

# Family of Distinction Award Recipient

## The Tammy Workman Family



# **Family of Distinction Award**

## **The Tammy Workman Family**

Tammy Workman is a single mother of two boys, Aaron, age 13, and Kobey, age 9. In 2006 they were living with family and needed a home of their own. When a friend referred her to C.E.F.S., Tammy went to the Effingham County Outreach office seeking affordable housing.

Tammy had previously been a participant in the Workforce Investment Act Program. She enrolled at Lake Land College in 1994 and graduated in 1996 with an Associate in Applied Science with an Executive Secretary degree. The Workforce Investment Act Program was able to pay for her tuition, books, and fees. She also received assistance with daycare and gasoline through Supportive Services. In 2006, C.E.F.S. was able to further help Tammy and her family with energy assistance through LIHEAP, comprehensive housing counseling services, and free tax preparation services.

When Tammy expressed an interest in homeownership she was referred to Kristie Warfel, the IDA and Homebuyer Program Coordinator. Kristie enrolled Tammy in the Individual Development Program in April 2006. Tammy was instructed on the importance of financial management. She completed ten hours of financial literacy, learning budgeting and debt reduction skills. She also completed six hours of homeownership counseling in preparation of becoming a homeowner.

Today the Tammy Workman family has succeeded in obtaining safe and affordable housing. Tammy now works full-time at Joint Active Systems. She is also a volunteer for the local Search and Rescue Team, a task that requires daily work with her dog in addition to weekly meetings. Most importantly, Tammy is now able to spend more quality time with her sons.

## **Individual Development Account/Homebuyer Program**

Linda Mitchell, Chief Operations Officer

Kristie Warfel, HBAP/IDA Program Coordinator

# Personal Achievement Award Recipients

- € **Rose Fulhorst**
- € **Bertha Barker**
- € **Heather Pride**
- € **Mary Crabtree**
- € **Dexter Sloan**
- € **Cathy Molen**
- € **Beth Wells**
- € **David Toby Jones**
- € **Lori Buzan**



## **Rose Fulhorst**

In 2006 the Fulhorsts were a normal middle-class family. Rose and her husband, David, were both employed full-time with a son in college and a daughter in high school. Then, in the spring of 2007, catastrophe struck. David suffered two heart attacks within only two weeks and had to undergo surgery. While David's health insurance covered a large portion of the medical bills, lack of income put the family into a financial crisis. With increased transportation costs, rising energy bills and other household expenses, David and Rose began to fall behind on their mortgage payments and soon received a foreclosure notice.

Rose knew she had to ask for help if her family was going to keep their home, so she contacted the C.E.F.S. Montgomery County Outreach office. Using funding through the Community Services Block Grant, C.E.F.S. was able to assist the Fulhorsts with two months of mortgage assistance. With further help from the C.E.F.S. Housing Counselor, the family was able to get their mortgage back in good standing.

Throughout the family's financial crisis, Rose continued to work full-time and additionally took on a part-time position, as well as began volunteering at her local C.E.F.S. Outreach office. She continued to take care of her family and found many new ways to save them money. She overcame the obstacles that faced her and her family and enabled them to become self-sufficient again.

## **Community Services Block Grant Program**

Dena Weber, Program Director

Jackelyn Johnson, Montgomery County Coordinator

Roberta Meyer, Housing Counselor

## **Bertha Barker**

Bertha Barker has been coming to the Taylorville Nutrition Site since it first opened its doors in 1978. She has been very active in the community since then, volunteering at the West School PTA, First Baptist Church, and was a member of the Eastern Star for more than fifty years.

In the years since she first came to the Taylorville Nutrition Site, Bertha has lost her husband and is now legally blind, but she has kept a positive attitude about life. She attends the center everyday and is always ready to spend time with her friends.

At ninety-five years old, Bertha enjoys coming to the center today as much as when it first opened. She has called the Golden Circle Nutrition Program her salvation and has stated that she does not know what kind of life she would have had if not for the friends she has met at the center.

