



Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. **NEWS**

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Autumn 2009

New Services funded by ARRA - the 2009 American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

The GLCAC, Inc. has received \$555,150 in new Community Services Block Grant funding as part of the American Reinvestment & Recovery Act of 2009.

These funds have enabled GLCAC, Inc. to implement new services as well as expand some existing

programs. New services include a series of Computer Literacy classes and Financial Literacy classes, as well as a Youth Employment Program.

GLCAC, Inc. will expand its Health Insurance Outreach and Enrollment services, homelessness prevention services,

Income Tax Return Preparation Program, the Roberto Clemente After-School Literacy Program and the IDA/Savings Program.

For information about any of these new or expanded services, contact the GLCAC, Inc. Administration Offices at 305 Essex Street in Lawrence, Tel. Number 978-681-4900.

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Lawrence Family Literacy Fun Day

Lawrence Pathways to Family Success is sponsoring its seventh annual Family Fun Literacy Day on the 7th of November at the Lawrence Public Library.

Join the Pathway Partners and Mayor Michael J. Sullivan for an afternoon of fun. Listen to the Mayor read a children's book, partici-

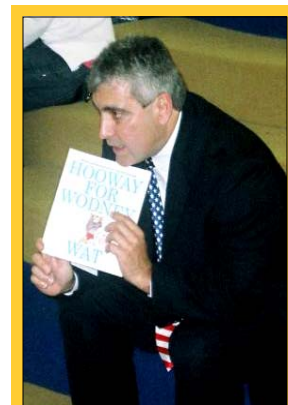
pate in arts & crafts, tour the library, enjoy some refreshments and get information about local resources. There will be a free raffle and every child receives a free book.

Lawrence Pathways to Family Success is a partnership of 28 literacy & human service providers working together to help families reach their

educational and employment goals.

For more information about Pathways to Family Success and Family Literacy Fun Day, contact Emily Hoffman at GLCAC, Inc. at 978-681-4996. ext. 448.

Date: Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009
Time: Noon until 3:00
Location: Lawrence Public Library
51 Lawrence St
Lawrence, MA



Mayor Sullivan reading to the children at last year's event.



Coordinated Family and Community Engagement Funding

The Massachusetts Dept. of Early Education and Care (EEC) has combined funding for Community Partnerships for Children (CPC), the Parent-Child Home Program (PCHP), and the Joint Family Support Program (JFSP) into one Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant. In the future, EEC hopes that the Massachusetts Family Network will also be part of this coordinated grant.

As a result of this coordinated grant, the Community Partnerships for Children Councils for Lawrence, Andover/North Andover, and Methuen have been combined into one Greater Lawrence Community Partnerships for Children Council. PCHP, JFSP and the local Lawrence/Methuen Family Network are represented on that combined Council. GLCAC, Inc. continues to serve as the fiscal lead.

The Coordinated Family and Community Engagement grant has created a different role for the Community Partnerships for Children Program. Previously, CPC has received funding for income eligible child care for over 400 local children ages 2.9 to kindergarten age. With the implementation of the coordinated grant, the child care funding previously given to CPCs across the State transitioned to the Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies.

The Greater Lawrence Community Partnerships for Children Program and the GLCPC Council are now

engaged in coordinating information on early education and care, school-age care, parenting education and community resources. The GLCPC's work now includes outreach to teen parents, parents with newborns, families experiencing homelessness, families with English as their second language, families living in isolation, and families experiencing multiple risk factors.

The GLCPC's goals are to have:

- Children experience quality literacy rich environments at home, in early education & care and at school.
- Families involved in literacy rich activities.
- A free, child-safe, accessible public place in each community where families can take their children to play, find resources on parenting, and network with other families.
- Meaningful leadership opportunities for families in their communities, schools, and programs.
- Smooth transitions to new programs through scheduled transition activities including supporting families with preschool children that receive special education services.
- Comprehensive services available to support children's healthy development at home, at their early education & care

program, and in the community.

- A mechanism to collect data to measure the need for services and the effectiveness of local early education & care strategies and programming.



GLCPC Staff Members at a Community Outreach Event at Lawrence Heritage State Park

GLCPC partnering agencies provide play groups, mental health consultation to programs and families, training for staff, workshops for families, as well as after school care and interactive family literacy. **For more information**, visit the GLCPC website and look at the calendar for playgroup information, training dates, Council meetings and links to sites for children.

