



# The CAPsule

The Newsletter of the Bergen County

Community Action Partnership, Inc.

Winter 2005: Volume 2, Issue 1

## BCCAP CHANGES AGENCY NAME: CELEBRATES PARTNERS

**IT'S 2005, & BCCAP HAS A NEW NAME!**

**What was:** Bergen County Community Action Program, Inc.

**What Is now:** Bergen County Community Action Partnership, Inc.

**Why:** BCCAP highlights its affiliation with the National Community Action Partnership. "Partnership" reflects the BCCAP philosophy that organizations are most effective when working together to help the poor.

**Why now:** In celebration of **40 years** of the anti-poverty movement and in recognition of the tremendous work still to be accomplished by "people helping people."

### BCCAP Prepares to Offer New Community Service

To meet a growing community need for affordable merchandise and products, BCCAP is planning to open a **thrift shop** stocked with items for the entire family. Details will be announced shortly. In the meanwhile, you can partner with BCCAP by donating your gently used clothing (on hangers, if possible), collectibles, and/or potpourri of treasures. For information, call: 201-968-0200.



#### Inside this Issue:

Partners, Partners, Partners .....	p. 1-12
Government Partners .....	p. 3
Faith-Based and Community Partners.....	p. 5
Head Start Partners.....	p. 7
Business and ETC Partners .....	p. 9
Human Services Advisory Council Partners .....	p. 11
A Growing Partnership .....	p. 12

## From the Executive Director's Desk...



**Yvette Roland**, Chief of Staff to Assemblyman **Gordon Johnson**, recently presented **Bob Halsch** with an "Assembly Resolution" recognizing the Fortieth Anniversary of Community Action and BCCAP's name change.

Warmest wishes for a **Happy New Year**. Here at BCCAP, we are beginning 2005 with renewed energy, optimism and a new name. As you read on the first page of this newsletter, the name **Bergen County Community Action Program** has been changed to **Bergen County Community Action Partnership**, highlighting our connection with the national **Community Action Partnership**.

Now is the time to emphasize our affiliation with the national Community Action movement as the organization formerly known as **NACAA (National Association of Community Action Agencies)** celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

In every neighborhood in this country, people are likely to see the fingerprint of a Community Action Agency. In 2004 alone, more than 15,000 individuals accessed BCCAP services to help them attain and maintain independent living.

This name change recognizes the value we place on our community partnerships with county-wide social service providers, businesses, govern-

ment, faith-based organizations, schools, hospitals, civic organizations, community leaders, and volunteers. Over the years, CAP has helped to create, and continues to partner with some of Bergen County's most important helping organizations, such as the **Center for Food Action**, the **Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless (IRF)**, and **Community Housing In Partnership**, a leading developer of affordable and special needs housing. One of our most recent collaborations will result in a new **Federally Qualified Health Center**, which will meet the primary health care needs of thousands of central and southern Bergen residents. Another significant and recent collaboration provides a program of direct services for the chronically homeless through formalizing the relationship between **BCCAP** and **Christ Church Community Development Corporation**, the **IRF**,

and the **Englewood, Teaneck and Vicinity Black Clergy Council** (please see page 3). We are pleased to celebrate our partners in this edition of the CAPsule. Watch for upcoming editions of our newsletter that will focus on our continuing collaborations as well as other new and important partnerships that are helping us make a difference in people's lives.

So many people in our county need help that it cries out for all who are concerned to work together as effectively as we can. Our future partners need to include leaders from the private, non-governmental sector, particularly the business community, etc.

**Bergen County Community Action Partnership** understands that it is through the **strength of enduring partnerships** that much has been accomplished and even more can be achieved as we continue to fight the "War on Poverty," until each and every individual is liberated from the shackles of economic despair.