## **Golden Circle Nutrition Program**

Debbie Weber, Program Director

Judy Gates, Taylorville Nutrition Site Supervisor

## **Heather Pride**

When Heather Pride first enrolled in the C.E.F.S. Workforce Investment Act Program, her family was receiving food stamps, had a medical card, and most of her employment history had been at fast food restaurants. Heather had a high school diploma, but wanted more for herself and her family. Her goal was to become a Registered Nurse and become self-sufficient.

Heather enrolled in Olney Central College's Nursing Program in March 2005. She was a straight A student when the fingerprinting process flagged a problem. Rather than giving up on her dream, Heather researched and presented her case to the board and was allowed to reenroll in the Nursing Program. At the same time, Heather had a husband and small daughter to care for, as well as a full-time job.

Heather graduated from Olney Central College's RN Program in May 2008. She has already passed her LPN State Board and is working full-time as an LPN at Burgin Manor in Olney. She plans to pass her RN State Board and continue to work at Burgin Manor while she seeks employment in an area hospital.

## **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Patricia Cooper, Family and Community Development Specialist

## **Mary Crabtree**

Mary Crabtree volunteered for the Golden Circle Nutrition Program at the Litchfield congregate meal site for twenty years. She was also very active at St. Timothy's Methodist Church and quilted for several fundraisers.

Recently Mary lost her husband of over 56 years and health issues of her own have forced her to remain in her home. Mary now benefits from the home-delivered meals the Golden Circle Nutrition Program provides. She is very thankful for the program and has said "I loved the congregate meal site and I miss it terribly but I know that I would not be able to stay home if it wasn't for the home-delivered meal and a daily check on...it also gives my kids peace of mind knowing that I have a hot meal and someone checking on me".

## **Golden Circle Nutrition Program**

Debbie Weber, Program Director

Peggy Heimstedt, Litchfield Nutrition Site Supervisor

## **Dexter Sloan**

When Dexter Sloan came into the C.E.F.S. Effingham County Outreach office in June 2007, he and his girlfriend and five young children were homeless. Dexter was enrolled in the Transitional Housing Program, where he has since made immense progress.

Dexter began taking tutoring sessions with the Literacy Program in an effort to obtain his GED. Within six months, not only did he earn his GED, but he gained full-time employment and was able to obtain a driver's license. After taking a class through his employer, he became a certified first responder. Recently, Dexter's girlfriend, Jayme, was also able to obtain her GED.

Dexter and his large family have been working hard towards reaching self-sufficiency this past year. They have been meeting monthly with their C.E.F.S. Housing Counselor for case management and budgeting, and continue to make progress in the Transitional Housing Program.

## **Supportive and Transitional Housing Program**

Dena Weber, Program Director

Robert West, Effingham County Coordinator

Rita Cosner, Housing Counselor

## **Cathy Molen**

Before coming to C.E.F.S., Cathy Molen was a single mother who wanted to graduate college and be a role model to her five children. She enrolled in the Individual Development Account Program and opened a savings account in October 2004. She met her goal of saving \$1,800 to receive \$3,600 in match money from the program; accumulating a total of \$5,400 to be used towards her education. In addition, Cathy attended ten hours of financial literacy workshops, a six hour seminar on education counseling, earned two \$500 CSBG Scholarships, and received LIHEAP assistance.

Cathy's hard work has paid off; so far she has been able to receive enough assistance through grants, scholarships, and her savings that she has not had to take out any student loans. She earned an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts in May from Lincoln Land Community College, and expects to graduate from Millikin University in December 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education.

Additionally, Cathy has achieved her goal of being a good role model to her five children. Two of her children are already enrolled in college and another plans to attend Eastern Illinois University.