Visit the GLCPC website at:
www.greaterlawrencecpc.com

or contact GLCPC through
Twitter or Facebook.

26th Annual National Night Out

On Monday, August 3rd & Tuesday, August 4th, 2009 neighborhoods throughout Lawrence joined forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the “**26th Annual National Night Out**” (NNO) crime and drug prevention event.

National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by Lawrence Methuen Community Coalition and the City Of Lawrence with support from several local businesses and

organizations. Hundreds of people participated in ‘America’s Night Out Against Crime’ on August 3rd, and even more attended on August 4th as NNO was held in six different neighborhoods throughout Lawrence. NNO 2009 was supported in part by the Target Corporation and the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and locally through a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, City of Lawrence CDBG

Block Grant program, Patriot Ambulance and local donors.

National Night Out is designed to: (1) Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; (3) Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and (4) Send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. (GLCAC, Inc. is the fiscal agent for L/MCC.)



Special thanks to our volunteers and all those who made National Night Out a success.
For more information on participating in next years NNO please contact: Harold Magoon, Lawrence/Methuen Community Coalition (L/MCC) at 978-975-8793.

Coming Soon at the Families & Youth Initiative...Parenting Wisely

Parents, children, teenagers, and experts all agree that the teenage years can be a frustrating time for the WHOLE family. Until now...

Using the latest video game technology you learn parenting skills and techniques to help better understand and deal with youth. The computer talks to you and guides you through each step. This program is so easy; you don't need to know anything about a computer.

Parenting Wisely teaches these skills: *ASSERTIVE DISCIPLINE*:

how to discipline effectively and fairly; *USING “I” STATEMENTS*: helping your child understand what you are feeling; *CONTRACTING*: explaining what you expect from your child & what the rewards and punishments will be; *ACTIVE LISTENING*: let your teen know you hear him or her and that you're trying to understand.

These skills are taught through different problem scenarios including:

- getting chores done
- fighting between children



- finishing homework
- obeying requests
- increasing trust
- speaking respectfully
- reducing nagging and threats

For more information and to sign up, please contact Delilah Rivera, Families & Youth Initiative Coordinator at (978) 975-8793.

The GLCAC, Inc. is the fiscal agent for L/MCC's Families & Youth Initiative.

**Greater Lawrence Community
Action Council, Inc.**
305 Essex Street
Lawrence, MA 01840

Phone: 978-681-4900
Fax: 978-681-4949
Email: admin@glcac.org

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**Visit our website
at
www.glcac.org**

The mission of the GLCAC, Inc. is to encourage and promote the improvement of community life for low-income residents within its service area. ...to help those in need as they strive to achieve self-sufficiency for themselves and for their families.

The Greater Lawrence Community Action Council, Inc. originated in 1965 as the Lawrence Community Action Council. In January 1966 the Greater Lawrence CAC was established as a means of fighting the 'war on poverty.' As stated in the agency by-laws, the primary purpose of the GLCAC, Inc. is to encourage and promote the improvement of community life in Greater Lawrence with special emphasis on, but not limited to, the initiation of programs in education, social services, child care, health, housing youth employment and related fields. Since its inception, the GLCAC, Inc. has been a consistent partner in working with local, State and Federal governments and private agencies in creating opportunities and providing hope for low-income people. Annually, GLCAC, Inc. serves an unduplicated count of over 20,000 individuals through a variety of programs in the areas of early education & care, health & nutrition, education, training & workforce development, home energy assistance, housing, and social services.

Consumer Advocate Marie Finelli honored by Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

On September 23, 2009, Martha Coakley, Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was the keynote speaker at the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce's *Executive Luncheon Series* held at the Wyndham Andover Hotel.

At this event, Marie Finelli was recognized for her thirty (30) consecutive years of service as Director of the GLCAC, Inc. Consumer Protection Program.

Over the years Ms. Finelli has resolved thousands of consumer complaints in concert with the office of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Attorney General and secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in restitution for clients.

Ms Finelli received a certificate of appreciation from the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce presented by Executive Director Joseph Bevilacqua and a



plaque presented by Attorney General Coakley and GLCAC, Inc. Executive Director Philip F. Laverriere, Sr.