

THE NEWS



Schuylkill Community Action Quarterly Newsletter

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Veterans Resource Fair: A Resounding Success!

On Thursday, November 15th, we hosted our inaugural Veterans Resource Fair, which proved to be an overwhelming success. With over 45 veterans in attendance from nearly every branch of the military, the event featured more than 30 resource tables, offering a wealth of services and information tailored to veterans' needs. Veterans had the chance to engage with local agencies, attend informative presentations, and take home valuable resources. They also had the opportunity to enter a free raffle for a chance to win gift baskets, generously donated by many of the participating organizations.

The day began with a warm welcome and the Pledge of Allegiance, led by PA State Reps. Jamie Barton, JoAnne Stehr, Dane Watro, and Tim Twardzik. Attendees had access to a variety of services throughout the day, including health and wellness resources, veteran affairs assistance, and employment opportunities.

We are incredibly grateful to the local businesses and organizations that supported the event with food donations. Throughout the day, attendees enjoyed snacks and treats, and in the afternoon, Catholic Charities Community Cafe generously provided a hearty lunch for all veterans, volunteers, and attendees.

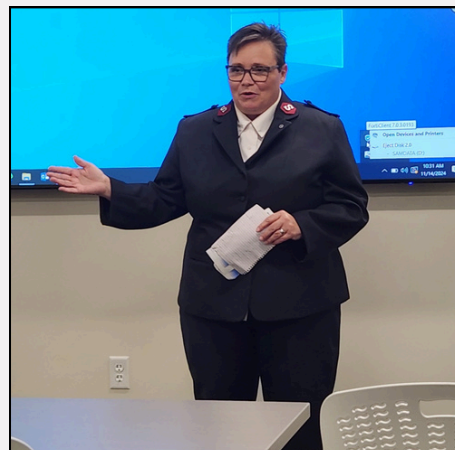
Thanks to the overwhelming support from the community, this event was a true success. We are excited to announce that next year's Veterans Resource Fair will once again be held at Alvernia University's Pottsville CollegeTowne campus, and we look forward to continuing this important tradition of honoring and supporting our local veterans.

Veterans Resource Fair

Brighter Holiday Project

CAAPtivating Awards

A Message from the Chief Executive Officer



Brighter Holiday Project: Supporting Families Facing Hardship

In December, 2024, the Brighter Holiday Project provided critical support to 17 families, including 49 children, who were navigating significant financial struggles. Many of these families were facing difficult circumstances, such as single parents raising children on their own, parents with disabilities, and those escaping domestic abuse and starting fresh in a new area. Some parents were working multiple jobs to make ends meet, while others had recently lost their jobs and were unsure how they would provide for their families.

For these families, putting food on the table and paying bills often meant that holiday gifts weren't even an option. Many were unable to provide presents for their children, and without the support of this program, there would have been no gifts under the tree. This year's Brighter Holiday Project ensured that all children under 18 received gifts—thoughtful presents tailored to their hobbies and interests—along with warm clothing and a holiday meal, including extra food for the holiday break.

The program's ability to provide not just gifts but also food and clothing helped bring a sense of joy and relief to families who had been struggling, making the holiday season just a little brighter for those who needed it most.

Schuylkill Community Action Staff Honored at CAAP Conference

Three Schuylkill Community Action staff members were recognized at the CAAPtivating Award Ceremony during the annual Community Action Association of Pennsylvania (CAAP) Conference in Lancaster on Wednesday, October 23, 2024.

🏆 **Dave Young**, Chief Executive Officer, received the Community Action Excellence Award for his leadership and dedication to community action.

🏆 **Lisa Grigalonis**, Financial Education Coach, was awarded the CAAP Impactful Educator Award for her contributions to financial literacy.

🏆 **Theresa Yurkonis**, Chief Financial Officer, earned the Dependable Difference Maker Award for her vital behind-the-scenes service.



(Left to right: Dave Young, Lisa Grigalonis, Theresa Yurkonis.)

Nominated by SCA colleagues and selected by CAAP, these awards celebrate their significant impact on both the agency and the community. Please join us in congratulating Dave, Lisa, and Theresa!

A Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Home weatherization administered by Schuylkill Community Action provides vital benefits to homeowners and tenants, enhancing comfort, reducing energy costs, and improving overall living conditions. In 2024, our weatherization program made a tangible impact, with 52 households in our community receiving comprehensive energy-saving upgrades. These improvements not only help families reduce utility bills but also contribute to a healthier and more sustainable living environment by increasing energy efficiency and decreasing environmental impact.

To continue this valuable work and expand our reach, we are actively hiring additional crew members to join our weatherization team. This is an excellent opportunity to make a difference in your community while building a fulfilling career. If you are interested in applying or learning more about these positions, please contact our offices at (570) 622-1995. Join us in helping local families stay warm, safe, and energy-efficient all year round!