## **Individual Development Account Program**

Linda Mitchell, Chief Operations Officer

Kristie Warfel, HBAP/IDA Program Coordinator

## **Beth Wells**

When Beth Wells entered the Workforce Investment Act Program she was only eighteen and a single mother for her seven-month-old son. She was living in subsidized housing with her mother and older sister and depended on food stamps and a medical card for her basic needs.

Beth had been an honor student in high school and knew she wanted to further her education. She came to C.E.F.S. in pursuit of training and education assistance programs, such as resume preparation and job skills, and information on child care assistance. By this time she had already enrolled at Lincoln Trail College seeking a degree in nursing.

Once Beth became involved with the Workforce Investment Act, she flourished in her degree program. In her first semester she earned a 4.0 GPA and by March 2005 she had been accepted into the college's nursing program. She received several awards while attending Lincoln Trail College, including the Chief Executive Officer's Academic Honor Award, Outstanding Human Anatomy and Physiology Student, and was a Phi Theta Kappa inductee.

Today Beth has reached her goals of self-sufficiency. In 2005 she was married, bought a home and passed her LPN Boards. She continued her coursework and became a Registered Nurse in 2007, after which she immediately gained full-time employment with Good Samaritan Hospital in Vincennes, Indiana.

## **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Maureen Hays, Family and Community Development Specialist

## **David Toby Jones**

When David Toby Jones graduated from West Richland High School in May 2005 he had poor job, math, and language skills, and was relying on food stamps and a medical card for his basic needs. His parents had divorced and moved separately to Maryland, and he needed to find a way to survive. David found employment with West Richland School and a private wood working business and registered with Job Works.

When David lost his job at West Richland School he was referred to C.E.F.S. and the Workforce Investment Act Program. While enrolled in the program, David significantly improved his job, math, and language skills. Because of the excellent impression David had previously made at West Richland School, he was able to secure full-time employment with benefits there after exiting the Workforce Investment Act Program. He has gained significant respect from his co-workers and the Workforce Investment Act Program staff for his extraordinary work ethic and determination to become self-sufficient.

## **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Patricia Cooper, Family and Community Development Specialist

## **Lori Buzan**

Lori Buzan enrolled in the Workforce Investment Act Program in December 2006. At the time, she had been unemployed for a year, but within a month the program helped her obtain a position through the Department of Rehabilitation Services caring for a quadriplegic. While working at DORS full-time, Lori pursued her education. She earned EMT-BD certification through Frontier College and completed a Hazardous Materials Awareness course at the University of Illinois. As a qualified EMT-BD, Lori took a new job at Blue Star Ambulance Services.

Lori is afflicted with viral cardiomyopathy, a heart condition that causes extreme fatigue. Despite her medical condition and recent lay off from Blue Star Ambulance Services, Lori is continuing her education in an effort to gain stable employment and become self-sufficient. She is currently attending classes at Frontier College to become a licensed paramedic.

## **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Juda Woods, Family and Community Development Specialist

# Outstanding Volunteer Award Recipients

€ **Robert Kays**

€ **Harold Gist**

€ **Lee Ann Schultz**

€ **Alvin Graumenz**

€ **Edgar Gaskill**

€ **Isabel Henderson**



## **Robert Kays**

Robert Kays is a single father who moved to Litchfield in 2005 to be with his daughter who was attending college on a basketball scholarship. Before moving to Illinois, Robert had worked in Indiana's Public School system and gained extensive knowledge and experience working with ADHD and autistic students. He was highly respected in the school system and received several awards for his efforts.

When Robert moved to Litchfield he was living on a fixed income, so he approached C.E.F.S. seeking assistance. C.E.F.S. was able to help him with LIHEAP, Circuit Breaker, and the Food Pantry.

In August 2007, Robert asked if he could volunteer his time to C.E.F.S. in an effort to give back to the community for the assistance he had received. He now often volunteers 15-18 hours a week in the Montgomery County Food Pantry and Outreach office.

