agencies across the state in preparation for the upcoming transition of Community Action Agency (CAA) programs from the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) to ODJFS. This transition will be finalized on July 1, 2026.

Following a tour of our facility, CEO Kimberly Bruns and the WOCAP leadership team met with Director Damschroder for a roundtable discussion highlighting the critical services we provide and the impact of our work throughout the community. Kimberly Bruns shared, "As many of WOCAP's oversight of funding and monitoring prepare to transition from ODOD to ODJFS, this meeting with Director Damschroder was both timely and meaningful. While a change of this scale naturally brings questions and uncertainty, I was encouraged by Director Damschroder's commitment to partnership, transparency, and supporting the vital services we provide in our communities. WOCAP remains focused on advocating and serving individuals and families, and is hopeful this transition will strengthen the services our community depends on."

We appreciate the opportunity to share our mission and strengthen our partnership with state leadership as we continue serving individuals and families across our region.

Fatherhood Initiative Program

This program is designed to help you grow, connect, and succeed in your role as a parent. Join Our Fatherhood Initiative Program in partnership with Ohio Department of Children and Youth



STRONGER FATHERS. STRONGER FAMILIES.

Who Can Join?

- Fathers with children under the age of 18
- Fathers facing barriers such as employment challenges, housing instability, or limited parenting support

What You'll Learn

- Parenting and co-parenting skills
- Communication and relationship building
- Financial management and goal setting
- Personal growth and leadership

Grow As A Father. Gain Support. Earn Rewards.

Once you complete all 12 classes, you are eligible to receive financial support in the form of assistance that can be used toward purchasing essential daily needs

**The program is flexible &
can be completed through
various options**

Offered Individually, in Group Settings, In-Person, or Online

**Classes Begin
April 2026**

Each Session Includes 12 Classes & 90 Days of Follow-Up

Ready To Become The Best Dad You Can Be?

If you are a father who wants to build a stronger future for your family, we encourage you to join us. Our team is here to support you every step of the way



BUILD CONFIDENCE. STRENGTHEN RELATIONSHIPS. SHOW UP AS YOUR BEST SELF.

Vance Cuthrell, Program Manager
419-227-2586 x 156

Shelby Ashenfelter, Mentor Coach
419-227-2586 x 105

FROM INTERNSHIP TO IMPACT: GROWING WITH WOCAP

MEET SYDNEY GRISIER

WOCAP is proud to highlight one of our emerging professionals who brings a strong passion for community-focused work. A 2022 graduate of Bryan High School, she went on to attend Bluffton University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Social Work in May 2026. She plans to continue her education at Bluffton University by pursuing her Master of Social Work (MSW), with an anticipated completion in 2028. Her academic journey has played a significant role in shaping her interests and commitment to serving others. During her time at Bluffton, she explored a variety of career paths within the field of social work. While she initially knew she wanted to make a positive difference in the lives of others, her experiences helped her identify where her strengths and passions aligned. Through this exploration, she developed a strong interest in community-based work and initiatives that support and strengthen families and communities. This clarity ultimately solidified her decision to pursue social work and continue advancing in the field.



Continuing The Journey At WOCAP

WOCAP is pleased to announce that Sydney will be continuing her career with the agency following her graduation in May. She has accepted a position within our Energy Conservation Program. We are excited to have her remain part of our team and look forward to supporting her continued growth, as she brings her knowledge, dedication, and passion to this important work.



Reflecting on her time, Sydney shared:

For anyone searching for an internship, I highly encourage considering WOCAP. The staff are incredibly welcoming and supportive, creating an environment that truly helps students transition from college life into the professional world. The guidance and encouragement I've received here have been invaluable, and I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to continue working at WOCAP and to keep growing both personally and professionally.

SYDNEY'S PASSION FOR WOCAP

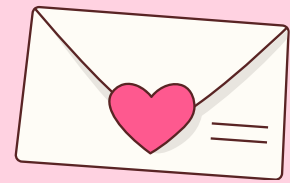
Sydney has expressed a strong appreciation for WOCAP's mission, vision, and core values, noting how meaningful it is to be part of an organization that is deeply committed to community action and supporting families facing challenging circumstances. Her experience has reinforced the impact of WOCAP's work and the importance of providing services that empower individuals and strengthen communities. As she begins her professional journey, she is most looking forward to making a positive and lasting impact within the community. She is especially interested in contributing to efforts that help reduce barriers for low-income families and support programs that create meaningful, long-term change