*Robert F. Halsch, Jr.*

### Remembering A Partner and Friend



It is with deep sadness that BCCAP received notification (as this newsletter was going to print) of the loss of a long-time partner and friend, **Michael (Mike) A. Leggiero**, president and chief executive officer of the **North Hudson Community Action Corp. (NHCAC)**. Through Mike's more than 30 years of leadership, the NHCAC grew from a small

operation to one that serves 63,000 low-income residents in Hudson County. Perhaps his greatest legacy is the North Hudson Community Action Health Center, which served as a model for other centers, including one Federally Qualified Health Center soon to open in Bergen County. Through our partnership with NHCAC, Bergen County's uninsured and underinsured will have access to primary health care services (e.g., prenatal, women's, pediatric, and adult care) coupled with referrals to BCCAP's supportive services. Mike Leggiero, a trusted partner to the poor and friend to all, will be missed.

## Government Partners



County leaders confer in Fort Lee: Joe Rutch, Dennis Mc Nerney, Lillian Ciufu, Allan DeGiulio.



BCCAP Executive Director Bob Halsch with Congressman Steven Rothman.



Gary Altomara, NJDCA: CSBG Program Manager.



Kathy Neilsen of the Housing Authority of Hackensack with BCCAP's Yolande Neptune.



Senator Hillary Clinton at the National Community Action Foundation Conference in Washington, DC.



Bergen County Workforce Investment Board partners: Sharon Franklin, Russ Martin, Tammy Molinelli, Andrea Schaffel.



Bergen County Executive Dennis Mc Nerney reading to a Head Start class.

## A New Faith-Based Partnership Model

This agency's most recent initiative couples BCCAP's expertise as a community-based leader with the grassroots capacity of **Christ Church Community Development Corporation (CCCDC)**, the **Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless (IRF)**, and the **Englewood, Teaneck and Vicinity Black Clergy Council (ETVBCC)** to provide direct services to Bergen County's homeless who have histories of mental health and other substance abuse issues. Through this formalized and unique partnership, each organization provides the following:

**BCCAP:** Shelter and Supportive Services

**CCCDC:** Life Skills

**IRF:** Supervision for emergency winter shelter

**ETVBCC:** Program Referrals

**Seton Hall University** will provide program review. The collaboration will help those in need in make progress on



A New Faith-based Partnership: **Alison DuBois**, BCCAP; **Ashiri Lopez**, Christ Church CDC; and **Marsha Mackey**, IRF.

the road to well-being. Funding is through the NJ Dept. of State Office of Faith-Based Initiatives.

## Collaborating for Sound Mental Health



**Comprehensive Behavioral Health Care's PATH team** with **BCCAP's case management staff** to review client progress.

Early in his administration, **New Jersey's acting Governor Richard Codey** prioritized his commitment to helping the mentally ill lead more productive lives. BCCAP recently delivered written testimony to the **Governor's Task Force on Mental Health**, addressing the needs of the county's homeless clients. **Alison DuBois**, BCCAP's Director of Crisis Services, reports a large percentage of clients in the adult homeless shelter have diagnosed mental health issues. Through our partnership with **Comprehensive Behavioral Health Care** and their **PATH team (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness)**, these individuals receive counseling, psychiatric help, assistance finding appropriate housing, etc. Clients receive the supportive interventions they need to move to self-sufficiency.

## A Partner to the Foreign Born

**Yolande Neptune**, BCCAP's New Americans Program Coordinator, was honored by **Jesus Galvis**, Director of the Bergen County Hispanic Affairs Office during the recent **Bergen County Hispanic American Commission's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration**. Through a Resolution, **Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg** and **Assemblyman Gordon Johnson** highlighted Yolande's "...tireless efforts in working with the Latino community since 1981." A "Commendation" from the **Bergen County Freeholders** emphasized Yolande's contribution to "...the rich ethnic diversification of the County of Bergen." In attendance were Freeholder **Valerie Vainieri Huttle** and Freeholder **Jim Carroll**; Freeholder Director of Communications and Public Policy **Rocco Mazza**, and Bergen County Executive **Dennis McNerney**.



**Yolande Neptune**, second from left, is congratulated by BCCAP staff.

## Faith-Based & Community Partners



BCCAP's Elaine Miller, Rev. Dr. Steve Giordano, Rev. Greg Jackson, and BCCAP's Debbie Nicholson at the Annual BC Council of Churches Dinner.