## **Community Services Block Grant Program**

Dena Weber, Program Director

Jackelyn Johnson, Montgomery County Coordinator

Brenda Decker, Housing Counselor

## **Harold Gist**

Harold Gist first came to the Taylorville Nutrition Site in 2003. He volunteered to help serve the meals, cleanup, and also counted the project income. In 2004, Harold began delivering meals for the Golden Circle Nutrition Program in the Stonington area.

Harold is such a valuable asset to the program; not only does he deliver meals, but he delivers them daily. He enjoys visiting with the homebound client and will stop to help them with extra chores if needed. Harold is also known for being so attentive in his own apartment complex. He often helps other elderly people with shopping and other errands.

In the four years Harold has been delivering meals he has rarely missed a delivery day. He truly believes in the Golden Circle Nutrition Program and strives to help others remain in their home.

## **Golden Circle Nutrition Program**

Debbie Weber, Program Director

Judy Gates, Taylorville Nutrition Site Supervisor

## **Lee Ann Schultz**

Lee Ann Schultz is a small business owner of a bookkeeping and tax service and is also employed by Kaskaskia College's Small Business Administration as an advisor and instructor. She has been devoted to improving the lives of children for several years. In 2003, she was voted "Mother of the Year" by Clinton County Schools, is active in several children's fundraisers, and regularly donates to "Toys for Tots".

The Workforce Investment Act Program has referred several students to Lee Ann in the past. These students have received excellent service and information from her. Last year, the program had a student in a financial crisis. They were able to help with food, utilities, and a car repair, but Christmas was rapidly approaching and the student did not have any money for gifts for her two children. The student was referred to two Christmas gift programs, but both programs had an age limit of fourteen for the child in need. The student's oldest child was fifteen and had special needs. The student and her husband decided if they could not afford gifts for both children, they would not give or accept donated items for either child. Program staff was able to convince the student to register her youngest child for the gift programs, while they would try to find gifts for the oldest child.

Lee Ann heard the student needed help and purchased every gift the fifteen-year-old had on his list. She also purchased a few gifts for his little sister. Lee Ann's dedication to children seemingly has no limits, and she remains an essential referral for the Workforce Investment Act Program.

## **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Rosemary Gordon-Young, Family and Community Development Specialist

## **Alvin Graumenz**

Alvin Graumenz has been volunteering in the community for the past twenty years. He has been involved with the Golden Circle Nutrition Program for ten years at the Vandalia Nutrition Site. In fact, Alvin was instrumental in starting the home-delivered system in Vandalia. He also spoke on behalf of the program to reduce the site's rental payment.

Alvin delivered meals for over six years, but due to his health he now volunteers at the center. Among his duties are counting the money, mopping floors, and delivering meals to the handicapped at the center. Alvin is also a board member for the Vandalia Senior Center. Every year he volunteers to make homemade ice cream for the Grand Levee, a fundraiser for the center.

Alvin has been instrumental in bringing community attention to the Golden Circle Nutrition Program. His dedication and loyalty to the program is proof of his belief that it really does make a difference in the lives of seniors.

## **Golden Circle Nutrition Program**

Debbie Weber, Program Director

Sharon Harris, Vandalia Nutrition Site Supervisor

## **Edgar Gaskill**

Edgar Gaskill has been volunteering for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program at the Effingham County Outreach office for the past eleven years. In addition to assisting with tax preparation, he is also an RSVP volunteer and helps with Illinois Cares Rx applications at the Effingham County Commission on Aging. Edgar has also been volunteering at the local senior center for several years and has worked with a wide range of participants in various income groups.

Before retiring, Edgar was a teacher for eight years and then worked in school administration for twenty-nine years. Robert West, Effingham County Outreach Coordinator, now considers Edgar a full-time volunteer, and is amazed at his accuracy, determination, and the number of hours he contributes to the community each month.