CAREER & CREATIVITY

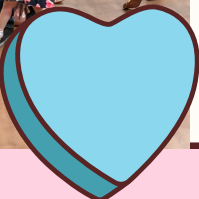
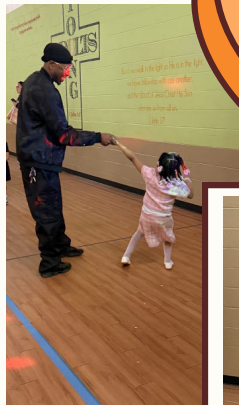
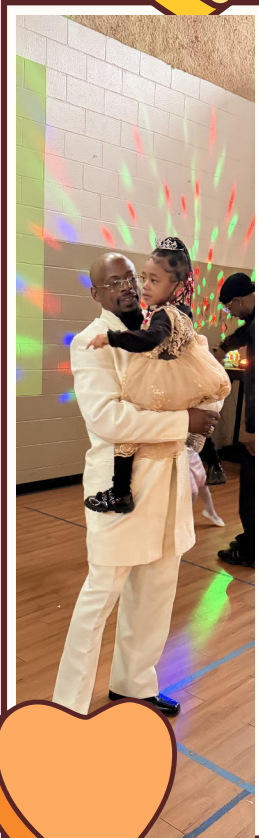
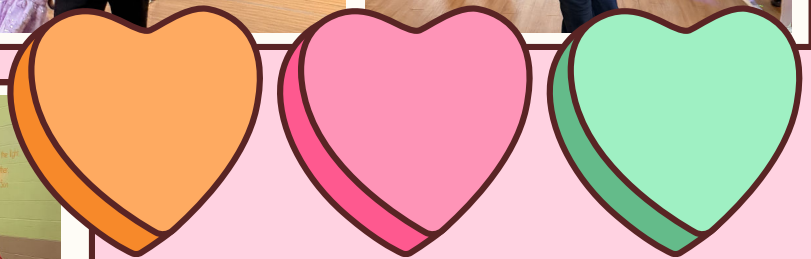
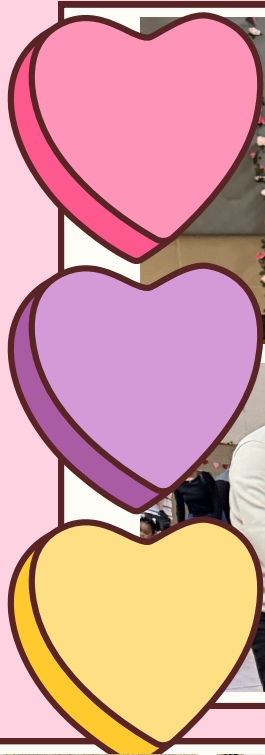
While she continues to explore her long-term career path, Sydney is eager to learn, grow, and gain experience in the field. She has expressed interest in continuing her professional development within WOCAP and is open to future opportunities that allow her to expand her skills and knowledge.

Outside of her professional interests, Sydney enjoys creative and hands-on activities. She has a passion for scrapbooking, which she uses as a form of self-care, and has completed eight scrapbook albums over the past five years.

Father/Daughter Dance



Our agency recently hosted a special Father-Daughter Dance, bringing families together for an evening of connection, laughter, and lasting memories. Dads and daughters enjoyed music, dancing, light refreshments, and time to simply celebrate one another. Events like these remind us that strengthening families goes beyond services, it reminds us how powerful connection and quality time can be in strengthening families and building lasting bonds.



WINTER

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

JAN 2026

Community Spotlight:

🍪 Thank You, Sara's Sweets! 🍪

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Sara's Sweets for graciously sponsoring our recent family engagement event by providing a special cookie discount for our families.

Thanks to Sara's generosity, families enjoyed a wonderful day filled with cookie decorating, bingo, and hot cocoa provided by Biggby Coffee. The event had an amazing turnout, with 35 families participating and sharing time together while enjoying delicious treats and fun activities.

Additional cookies were also shared with our off-site classrooms so that students and teachers could enjoy the sweet experience as well.

Events like these remind us that it's the little things that make a big difference – sometimes a small sweet treat can truly brighten someone's day!

We are incredibly grateful for Sara's Sweets' support of our families and community.

📍 Sara's Sweets
435 S Eastown Rd, Lima, OH
☎ 419-371-4745

Thank you again, Sara's Sweets, for helping make this event such a success!



Building Stronger Teams Through Cardio Drumming



As part of our commitment to supporting employee wellness, WOCAP recently provided staff the opportunity to participate in an energizing Cardio Drumming class series in partnership with local instructor Lady Redd. Under Lady Redd's enthusiastic leadership, staff members grabbed their drumsticks and followed along to upbeat routines that got everyone moving, laughing, and stepping outside of their comfort zones. The classes not only promoted physical wellness but also provided a valuable opportunity for team-building across departments. Working out together encouraged connection, collaboration, and camaraderie in a new and refreshing way. Staff members enjoyed supporting one another, sharing a few laughs, and strengthening relationships outside of their typical work environment. We are grateful to Lady Redd for bringing her energy and expertise to our teams, and we look forward to continuing opportunities that support staff wellness while building a stronger, more connected workplace.

