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Holland, MI 49424
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Community Action House, since 1969

345 W. 14th St.
Holland, MI 49423
616.392.2368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OFFICIAL PARTNERSHIP: COMMUNITY ACTION HOUSE / MICHIGAN WORKS! HELPING LOCALS FIND JOBS

The Holland area Community Action House announces its partnership with Michigan Works! of Ottawa County. The partnership begins officially October 1 at 3:00 PM at a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Community Action House, 345 W. 14th Street, Holland.

Mark Tucker, Director of CAH will cut the ribbon and others in attendance will be Mayor Albert McGeehan, Bill Raymond, Director of Ottawa County Michigan Works!/Community Action Agency, Bill MacDhubhain, Certified Global Career Development Facilitator, Ottawa County Michigan Works!, and Darryl Bartlett, Director of the Holland Rescue Mission.



The Community Action House will now directly help its customers use the Internet to find jobs and to help customers post their resume online using the Michigan Talent Bank (www.michworks.org). The Michigan Talent Bank is the same site that Michigan Works! customers use to post their resumes, and where Michigan employers can post their open positions. Michigan Works! and the CAH are partnering in this venture in order to help more people find employment.

Community Action House decided to add this feature because many of their customers are in need of work. However those customers may not be aware of the services offered by Michigan Works! or due to transportation issues they may find it easier to get to CAH rather than the Michigan Works! Service Center. Customers of CAH will now receive job-seeking assistance from CAH staff that has been trained in this service by Michigan Works!.

The service of assisting customers in their job search now defines the CAH as a SHARE site. SHARE stands for Sharing How Access to Resources Empowers, and there is a network of SHARE sites country-wide, serving largely the same clientele. Developed by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth and U.S. Department of Labor's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, SHARE Network Michigan is a statewide program that expands public access to workforce development and other human service programs through partnerships between local Michigan Works! agencies and Faith-Based and Community Organizations. The SHARE program is now funded through 18 states by continued grants from the DOL. The Community Action House is the second SHARE site in Ottawa County. The Holland Rescue Mission's Family Hope Center became a SHARE site September 18th. There are other SHARE sites throughout West Michigan.

Community Action House is a location that offers several services. One of those services is taking care of customers' "immediate needs". These include food and clothing at no cost. The CAH also offers classes to help families break the cycle of poverty. Over 100 families have purchased homes since the program started. Finally the CAH acts as a

resource; the CAH partners with hundreds of local agencies and churches within and outside of Ottawa County, and often refers walk-ins to other, more appropriate resources. The CAH makes over 2000 referrals a year.

Community Action House Access Point operating hours are Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 AM to 12 PM, and 3 PM to 5 PM. CAH also regularly takes donations of food, clothing, shoes, toiletries and household items (no appliances or furniture). To donate or contact CAH, call 392.2368, communityactionhouse.org.

Michigan Works! is an equal opportunity employer/program. Michigan Relay callers use 711 or 1-800-649-3777 (TTY). Unless otherwise noted programs are funded by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth and brought to you by the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners and the Workforce Development Board.

Photo Credits: Photo taken by Bill MacDhubhain. Anna VanderZouwen, CAH staff member helps customer, Barney Johnson post his resume to the Michigan Talent Bank.

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