## **Community Service Block Grant Program**

Dena Weber, Program Director

Robert West, Effingham County Outreach Coordinator

## **Isabel Henderson**

Isabel Henderson has been volunteering with the Literacy Program since February 2004. She has been committed to the same special needs adult learner since beginning the program. She is highly regarded for reinforcing her learner's needed skills with reading and writing activities that correlate with his interests. When her learner told her it was recommended he lose weight, she prepared lessons involving health and nutrition. Now that he is contemplating marriage, Isabel has introduced materials about relationships and marriage.

Prior to becoming a tutor for the Literacy Program, Isabel tutored individuals in English and Spanish privately in her home. She also volunteered for several years as a Sunday school teacher and moderator for a women's group at her church. For her outstanding service at First Presbyterian Church she was twice awarded the Honorarium Award.

Isabel's patience, kindness, and knowledge of her learner's academic and personal needs make her an outstanding tutor. Her overwhelming dedication to the Literacy Program has made her a valuable asset to the program and community.

## **Literacy Program**

Dena Weber, Program Director

Nancy Brumleve, Volunteer Tutor Trainer

# Community Service Excellence Award Recipients

- € **Caring and Sharing**
- € **Beta Sigma Phi Sorority-  
Preceptor Delta, Centralia  
Chapter**
- € **USDA Rural Development**
- € **FISH**
- € **Effingham Child Development  
Center**
- € **Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota, Inc.**
- € **Family Video**
- € **Downs Motor, Inc.**
- € **J&L Auto Service**
- € **Historical Vandalia, Inc.**
- € **ACT, Inc.**
- € **Illinois Department of Human  
Services of Lawrence County**



## **Caring and Sharing**

Caring and Sharing began in 1982 as a small project with the Knights of Columbus in Fayette County. Today it involves nearly every church, business, school, and civic organization in the Fayette County community. Throughout the year they offer assistance for rent, utilities, gasoline, food, and prescriptions. They are especially known for providing Christmas baskets throughout Fayette County. Many families rely on these baskets to provide toys to their children who would not otherwise receive any gifts for Christmas.

For the past twenty-five years Caring and Sharing has been readily available at any time to provide assistance to a person in need. Its volunteers keep busy taking calls for assistance, personally delivering checks, and organizing and greeting families during the Christmas season for gift basket distribution.

Caring and Sharing has proven to be a valuable asset and partner to the C.E.F.S. Fayette County Outreach office. Together the two organizations will continue to work to help families overcome crises and become self-sufficient.

## **Community Services Block Grant Program**

Dena Weber, Program Director

Janet Wise, Fayette County Outreach Coordinator

## **Beta Sigma Phi Sorority- Preceptor Delta, Centralia Chapter**

The Centralia Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority- Preceptor Delta is compiled of roughly twenty women of all age groups, including teachers, nurses, and bookkeepers. They have been committed to providing assistance, whether monetary or of their time, to help those in need. Preceptor Delta is involved with several community service projects, including Centralia Clean and Green Recycling Project, PAVE, the Humane Society, Retina Foundation, and BCMW Community Services/Toys for Tots Christmas Fund.

Rosemary Gordon-Young of the Workforce Investment Act Program finds Preceptor Delta to be especially eager to help because they approach her offering assistance. They often contact the program asking if there are any students who may need help. The help they provide is not a one-time offer; they are committed for the length of time they are needed. Preceptor Delta's partnership with the Workforce Investment Act Program has made an impressive difference in the lives of the families assisted.

### **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Rosemary Gordon-Young, Family and Community Development Specialist

## **USDA Rural Development**

In the past few years, USDA Rural Development has assisted eight families as they have gone through the Homebuyer Program at C.E.F.S. The average purchase price was \$69,137 and after receiving closing cost and down payment assistance the average mortgage was \$58,775.

