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Seasons of CHANGE

Christians Helping Arrange New Growth Enterprises

CHANGE, Inc. is a United Way & Community Action Agency, Community Health Center, and receives federal, state & local funding.



MAZAR NAMED CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER



The CHANGE, Inc. Board of Directors

and Senior Management are pleased to announce that Christopher Mazar has been named as the agency's Chief Financial Officer.

The position will be responsible for the oversight of all fiscal management and reporting, including payroll, program and agency wide budgets, cost reports, fiscal projections, funding submissions and the annual independent

audit.

"We are pleased to have Christopher join our agency. CHANGE, Inc has grown considerably over the years while always taking into consideration the needs of our customers and surrounding communities.

Christopher's background in financial management will be a welcome addition to our

"I am blessed to be a part of the CHANGE, Inc. team and look forward to helping this organization better serve the community."

management team," stated Judy Raveaux, CEO.

A Hancock County resident, Mr. Mazar received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Accounting at Robert Morris University in 1996. Before taking the position with CHANGE, Inc., Mr. Mazar worked as a Financial Analysis Manager for a corporation in Cranberry Township, Pennsylvania, and brings over 12 years of financial management experience to CHANGE, Inc.

ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAM SET TO OPEN

Throughout the last few years, Hancock and Brooke County's economy has steadily declined, opening the door for increased crime, poverty and prevalence of at-risk behaviors in youth, such as teen birth, juvenile arrests, and school failure. Though the percent of high school dropouts reaches 10.4%, the number of 18-24 year olds who do

not have a high school diploma (23%), and did not further their education (65%) is a major concern in an area with such high unemployment (high 5.9).

To combat these risks, Weirton Christian Center created Project DESTINY. Project DESTINY is a unique program designed to change the destiny of

the at-risk youth in Hancock and Brooke County, and has gained the support of a large number of area organizations. The project offers programs for youth aged 5-18 aimed at encouraging their individual abilities, while at the same time instilling teambuilding, leadership and employment skills, a love of learning, and self

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Upcoming Events

- August 10-16 - Community Health Center Week
- August 25-29 - CAA Annual Conference

Sign Up for CHANGE, Inc.'s Paperless Newsletter at www.changeinc.org

TWO RECEIVE RECOGNITION AT STATE CAP CONFERENCE

The Annual State Community Action Partnership Conference was held in Daniels, WV the first week of May, and ended with two CHANGE, Inc. employees receiving plaques recognizing the hard work and dedication they give to the residents of the Ohio Valley.

The week long annual conference brought together community action employees from around the state to share their expertise, and learn about new programs, procedures, best practices and regulations.



CEO Judy Raveaux and Case Manager Cheryl Olexia accept awards at the WV CAP Conference.

During the Awards Ceremony the final morning, Chief Executive Officer Judy Raveaux was presented with a plaque in recognition of her 25 years of service and commitment to the residents of the Ohio Valley, her devotion to the promise of

Community Action and her dedication to ensuring CHANGE, Inc. will be able to aid the community for years to come.

Case Manager and Health Benefits Coordinator Cheryl Olexia was also honored in recognition for her dedication and commitment to CHANGE, Inc. and the community.

CHANGE, Inc. is also proud to announce that the agency will host next year's state conference at the Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack & Resort.

GINGERBREAD CORNER CLOSÉS—MAKES ROOM FOR FMC

After five years in operation, the Gingerbread Corner will be closing its doors for the final time on July 31, 2008.

Due largely in part to the declining economy, the store did not meet the expectations of its original purpose as a fundraising avenue for CHANGE, Inc. After much consideration, the Board of Directors decided to close the doors, and refocus on the growing need for health care in the Ohio Valley.

All remaining Gingerbread Corner Department inventory has been marked down for quick sale, and furniture and fixtures will also be sold to make room for a brand new medical office.

CHANGE, Inc. is in the process of recruiting a new provider and nurse practitioner to join Family Medical Care to help combat the over 70,000 uninsured residents living within the Ohio Valley. The store will be completely remodeled to house five exam

rooms, two offices, and a waiting room for the new provider, and will allow Family Medical Care to see a greater number of patients.

Construction on the new exam rooms and provider offices will begin once the Gingerbread Corner has been closed and all furniture, fixtures and inventory has been sold.

CHANGE, Inc. would like to thank the customers of the Gingerbread Corner for your support throughout the years.

AREA YOUTH CENTERS CONSOLIDATE

To accommodate the new Entrepreneurial Program, and to eliminate the duplication of services, CHANGE, Inc. and the Weirton Christian Center have combined their after-school programs into one location.

