

# CAAC NEWS



Helping People. Changing Lives. We are Community Action of Allegheny County.



## Community Action Buzz

As recruitment season approaches, it's time for all of us to come together and play our part in spreading the word about our valuable programs and services. This summer, we will be actively participating in numerous community events, showcasing what CAAC has to offer and engaging with potential new members and supporters.

Being visible at these events is just one way we can raise awareness. Each of us, in our everyday interactions, has an opportunity to highlight CAAC services. Whether you're at a local market, a neighborhood gathering, or simply chatting with friends, sharing information about our agency can make a significant impact.

To ensure you have the resources you need, please reach out to Sara D. for information on agency programs or to obtain any collateral material you might require. Together, we can make this recruitment season a success and continue to support and grow our community.

**Sara Denzel**  
**Marketing and Volunteer Program Manager**

*Pictured above: CAAC  
Bus Transportation Team*

## PROGRAM FEATURE: BUS TRANSPORTATION

Summer is quickly approaching and the Head Start Bus Drivers are getting ready to hang up their keys and head off to their summer adventures!

Our bus drivers are frontline workers who play a crucial role in establishing a safe and reliable routine for our students. They serve as a vital face-to-face connection with parents and guardians, ensuring that families feel secure and informed. They don't just transport children; they provide stability and reassurance, fostering a positive start and end to each school day.

A big change to the routine this year was classroom mail delivery. In the past, classrooms have sent representative staff members to the main office on Fridays to pick up mailbox items. This year mail was delivered via school bus by Bonnie Runkel and Amy Hopper. A big thank you goes out to the staff members who helped with the process, and a special shoutout to Bonnie and Amy for making those deliveries run smoothly each week!

## Board Member Recognition

Ronni Collison's journey with CAAC exemplifies the transformative power of service and community engagement. Initially involved in her child's Head Start program, Ronni's volunteer work revealed her dedication to making a difference. Her commitment led to her role on the Policy Council, where she helped shape initiatives for five years, earning the position of Vice Chair. Recognized for her leadership, she was elected to CAAC's Board of Directors. Ronni's deep passion for serving others and breaking the cycle of poverty continues to inspire and drive positive change within our community. Ronni was awarded a Michigan Community Action award for her outstanding involvement, engagement, and advocacy for Allegan County families.



Left: Lisa Evans, Ronni Collison, and Brian McGrain (MCA Executive Director)



Plainwell Early Head Start Students Having a Blast!

## Starr Teachers Feel the Love

Head Start Teachers Jackie Brewster and Tina Wellington were treated to free t-shirts and goodies from the office staff of Starr Elementary School for Teacher Appreciation Week. Well deserved, indeed!



Above: Jackie Brewster and Tina Wellington

## CAAC Calendar

Happy Father's Day to all of our CAAC dads! And a special Happy Father's Day to all of those who provide a fatherly role to other people's children, to fathers who are parenting alone, and to women who provide the roles of both mom and dad.

Happy Father's Day!

june 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Plainwell Island City Fest
2	3	4	5	6 Boomer Bash	7 Happy Birthday, Jacquie Murray!	8 Allegan Bridgefest
9	10	11 Happy Birthday, Ashley Wells!	12 Happy Birthday, Love Kiracofe & Bobbie Newberry!	13 CSFP 9-2	14	15
16 Father's Day	17 Policy Council 9:00 CAAC Board 11:00	18 Happy Birthday, Terry Emelander & Beth Schmidt!	19 Closed Juneteenth	20 Summer Solstice 🍷	21	22
23 Happy Birthday, Faith Koski!	24	25 TEFAP 10-1 Happy Birthday, Karah Rowe!	26 Happy Birthday, Liz Spaulding!	27 Early Ed Splash into Summer Party	28	29
30						

# CAAC New Employees and Workaversaries



## Volunteer Recognition

The new Program Assistant for the Diaper Program, Rozalyn Denzel, is a familiar face to most staff in the Water Street office. That is because before joining our team, she spent over 200 hours over the past 4 years volunteering for our agency. She recently graduated from Lake Michigan College, and was among a small group of students recognized for outstanding volunteerism in the community. She was awarded a special endorsement from MEMCA along with her diploma.



