



MVCAA



A Family Development Agency

JAN. 2009

▪ HELPING PEOPLE ▪ CHANGING LIVES ▪ ENDING POVERTY ▪

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BEATING WINTER BLAHS

CENTER CITY RECREATION PROGRAM OPENS

The Utica City School District and Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School have partnered with Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency to launch the new Center City Recreation program at the school. It opened with a handful of young people attending on Jan. 21, but attendance has grown steadily.



us to head up the new venture. Also helping get the program up and running is Renita Zayas, a newcomer in the family and youth department. Geniene said, "It's been a great start, but we really need volunteers to help with the wide range of activities we're offering." MVCAA will set up a table at the Feb. 6 community service recruiting day at Thomas R. Proctor High School. The students get a chance to select a community project to which they would like to contribute their time toward a graduation requirement for community

service. Volunteers must be 18 years old and must pass a background check. Others interested in volunteering may call Venice Ervin at 624-0821.

MVCAA Executive Director Amy Turner referred to the rec program as the start of a "rebirth of the Cosmopolitan Center."

She also looked ahead to possible expansion as the recreation program grows.

Geniene Harvey said the program currently offers activities in the gymnasium, and the cafeteria is used for board games and arts and crafts.



She said the school is allowing Community Action to use the library for homework and computer education as the program expands. "They've been very generous," she said.

The program is open Monday-Thursday from 4:15—7 p.m. Friday is reserved for special events and field trips later.

Turner also announced that MVCAA will move its Utica offices to Johnson Park Center this month.

A wide variety of services will be offered at the new site, which could serve as many as 1,000 families in the Cornhill neighborhood.



The recreation program is picking up where the former Cosmopolitan Center left off in providing after-school activities for Cornhill youngsters. Program Manager Geniene Harvey, formerly program director with Cosmo, has joined



MOVING UP IN HOUSING



Stan Malinowski has been named to the new position of Production Manager, and Gary Reynolds was named an auditor in the Empower section of the Housing Department.

Stan started with the agency in 2001 as a crew foreman and he was appointed as auditor in 2007. He is certified as an EPA Lead Supervisor a BPI Building Analyst. Gary Reynolds has been with us only a year, starting as a floater crew member and has been on the Empower crew the past 11

months.

Housing Director Gene Allen said the production manager position was created because of the growing workload in the Weatherization and Empower programs. Reynolds will be doing energy reduction audits, for Empower. "We want to emphasize our policy of promoting from within the agency," Allen said.

"We like to recognize the performance and skills of our employees in a tangible way. My congratulations to both of these valuable employees."



FREE TAX PREP

If you have a family income of less than \$42,000, MVCAA and VITA will do your income tax preparation for free by appointment at our offices in Rome, Utica and Herkimer and at outreach locations in Oneida and Herkimer counties in February.

Outreach times are 9:30 a.m. -3 p.m.daily.

Vernon Town Hall, Peterboro St. Feb. 2-3.

Boonville United Methodist Church, Feb. 5-6.

Waterville Village Hall, Barton Ave., Feb. 9-10.

Oriskany Falls Town Hall, Main St, Feb.17-18.

Camden, Cluster 13, 84 Main St Feb. 19-20.

Newport-Kuyahoorra Community Outreach, West St, Feb 4-5.

REFUGEES NEED COATS

The Mohawk Valley Refugee Center remains in desperate need of warm coats, clothing and footwear of all sizes but especially women's and children's sizes.

Dozens of families from tropical Burma will be arriving in Central New York with only the clothing on their backs, usually warm-weather clothing like tee-shirts.

Please bring any unneeded coats, jackets, boots, scarves, hats, gloves, shirts or pants to the Refugee Center on Oneida Street in Utica or you may drop items off in the lobby of the Marcy office.



We need your stories and ideas. Please email your best stuff to pcorbett@mvcaa.com. Photos have to be emailed only, no prints, please.