Rev. Jonathan Whitfield, Rev. Donald Sheehan, BCCAP's Debbie Nicholson, and Rev. Dr. Vernon Walton discussing Time & Talents Program.



**BCCAP Board Members:** Tim Flynn, Tony Alicea, Rocco Mazza, and Francis Stanard at Holiday celebration.



**BCCAP Board Members:** Barbara Chadwick, Linda Calabrese, Jim Young, and Freeholder Valerie Vainieri Huttle all present at Holiday fete.



Grand opening of Chadwick House (Site of PHASES): Bob Halsch, the late Jim Sheehan, Barbara Chadwick, Lois Braithwaite, and Assemblywoman Loretta Weinberg.



### Sharing a Bushel of Fun



In October, volunteers from **Aston Martin Jaguar Land Rover** and **Playtex, Inc.** helped celebrate “Apple Day,” with curriculum-enhancing activities, including: apple tasting, preparing applesauce, creating apple art, and reading apple-subject stories. This program is part of a “**Corporate Day of Caring,**” planned in conjunction with Bergen County’s United Way. *Above: Diane Vaccaro, Playtex, Inc., reads Johnny Appleseed.*

### Partners in Play

The **Bergen County Bar Association** recently donated age-appropriate toys to Head Start to be used in conjunction with the Creative Curriculum program, enhancing the children’s educational and social skills through cooperative play. *Below: Salvador H. Sclafani, Cathe McAuliffe, John L. Molinelli, Deborah M. Gross-Quatrone, and Craig Bossong, all from the Bar Association, with Head Start children.*



### He’s No Stranger to Us

**Captain John Scimeca, Lodi Police Department,** recently visited the Head Start children at the Lodi site to teach them “*all about safety.*” The children learned what to do if they are approached by strangers and how to handle emergency situations. Captain Scimeca gave everybody toy cell phones, and all little fingers were busy learning to dial “911.” *Left: Captain John Scimeca, Lodi Police Department (center) is joined by a Head Start student (left) and Amelia Lauria, Head Start Health Specialist (right) as he answers questions from the class.*

### Partnership for Thanksgiving

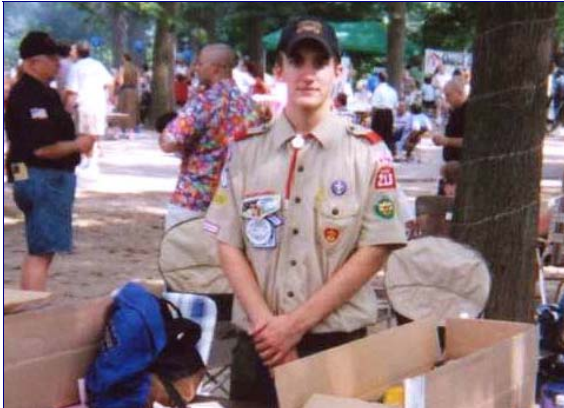
**Philip Garry, Assistant Vice President/Branch Manager of Bergen Commercial Bank** (member Greater Community Bancorp) in Wood-Ridge and **Vincent J. Kane, Vice President/Regional Manager of the Bergen Commercial Bank** in Hasbrouck Heights donated turkeys for a pre-Thanksgiving feast, prepared by BCCAP’s (S.P.I.C.E.) staff. *Right: Philip Garry (left) and Vincent Kane (right) pause for a moment with Bergen County Head Start Director Nancy Griner and Sharon Alston, a member of BCCAP’s S.P.I.C.E. staff.*



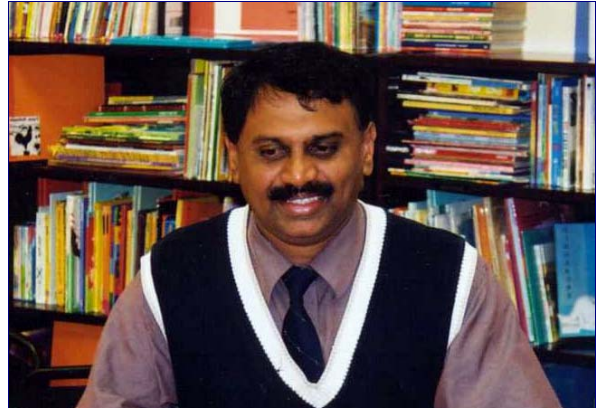
# Partnerships Lead to a Real Head Start



Head Start Federal PRISM Review Team.