Rozalyn Denzel with her diploma and MEMCA endorsement for volunteerism

## It's Graduation Season!

Graduation season is a time of anticipation and change, and many of us are feeling just that. This year, Jennifer Blake has two graduates from Hamilton High School! Her daughter Haylee will be going to Lake Superior State University in the fall, and Manny will continue his career at PVT. Rozalyn Denzel graduated with honors from Lake Michigan College, and she is entering the workforce. Congratulations, graduates!



2024 Graduates: Manny, Haylee, and Rozalyn

## Culture Club Report

The Culture Club has begun meeting and developing a vision and purposeful goals for elevating the CAAC workplace environment. The committee strives to foster a work culture where every staff member feels valued, supported, and connected.

The committee members are Allison Bush, Sara Denzel, Terry Emelander, Jennifer Keech (Chair), Carly Schultz, and Sarah Skeel. We will present to Directors on behalf of our fellow staff with recommendations and strategies for embracing new ideas, making a positive impact, and empowering each other to embody our CAAC values.

Current tasks for the committee include: the staff survey you just received, planning for all-staff, reviewing agency policies and procedures, and prioritizing agency values.

If you have any questions about Culture Club, feel free to reach out to a committee member!



# CAAC Program Updates

## Expanded Diaper Bank!

Pick up Mondays and Thursdays only  
9am - 3pm

323 Water Street, Allegan  
Self-reported income eligibility  
information will be required.

Now Includes:  
diapers, pull-ups,  
adult briefs! No age  
restrictions!



For diaper bank questions, call:  
269-673-5472 ext. 223, 254, or 307

## Weatherization Works!

Our Weatherization Assistance Program helps reduce energy burdens for families by making homes more energy efficient. Contact us to see if you qualify!



## START YOUR ENGINES!

ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN FOR  
HEAD START AND EARLY HEAD START!

HEAD OVER TO  Help Me Grow  
TO FILL OUT AN INTEREST FORM!

Hi, I'm Cruz, and I'm here to help you CRUISE through the enrollment process! Here's what to expect:

After completing an interest form, a Family Engagement Specialist or Family Coach from your qualifying program will reach out to you with the next steps for enrollment!

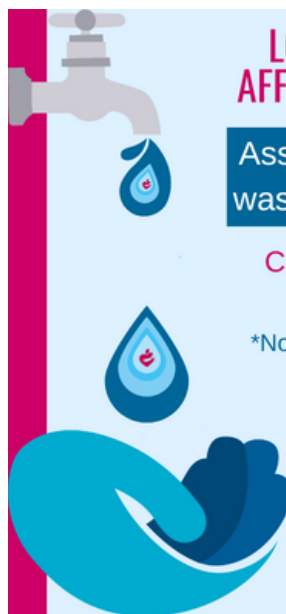


## LOCAL WATER UTILITY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM

Assists with metered\* water, wastewater bills, and repairs!

Call us to see if you qualify!  
269-673-5472 ext. 228

\*No septic or well homes at this time



## FREE AT-HOME COVID TESTS

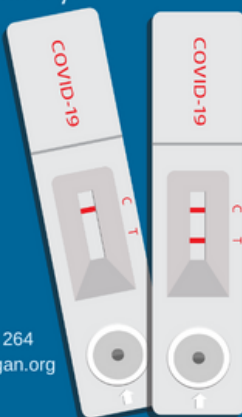
Free Covid-19 test kits are available for pickup from our lobby!

323 Water Street, Allegan  
Monday - Friday  
10:00-2:00

No documentation required



Questions:  
269-673-5472 ext. 264  
communityactionallegan.org



## USDA Food Distribution Update



Due to construction, TEFAP  
USDA Foods are available:  
323 Water Street Lobby  
Monday-Friday 9am-3pm



Quarterly Drive-thru  
Distributions will be held:  
June 25 10am-1pm  
September 24 10am-1pm



269-673-5472 ext. 242