Are you ready for a new, exciting and rewarding career?

With pride in service and a commitment to excellence, WOCAP has been making a difference in the lives of individuals and families for over 25 years. WOCAP is an ideal organization to build knowledge and develop skill sets, while simultaneously improving the quality of life for Northwest Ohio's residents.

WE ARE HIRING

Work in a fast-paced, growing organization, while receiving a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Competitive Wages
- Medical, Dental, Vision
- 13 Paid Holidays
- 5 Personal Days
- Sick Leave
- Vacation Leave
- Weekends Off
- EAP Program
- Paid Tuition
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness



To view open opportunities, review job descriptions, and apply online, please visit our website at www.wocap.org



**BUS
STOP**



“Baby on Board” is a program started August 2025 through Allen Co. RTA and receives technical assistance from Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission. It is grant-funded through Ohio Department of Transportation’s OTP2 allocation.



Lima/Allen County
REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION



For more details and resources about “BABY ON BOARD,” please visit: www.lacrpc.com

BABY ON BOARD

FREE BUS TRANSPORTATION FOR FAMILIES!

ALLEN COUNTY RTA IS OFFERING FREE FIXED ROUTE BUS SERVICE TO PREGNANT WOMEN OR PARENTS WHO HAVE A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 2 (EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE FOR FAMILIES WITH A CHILD UP TO AGE 5). GET YOUR FREE MONTHLY PASS BY CONTACTING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNER AGENCIES LISTED BELOW.

GET A FREE “BABY ON BOARD” BUS PASS HERE:



Heartbeat of Lima
421 S. Cable Rd.
Lima, Ohio 45805 419-222-7945



Lima Memorial Health System
1001 Bellefontaine Ave.
Lima, Ohio 45804 419-228-3335



Mercy Health - St. Rita’s Medical
Center 730 W. Market St.
Lima, Ohio 45801 419-227-3361



West Ohio Community Action Partnership
540 S. Central Ave.
Lima, Ohio 45804 419-227-2586



Helping Hands

Parent & Guardian Classroom Support Sign-Up

We Need Your Help!

Lend a helping hand in our classrooms!

We are currently experiencing staffing needs, and your support helps ensure classrooms remain safe, consistent, and fully supported.

Why Volunteer?

- ✓ Support your child's classroom
- ✓ Help maintain a safe environment
- ✓ Be part of the learning experience
- ✓ Make a difference for all children



Volunteer Times

Morning & Afternoon Support Needed

Flexible Hours

Sign Up Today!

Scan the QR Code to Sign Up



Or Visit:

<https://forms.office.com/r/rch6f4qWZj>

Thank You!

Your time and support make a difference.
We appreciate our Head Start families!



*Helping People.
Changing Lives.*



\$1.6M

Volunteer Amount



1,347

Volunteers



73,303

Volunteer Hours

Education



153

enrolled in Early Head Start

262

enrolled in Head Start

111

enrolled at our Child Care Partnerships

49

children enrolled
in Kindergarten
Kamp

47,490

meals served
to children

Transportation

22

Households received
Bus Passes for employment,
school, and/or medical
appointments



Health & Social Behavioral

167

individuals enrolled in
our MVP Parenting
Program

144

children received
holiday gifts & family
hygiene bags

50

families received food
resources during
holiday season

Community Engagement

20

individuals completed
our Bridges out of
Poverty Program

26

individuals enrolled in
our Getting Ahead
Program



*Helping People.
Changing Lives.*



8,681

households received Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Assistance



2,759

households received Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) Assistance



90

households received Energy Conservation Program Assistance

Housing



8

households received Landlord/Tenant Mediation Services through Ohio Civil Rights Commission

18

Rent Payments

15

households received Lead Abatement Assistance

20

households received deposit payments

44

Rent Arrears Payments

Supportive Services

163

households received Weatherization assistance

15

individuals received EmERGE Services for SSI

188

households received Fair Housing Services through Landlord/Tenant Education

Income & Asset Building

38

individuals completed our Start-Up Lab Program

17

individuals in our Financial Management Program

9

individuals in our Homeownership Program

WOCAP Board of Trustees - 2026

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Homer Burnett
C.A.L.L. Food Pantry

Brianna Dysert
Policy Council Representative

Hellen Douglas
Family Promise

Patti Hamilton
AGAPE Ministries - Auglaize

Shannon Tyler
MET Housing - Allen

Private Representative

Linda Chartrand (VP)
Retired

Warner Roach
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Benchmark Human Services

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Lima City Schools

Georgiana Saffle
Allen Co. Commissioner Appointee

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City of Lima

Beth Guggenbiller
Mercer Co. Commissioners Appointee

Allen County
540 S. Central Avenue
Lima, OH

Auglaize County
38 E. Auglaize Street
Wapakoneta, OH

Mercer County
441 E. Market Street
Celina, OH