Bryce Kopp, a member of **Boy Scout Troop 213** in Saddle Brook, working to attain Eagle Scout rank, chose to organize a drive to collect writing materials and art supplies for Head Start children.



Dr. Vishwa-Bhat, Associate Professor/Clinic Supervisor, Department of Communication Disorders at William Paterson University volunteers time to conduct **hearing screenings** for Head Start children.



**BC Office for Children's** Phyllis Jones and Linda Kriegel are always prepared to offer childcare guidance to Head Start par-



"Doll-makers" from the **Garfield Senior Citizen Center** preparing to stitch up some cuddly companions for the children.

## A Dinner Team

The evening meal at **BCCAP's Hackensack Drop-In Center** location is brought in and served by volunteers from the **Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless of Bergen County (IRF)**. CAP's Homeless clients, and others needing a meal ("no questions asked") can eat at that location seven nights a week in a warm and comfortable environment.



**IRF volunteers** from St. Matthew Lutheran Church (New Milford) preparing to serve dinner at BCCAP's Drop-In Center.

## State Honors Community Action



BCCAP's Allan DeGiulio (right) congratulates Lois Braithwaite.

**Lois A. Braithwaite** has long been dedicated to Community Action, serving on committees of BCCAP's Board, and most recently as its chairperson. Her leadership capacity is

extraordinary, whether chairing meetings, supporting events, or going beyond the call of duty to help someone in need. Lois is someone recognized for "*changing scores of lives.*" The **NJCAA (New Jersey Community Action Association)** selected Lois to receive the **Executive Director's Award** at its Annual Conference this past October.

## Bergen County Improvement Authority



Pictured here are **Rob Moore**, BCCAP CFO, **Edward H. Hynes**, Executive Director of the Bergen County Improvement Authority, and **Allan DeGiulio**, BCCAP Deputy Executive Director.

Many thanks to Bergen County Executive Dennis McNerney, Bergen County Freeholders and the Bergen County Improvement Authority (BCIA) whose vision is to be "*an avenue to a higher quality of life... through...project stewardship.*" Working to reduce costs and streamline efforts, a bond refinancing project of **\$7,200,000** will significantly advance agency initiatives. Together all these partners can truly make an important difference in the future as we seek to change and improve the lives of those in need in Bergen County.

## Freeholder Recognition

In addition to celebrating the **40th Anniversary of Community Action** and the agency's partnerships, BCCAP Board and staff honored **Bob Halsch** for his **20 years of service** to BCCAP. A "*Certification of Commendation*" was presented by **Valerie Vainieri Huttel** on behalf of the Board of Freeholders — "*...with appreciation of tireless commitment...offering both help and hope.*" Bergen's homeless and other low-income populations have a great partner-advocate in Robert F. Halsch, Jr.

## Business and ETC Partners at Random



**Oritani Bank** President Kevin Lynch, Bob Halsch and Phillip Wyks, Oritani Vice President.



Bob Halsch, Freeholder Valerie Vainieri Huttle, NJ Reads Executive Director Penni Wild, Freeholder James Carroll.



**Commerce Bank** Executives.



**Project ACES** partners: Claire Scarano, Teaneck Public Schools; Lisa Kelly, Hackensack High School Drop-in Center; Mary Mulvaney, BCCAP; and Chuck Ehrlich, North Arlington Public Schools.



Sal Mastroenni of the **BC Workforce Investment Board**.