Rural Development helps participants obtain a much better home at an affordable price. They are able to provide very low closing costs along with great interest rates. Rural Development does not require a twenty percent down payment or private mortgage insurance. They truly strive to help participants understand every step of the home buying process and the numerous documents they must sign at closing.

USDA Rural Development has been an important partner and referral for the Homebuyer Program. Always willing to work with other programs, Rural Development understands the low to moderate-income population and their needs. Their partnership with the C.E.F.S. Homebuyer Program has allowed more participants to make homeownership not only a dream but also a reality.

## **Individual Development Account Program**

Linda Mitchell, Chief Operations Officer

Kristie Warfel, HBAP/IDA Program Coordinator

## **FISH**

FISH is a not-for-profit organization in Effingham that was established when a local pastor asked a small group of women for help purchasing an electric razor for a patient at St. Anthony's Hospital. The organization formed to help other needy people in our community. They have received the Hometown Governor's Award and have been mentioned in "Reader's Digest".

FISH and the C.E.F.S. Outreach office in Effingham provide direct monetary assistance to the needy in a very quick manner. Harold Heth works for FISH, and he is on call to help whenever needed.

FISH has offered assistance in the form of energy assistance, rent, food, gas, medicine, clothing, and transportation. Specifically, the organization has helped the needy in paying good faith effort energy payments, a payment often needed to obtain reconnect assistance in the LIHEAP program.

Besides partnering with C.E.F.S., FISH is active with Catholic Charities' Christmas Store and the School Supply Program. The organization that began with one small request has helped a tremendous number of customers over the years.

### **Community Services Block Grant Program**

Dena Weber, Program Director

Robert West, Effingham County Outreach Coordinator

## **Effingham Child Development Center**

The Effingham Child Development Center (ECDC) is a not-for-profit day care center currently providing services for approximately 115 children. Approximately 75% of the children are from low-income families. ECDC also provides services for children who are in protective custody with DCFS.

Shelli Dent from ECDC has worked with the C.E.F.S. Workforce Investment Act Program for many years. ECDC has served as a work experience worksite for the Career Seekers Youth Program. Shelli and the ECDC staff have been dedicated to working with each youth and helping them become self-sufficient. They are available to refer the youth to other agencies for assistance, help with job applications, and happily rearrange the youth's work schedule to accommodate them for necessary classes and appointments.

ECDC also ensures that its staff and the ECDC families are aware of the different services C.E.F.S. and other agencies provide. They also assist each family with completing a Project Child daycare application. Additionally, ECDC hosts Head Start for four different classrooms: full day, two half-day sessions, and one collaboration class. The Effingham Child Development Center has proven to be a valuable partner to C.E.F.S. in several programs.

### **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Charlene Nelson, Family and Community Development Specialist

## **Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota, Inc.**

Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota, Inc. has shown significant support for C.E.F.S. by servicing vehicles for program use. Robert Bugger, Transportation Coordinator, believes “they understand our mission and the demands that mission places on the vehicles which they service for us. They know that vehicle downtime means people not served, and do all they can to get our vehicles back on the road in a timely manner.”

Through the years, Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota, Inc. has supported the mission of C.E.F.S. by offering discounts and donations of parts and labor. Their support is further demonstrated by the service staff, who on more than one occasion have donated their lunchtime to road test one of our vehicles.

At times, Dan Hecht Chevrolet Toyota, Inc. has had to work directly with specialty conversion vendors to correct a problem with a C.E.F.S. specialized vehicle. Few other dealerships would be willing to invest in such a time consuming task. They show genuine concern for maintaining C.E.F.S. vehicles for their intended purpose, serving others.

## **Central Illinois Public Transit Program**

Linda Mitchell, Program Director

Robert Bugger, Transportation Coordinator

## **Family Video**

Family Video opened in Vandalia in October 2004. Since opening, they have partnered with the C.E.F.S. Fayette County Outreach office and its food pantry to deliver turkeys for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Each year Family Video employees donate their time by purchasing turkeys at local stores and then delivering them personally to families throughout the Vandalia area. In the past four years they have delivered 160 turkeys during the holidays. Because Family Video and their employees believe in volunteering their time, families in the Vandalia area have had a brighter holiday season.