Beginning the first week of June, CHANGE, Inc. officially closed The Mario T. Pipinos Neighborhood Center, and moved the after-school site to the Weirton Christian Center.

The new site will be a part of

Project DESTINY and focus on youth aged 5-14.

For more information on Project DESTINY or information on how to volunteer, please contact CHANGE, Inc. at 304.797.7733.

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM OFF TO GREAT START



Kicking off on June 9, at three locations in Hancock and Brooke Counties, the Summer Food Service Program

will again offer free nutritious lunches during the summer months for youth under 18 years of age.

The Summer Food Service Program opened a new site at

the Weirton Christian Center and returned to the Follansbee Park and the Betty Carr Recreation Center in Wellsburg.

The sites will be open from 11:00 to 1:00 pm, June 9 to August 15, 2008, and serve free, nutritional lunches to youth under the age of 18. Last year the sites throughout

Hancock and Brooke Counties feed 559 children over 5,650 meals during the three months of summer.

For more information on the programs mentioned above, or how to volunteer for the Summer Food Service Program, please contact CHANGE, Inc. at 304.797.7733.

BUSH BUDGET IGNORES REALITIES OF LOW-INCOME

President Bush's 2009 Budget released in February eliminates key funding for low-wage American families and communities while the economy struggles and job losses are on the rise, said National Community Action Foundation Executive Director David Bradley.

"The President seeks economic stimulus and has called his budget request a 'freeze' on domestic discretionary programs. However, to keep the overall spending level constant, the President recommends destroying dozens of programs that open opportunities for America's most economically vulnerable families and communities," Bradley said.

Bush's budget proposes complete elimination of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which provides low-income community resources through Community Action Agencies (CAAs) in 99% of all US counties. CSBG funds allow each CAA to address

local poverty issues by mobilizing resources and people to provide uniquely local solutions.

"Once again Congress is expected to reject the President's planned elimination of CSBG. Congressional leadership of both parties has found ways to increase Community Action programs because they are able to see the differences they have made in their communities," Bradley said. "While I recognize Bush is a lame-duck president, I fear his budget proposal may be a place to start if a new Republican president is inaugurated in 2009."

Bush's budget request also eliminates the Weatherization Assistance Program, which invests in state-of-the-art energy upgrades for homes of low-wage workers, retirees and the disabled. Homes that have been weatherized through this program in the past 15 years will save an average of \$404 this year as compared to

their projected bills without the efficiency investments.

This estimated saving from Weatherization is equal to or higher than most bill-payment benefits from the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, which Bush also cuts in his budget plan.

"In the face of rising energy costs, it is absurd that the President would propose to reduce help for the poorest energy consumers and to do less to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse emissions of low-income households," Bradley said.

"The proposal is symptomatic of the Administration's approach to federal spending, which appears to be that those most vulnerable to the current economic downturn contribute the most and expect fewer educational and health resources for their children and aging parents even as the immediate support they can hope for is taken away," he said.

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-confidence.

As a partner of the overall project, CHANGE, Inc. will provide staff, funding and space to open and operate an Entrepreneurial Program, targeting youth aged 14-18, to address a number of the risk behaviors prevalent in Hancock and Brooke County, most importantly limited employment.

The Entrepreneurial Program will give at-risk youth in Hancock and Brooke County the ability to learn design media, marketing and basic business skills that would help them further their education or join the emerging design media field.

Through the Entrepreneurial Program youth will learn communication and

interpersonal skills as they relate to "clients" and each other to create promotional materials that tell a story. The youth will work on projects for actual United Way agencies, thus allowing them to see their projects come to fruition, and offering a valuable service to non-profit agencies without the luxury of marketing budgets. This practice will also lead way to a plan of sustainability, by offering the services of the program to for profit businesses in the community, and to colleges for internship programs.

The Entrepreneurial Program will operate year round out of the Neighborhood Center in CHANGE, Inc.'s building, with school year hours from 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm, and summer hours from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm.

The media center will be equipped with state of the art

computers and software for video and audio production and graphic design. The all-encompassing instruction, taught by an Independent Consultant through a partnership with Weaver Media Group, will enable the youth to create numerous promotional materials for non-profit, and eventually for profit agencies, including flyers, posters, informational brochures, logos, identity packages, newsletters, Power Point presentations, websites, radio and television commercials, public service announcements, and training videos.

Construction for the media center will begin in July 2008. Information regarding how to enroll in the program will be available on CHANGE, Inc.'s website (www.changeinc.org) in the coming months.



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Check us out on the Web
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www.familymc.org