**Hispanic Senior Citizen Center** in Hackensack.

## BCCAP's Partners: A Partial List

Advance Housing	Commerce Bank	NJ Reads
Alcoholics Anonymous (AA/NA)	Community Bank of New Jersey	New York University
Alexander Hamilton Institute	Community Resource Council	North Arlington Schools
Alliance Against Homelessness	Comprehensive Behavioral Health Care	North Hudson Community Action Corporation
American Red Cross	Englewood Housing Authority	Ocwen Bank
Atterbury & Associates	Englewood, Teaneck & Vicinity Black Clergy Council	Oradell Girl Scouts
Bergen Community College	Fallon Agency	Oritani Savings & Loan
Bergen County Alternatives to Domestic Violence	Federal Home Loan Bank	Palisades Park Public Library
BC Bar Association	Fellowship of Black Churches of Hackensack	Pascack Valley Regional HS
BC Board of Social Services	Fort Lee Housing Authority	Police Departments (Municipal)
BC Community College Ciarco Learning Center	Fortunoff	Popular Club
BC Community Development	Garfield Health Department	PSEG
BC Council of Churches	Gingras, Collister, & Babinski	Ramapo College
BC Department of Human Services	Hackensack Housing Authority	Retired Senior Volunteer Program
BCDHS Division of Senior Services	Hackensack Riverkeeper	St. John's Church (Bergenfield)
BC Freeholders	Hackensack Schools	St. Matthew's Church (Ridgefield)
BC Health Services	Hackensack University Medical Center	Salvation Army
BC Hispanic Affairs	Household Finance Corporation	Seton Hall University
BC Housing Authority	Interreligious Fellowship for the Homeless	Shelter Our Sisters
BC Improvement Authority	Johnson Public Library	Shiseido Cosmetics
BC Legal Services	Junior League of BC	ShopRite of Hackensack
BC Municipalities	Liberty Science Center	ShopRite of Hasbrouck Heights
BC Office for Children	Main Street Business Alliance (Hackensack)	ShopRite of Palisades Park
BC One-Stop Career Center	Mt. Calvary Baptist Church (Englewood)	Teaneck Public Schools
BC Police	Mt. Olive Baptist Church (Hackensack)	Teaneck Women Train & Work
BC Probation	Montclair State University	Triangle Manufacturing Co
BC Technical Schools & Special Services	NJ Citizen's Action	UJA Federation
BC United Way	NJ Commission for the Blind	US Department of Health & Human Services - Administration for Children & Families
BC Veterans Services	NJ Community Action Association	US Housing and Urban Development
BC Workforce Investment Board	NJ Department of Community Affairs	Urban League
Bergen Regional Medical Center	NJ Department of Education	Utility Workers of America
Bergenfield Schools	NJ Department of Human Services	Valley Health Care Center
Bergen's Promise	NJ Department of Labor	Volunteer Center of BC
Boy Scouts of America	NJ Department of State (Faith-Based Initiatives)	Waldwick Schools
Buddies of NJ	NJ DYFS	Westfield Shoppingtown Garden State Plaza
Care Plus, NJ		William Paterson University
Center for Food Action		Woodcliff Lake Nursing Home
Christ Church CDC		YM-YWCA
CNBC		

## Human Services Advisory Council: Snapshots



Pete Scerbo, Executive Director **Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare** and Kathy Mirra, **BC Juvenile Justice**.



Gaby Strauss reviewing **HSAC** priority population planning document.

**HSAC**



Tom Toronto, Connie Hochberg, Roberta Stern, Freeholder Valerie Vainieri Huttle, Elaine Myerson, Bari-Lynne Schwartz, and Kathy Walsh at a recent meeting.



Kris Beirne with **Catholic Community Services** and Jackie Kates, Mayor of **Teaneck** and employee of **BC Department of Human Services**.



Marcia Gongora, **DYFS**, and Gerry Drummond, **BC Division of Senior Services**.

## A Growing Partnership



Amanda Missey, Volunteer Center of Bergen County, serves on Head Start's Policy Council.

**BCCAP welcomes the opportunity to meet and work with new partners. Please contact BCCAP to offer your support.**



Federally Qualified Health Center comes to Garfield in partnership with North Hudson CAC.



Workforce Investment Board at work.



**Bergen County Community Action Partnership, Inc.**  
241 Moore Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601  
Tel: (201) 968-0200  
FAX: (201) 968-0240

**Contributions to support any of BCCAP's programs may be sent to the above address.**