## **Community Services Block Grant Program**

Dena Weber, Program Director

Janet Wise, Fayette County Outreach Coordinator

## **Downs Motor, Inc.**

Downs Motor in Pana has been a family owned business for eighty-five years. They have shown outstanding support for the C.E.F.S. Head Start Program through their care of the program's busses.

Downs Motor is one of the few service providers who have allowed themselves the time to become familiar with specialized school bus equipment such as crossing arm and stop arm controls, lift mechanisms, school bus lighting systems, and specialized charging systems. They have been dedicated to keeping the Head Start buses in working order and on their assigned routes, often performing repairs between routes if necessary. Their support of Head Start through discounts on parts and donated labor has helped children and their families throughout the C.E.F.S. service area.

## **Head Start Program**

Connie Jerden, Program Director

Robert Bugger, Transportation Coordinator

## **J&L Auto Service**

J&L Auto Service of Vandalia has shown consistency in affording priority treatment to community service vehicles such as those C.E.F.S. uses. They have been highly generous with discounts and donations on both parts and labor. J&L have kindly allowed C.E.F.S. to purchase larger ticket parts ourselves so we can obtain larger discounts using fleet purchasing. Leon Haslett, a former Transportation Supervisor himself, understands the operational requirements, legal restrictions, and budgeting needs that affect the decisions of a non-profit organization. He and the other employees of J&L Auto Service have truly contributed a great deal to C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation.

## **Central Illinois Public Transit Program**

Linda Mitchell, Program Director

Robert Bugger, Transportation Coordinator

## **Historical Vandalia, Inc.**

Historical Vandalia is a museum filled with historical artifacts dating back to when Vandalia was the Illinois State Capital. It was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1982. Since May 2007 Historical Vandalia has been a Career Seeker worksite for the Workforce Investment Act Program. As a museum, the worksite is a learning experience for program participants in more ways than one. Career seekers are able to learn about their community's history while gaining work experience and job skills. Historical Vandalia is an excellent example of an organization willing to take on the responsibilities needed to help young people in the community.

## **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Melody Lilly, Family and Community Development Specialist

## **ACT, Inc.**

ACT, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, was founded in Brownstown in the 1970s. It serves as a retreat for Christian truckers who are welcome to stop and rest anytime they need. ACT also runs a food pantry on one Wednesday each month and is in the process of opening “Victory Center”, a center for area youths.

ACT became a youth worksite with the Workforce Investment Act Program in January 2007. Out of the twenty-seven participants in Fayette County, fifteen have worked at ACT at some point. The organization goes beyond the responsibilities given through the program; the staff encourages a sense of responsibility and self-esteem with each participant. In addition, the Career Seekers gain excellent work ethics and knowledge while working at ACT. Despite the already large number of participants ACT has employed, they continue to request more youth participants to work with them. ACT has proven their dedication to our community’s young people.

## **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Melody Lilly, Family and Community Development Specialist

## **Illinois Department of Human Services of Lawrence County**

John Fearheiley has been the administrator for the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) of Lawrence County for thirteen years. He has worked as a partner with C.E.F.S. and the Workforce Investment Act Program for several years. John worked with FCD Specialist Juda Woods and others to form the Lawrence County Re-entry Program for felons and also helped bring Rides Mass Transit into the community.

The IDHS Lawrence County staff makes certain they send the Workforce Investment Act Program referral forms on all customers seeking employment. They have been very helpful in providing needed documentation and John always appreciates follow-up information about his customers. John Fearheiley is dedicated to helping his customers become self-sufficient and successful.

### **Workforce Investment Act Program**

Kevin Bushur, Program Director

Juda Woods, Family and Community Development Specialist