

THE BCAP BUZZ

BURLINGTON COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP, INC. QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



A Message From the CEO

Dear Community Action Partnership Community,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. I am delighted to share with you the highlights of our successful quarter in delivering services to our community. It has been a period of growth, progress, and meaningful impact, and I am immensely proud of the work we have accomplished together.

First and foremost, I am thrilled to announce that we have successfully moved our Administrative office to a new location. This move was not just about changing our physical address, but about creating a space that is employee and customer friendly. Our new offices are designed to foster collaboration, creativity, and a sense of community. We believe that a positive work environment translates into better services for our community, and we are excited to see the positive impact this move will have on our operations.

In addition to our office move, we have also established new centers to further support the work of our partnerships. These centers will serve as hubs for collaboration, innovation, and resource-sharing. We believe that by bringing together our customers in a central location, we can amplify our collective impact and create even greater change in our community. We are excited to see the incredible ideas and initiatives that will emerge from these new centers.

As we look ahead to 2024, we are filled with anticipation and enthusiasm. We have big plans and exciting projects in the pipeline, all aimed at making a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. We invite you to stay tuned for more updates and news as we continue to work towards our mission of empowering individuals and strengthening our community so that they can "THRIVE".

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and staff, thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we can achieve great things.

Warm regards,

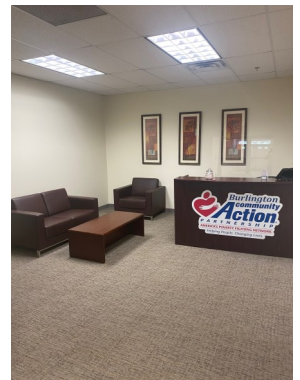
Dr. Ruben A. Johnson, CEO

Welcome to the fourth issue of the quarterly newsletter, *The BCAP Buzz*! This issue will have updates from the full year of 2023. You'll find news about BCAP as a whole, individual programs, new staff members, upcoming events and much more! We encourage you to visit our website at www.bccap.org for more information.

New This Year

Administrative Office

In May 2023, BCAP moved to a new administrative office located at 455 Larchmont Blvd, Suite 2, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. The office is located in a suite that is on the rear side of the 7-Eleven store that is on Marne highway. The departments working from this location are Administration, Parenting Education and the Center for Civic Engagements and Community Partnerships.



Center for Community and Support Services

The office previously named the Dickens Center at 1 Van Sciver Parkway, Willingboro, NJ 08046 has been renovated and renamed the Center for Community and Support Services. The building now features a receptionist desk that customers can access prior to entering the building, along with a new and improved waiting area. The home energy and housing programs will be at this location. This office will be opening in mid January, we look forward to seeing you there.



Center for Children, Youth and Families

BCAP's Child Care Resource and Referral Department has moved to a new location! The new address is 718 Route 130 South, which is conveniently situated in Burlington City. This new location offers a larger space that is family friendly. We believe this move will enable us to provide an even better experience for our customers. We also have a secure drop box for customers who would like to bring their applications and documents after hours. Stay tuned for information on our Welcome to the Neighborhood event this Spring!





The following people have joined our ranks during the 2023 year:

Please join us in welcoming them to BCAP:

Christine Luddy

Childcare Case Manager

Ava Suarez

Childcare Case Manager

Marlo Fairlie

Childcare Professional Development Trainer

Doreen Rabassa

Receptionist, Center for Community and Support Services

Paulette O'Brady

Senior Housing File Clerk

Kayla Rizzo

Healthy Families Family Support Specialist

Bintu Mustapha

Healthy Families Family Support Specialist

Recent Events

BCAP Early Care and Learning Forum

On April 28, 2023 BCAP hosted a forum on Early Care and Learning. Staff and some community guests reported to the Hilton Garden Inn, Westampton for a day of professional development and lunch. Our keynote speaker was Kate Hodges from the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER), Rutgers University. Ms. Hodges discussed some trends and affects from Covid which were engaging and informative. We also had a panel of 3 guests that spoke about what happened during the pandemic and how things are going now with early education and early care. We had a Parents Panel that spoke about how they fared during the pandemic and how our programs were able to assist.

BCAP Annual Day

BCAP held this annual day to go over its yearly progress and update the community on its impact. It was a time for BCAP to honor its employees, board members and community partners for their outstanding service.



Staff Appreciation Day

For our Annual Staff Appreciation Day, BCAP staff spent the day at Pinsetters bowling alley in Maple Shade. There was bowling, food and prizes for everyone to enjoy. Victoria Reger won the prize for best Red, White and Blue Outfit.



Willingboro Trunk or Treat

We partnered with Willingboro Township for their annual trunk or treat. BCAP was able to inform the community about our programs and distribute some much appreciated treats.



Recent Events

Thanksgiving Food Drive

BCAP partnered with Commissioned 2 Serve Church to assist with the distribution of Thanksgiving baskets. BCAP supplied 150 turkeys for this event along with some staff members who were happy to volunteer.



Burlington Bar Association Thanksgiving Meal Distribution

BCAP partnered with the Burlington Bar association to distribute hot, prepared meals for the Parents as Teachers and Healthy Families Programs and the residents that live at the Roebling Village Inn and Hancock Lane senior housing facilities. We are happy that this partnership has flourished for several years now. We appreciate this relationship and look forward to working together in the future.



Burlington City Food Pantry Christmas Distribution

BCAP partnered with the Burlington City Food Pantry to distribute Christmas food baskets. BCAP provided 165 whole chickens and volunteer staff assisted with the food distribution.



A Message from the Leadership

Claire Garner - Director of Parenting Education

Every month BCAP's Home Visiting Programs, Healthy Families & Parents as Teachers host a Group Connection where parents in both programs meet and information is presented about relevant topics. Before the pandemic these meetings were held in person, in April 2021 we began holding virtual Group Connections. We are now hosting in-person and virtual meetings. In July we were at Smithville Park for a Family Fun Day with food, activities, and games. We recently hosted an information session about Gentle Parenting that parents had requested. In the fall, a puppeteer from the Burlington County Library performed a puppet show and the families made puppets. We recently had an in-person session informing the parents about fine motor skills and the families were able to experience activities involving those skills. The children painted, colored, drew pictures and built with blocks.

Home visiting is free and voluntary for pregnant and new parents and provides support, information and resources. If interested please call Claire Garner at 856-644-6565 ext. 1008.



Susan Ford - Deputy Director of Children and Families



During the pandemic, the Consumer Education Resource Specialist at the Child Care Resource & Referral office at Burlington Community Action Partnership (BCAP) developed a unique way of getting into the classrooms and bringing a smile to the children's masked faces. Chris Robles contacted child care providers and offered to come into the classroom virtually, calling it BCAP Book Club. Her offering was story time with the children and an activity the teacher can do with the kids following the session. This became very popular!

Since we have been able to have in-person visits with the providers, Chris now goes out to the facilities and does the BCAP Book Club in person. The children have a fun time, and the teachers get a break. Chris also includes follow-up activities that the teachers can do with the children. We receive messages and comments from the providers about how much they enjoy their time with Miss Chris!

Gina Adams - Deputy Director of Community and Support Services.

Ms. Hawkins is a life long resident of Burlington County. For many years she and her significant other shared a home. After his death she found it difficult to meet all of her household expenses on her own with a fixed income. Ms. Hawkins applied for several subsidized senior housing in the County, including BCAP. She was told that the wait list ranged between 2-5 years. She had no choice but to wait.

The owner of the house she was renting decided to sell it. The new owner raised the rent. She began to fall further and further behind in her rent and faced eviction. She had nowhere to go. In fall 2023, Ms. Hawkins contacted BCAP to see where her name was on the senior housing list and if she could get back rent assistance to stay in her home. She was advised that there were several applicants ahead of her on BCAP's senior housing waitlist. She completed an intake to assist her with back rent. It was determined that she was not eligible for back rent assistance because her income was not sufficient to pay the rent going forward. She went to court regarding her pending eviction. She was given an order that she had to leave her home. Later that same day, she received an email and voicemail from BCAP advising her that her name reached the top of the list after waiting about 18 months. Miss Hawkins reports "I am happy and relaxed. I sleep better knowing I have a roof over my head. I enjoy living in my new apartment. I am so relieved and thankful that BCAP came through for me"





BCAP BOOK CLUB

Welcome to our new reading program...The BCAP BOOK CLUB. Simply contact Chris Morrison via email chmorrison@bccap.org or 609-835-4329 ext 5144 to book a virtual reading.

Virtual Reading includes:

20-30 minute Zoom Reading with Chris

And an Age Appropriate Activity

Corresponding with story read to class.



**I look forward to reading
with you!**

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Events 2024	
Jan 12th	All BCAP Offices are closed for BCAP Professional Development Day
Jan 15th	All BCAP Offices are closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day
Feb 19th	All BCAP Offices are closed for Presidents' Day
Mar 15th	LIHEAP Emergency Season begins
Mar 29th	All BCAP Offices are closed for Good Friday

Visit the BCAP Facebook Page for more information about the above events.

For more details about CCR&R training opportunities,
please see the full brochure at:

<http://www.bccap.org/early-childhood-training-opportunities>

CCR&R Early Childhood Training Opportunities							
Jan 3th	Clean Hands are Healthy Hands	Jan 4th	FCC Orientation	Jan 17th	The Growing Brain: The Basics (Unit 1)	Jan 18th	Clean Hands are Healthy Hands
Jan 23th	Tantrum or Melt-down	Jan 24th	Rating is Within Your Reach	Jan 25th	NJ Birth to Three Early Learning Standards Domain 1: Social and Emotional Development	Feb 1st	FCC Orientation
Feb 7th	Sanitizing Surfaces Keeps Us Healthy	Feb 15th	Sensory Play	Feb 20th	The Growing Brain: The Factors Affecting Brain and Development (Unit 2)	Feb 21st	The Growing Brain: The Factors Affecting Brain and Development (Unit 2)
Feb 29th	NJ Birth to Three Early Learning Standards Domain 2: Approaches to Learning	TBD	More to be added				

History of BCAP

Burlington Community Action Partnership (BCAP) (formerly known as Burlington County Community Action Program) began operating in 1965. The organization was established to address the needs of low-income persons in Burlington County.

Nationally, at the time of the Agency's inception, Congress had declared its War on Poverty and signed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. It stated that everyone in America should have an opportunity to obtain an education, work, and live in decency and with dignity. As one of the most significant legislative documents of our time, it impacted positively upon the lives of America's poor and disadvantaged of all ages, races, colors, creeds, and ethnic backgrounds. It provided for the creation of Community Action Agencies throughout the nation to work toward the elimination of poverty.

Locally, in response to the critical human needs of the poor, a small group of individuals began meeting in each other's homes and in area churches to develop strategies for eliminating poverty and removing the barriers to self-sufficiency. With dedication to the mission and a common vision, those unsung heroes carved out the framework for a community-based organization of people helping people to help themselves.

Now one of the oldest of twenty-three community action agencies operating in New Jersey, Burlington Community Action Partnership is led by a tripartite Board of Trustees consisting of one-third representation from community stakeholders, one-third from public officials, and one-third from low-income residents.

The number and scope of activities administered by BCAP has grown steadily over the years. The Agency has moved from a small grassroots direct services program to one that operates projects having long-term effect on the community and totaling more than \$10 million annually. Program funds are used to support Housing and Energy, Community Services, Education and Health; and are reflective of the Agency's commitment to serving low-income persons in Burlington County.

OUR MISSION

The Burlington Community Action Partnership exists to combat the causes and reduce the effects of poverty in Burlington County. It fulfills the purpose by:

- Facilitating a community-based capacity for the human needs planning process, which focuses program strategies on promoting self-sufficiency among low-income people.
- Removing barriers to self-sufficiency among low-income people in the organization and operation of institutions and programs.
- Maximizing participation of low-income people in the development and implementation of programs and projects and in the decision-making process of institutions affecting their lives.
- Testing new approaches to solving basic causes of poverty provided that they do not involve BCAP as a long-term, direct service provider.
- Supporting self-help groups and other cooperative efforts among low-income people.
- Working to better organize services related to the needs of the poor.
- Broadening resource base of programs directed to the elimination of poverty.
- Providing safe, decent, affordable housing to low- and moderate-income families.
- Providing housing counseling services.

Our Programs

- ◇ First-Time Homebuyer Education and Pre-Purchase Counseling
- ◇ Permanent Housing with Supportive Services
- ◇ Homelessness Prevention Program
- ◇ Housing Counseling Services
- ◇ Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP)
- ◇ Senior Apartments with Supportive Services
- ◇ Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- ◇ Universal Service Fund (USF)
- ◇ Healthy Families-TIP
- ◇ Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- ◇ Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R)
- ◇ New Jersey Cares For Kids (NJCK)
- ◇ Work First New Jersey (WFNJ)
- ◇ Family Child Care
- ◇ Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships

For more information about the above programs, please visit our website at www.bccap.org.

Our Locations—Where to Apply

Administrative Office

455 Larchmont Blvd., Suite 2
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
(856) 644-6565

Center for Community and Support Services

1 Van Sciver Parkway
Willingboro, NJ 08046
(609) 835-4329

Available Programs:

Housing Assistance | Home Energy Assistance

Center for Children, Youth and Families

718 Camden Avenue (GPS address)
718 Rt. 130 South (Mailing Address)
Burlington, NJ 08016
(609) 386-5800

Available Programs:

Childcare Assistance | Parent and Provider Trainings

Human Services Facility - 2nd Floor

795 Woodlane Road
Mt. Holly, NJ 08060
(609) 261-6834

Available Programs (2nd floor):

Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) | Family Child Care
(609) 261-6834

Healthy Families—TIP | Parents as Teachers (PAT)
(856) 644-6565 ext. 1008 cgarner@bccap.org

Special thanks to our funding sources

BURLINGTON COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - BURLINGTON COUNTY OFFICE OF HUMAN SERVICES - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF STATE - NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES - UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT - UNITED WAY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA AND SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY



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Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
(856) 644-6565

Work for BCAP*!

Make a difference in your community, apply for a position with us at:

<http://www.bccap.org/employment-opportunities>

*BCAP is an equal-opportunity employer.