

# SEICAA COMMUNITY ACTION NEWS

Winter 2008/2009



## Celebrating 40 Years of Service to Southeastern Idaho!

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◆ **Executive Director: Debra R. Hemmert**

◆ **Chairman of the Board: Elmer Martinez**

“SEICAA is dedicated to providing opportunity and for individuals and communities to thrive and reach their fullest potential, promoting self-sufficiency and greater economic independence through services, education, affordable housing, and training.”

The Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency Inc. (SEICAA) announces the Agency’s 40<sup>th</sup> year service to Southeastern Idaho.

In 1964, President Johnson started the “War of Poverty,” by signing the Economic Opportunity Act; thus, starting Community Action Agencies. In 1963, a group of volunteers delivered noon meals to seniors, laying the foundations of what would become SEICAA. SEICAA was officially incorporated in 1969 and has continuously worked through a proactive vision to alleviate the devastating effects of poverty in Southeastern Idaho.

In 1970, SEICAA started a transportation system, with the “Green Hornet,” to take seniors to meal programs. During the 1970s, SEICAA started receiving USDA Commodities, created an Information and Referral Service, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) was brought under the Agency’s umbrella, and Weatherization Services started operations out of an airline hanger. SEICAA expanded the “Tello Bus” transportation system to drive those 55 and older throughout the city at no charge.

During the 1980s, SEICAA first received Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding that enabled SEICAA to open the Aid for Friends Homeless Shelter. “Tello Bus” spun off to the City of Pocatello, becoming Pocatello Urban Transit. In 1985, SEICAA acquired the former St. Anthony Hospital and renovated it into 88 units of affordable senior housing. Bannock County held the first Stone Soup Celebration and Fundraiser.

In 1994, SEICAA purchased Fountain Court Apartments; the former Pocatello Police Substation, “Station 1938,” was renovated into affordable housing; opened the Freedom LZ Homeless Veterans Shelter; and Project Warmth Golf Tournament started in Caribou County. SEICAA started the Accreditation Project for Child Care Providers, and the Parents as Teachers Program. In 1999, Youth Mentoring was added to RSVP.

In 2000, Family Development case management started. SEICAA’s Children Services Program ended in 2003. SEICAA became a Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) and started the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program in 2004. In March 2007, SEICAA’s Meals on Wheels Program delivered the One Millionth Meal, and SEICAA Manor was completed in July. In 2008, SEICAA broke ground on the first Acquisition/Infill Housing Program home, Raymond Lodge closed its doors, and SEICAA launched the Homebuyer Essentials Financial Literacy Program.

SEICAA will continue its commitment to the communities it serves. SEICAA continues to develop and expand the programs needed to meet the needs of the community. SEICAA would like to thank the community for their support over the last 40 years and look forward to continued success in the next 40 years!

SEICAA will host an open house and lunch on Wednesday May 20, 2009 from 1:4:30 PM. If you would like more information, please contact SEICAA at 232-1114 x 101.

## Executive Director Insight



Debra R. Hemmert,  
SEICAA Executive Director

SEICAA is preparing for its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. SEICAA will host an Open House and lunch for the public on May 20, 2009 from 1:00 – 4:30 PM. SEICAA would be pleased to have you join us and celebrate the Agency's many accomplishments throughout the last 40 years.

SEICAA is proud to have served the citizens of Southeastern Idaho since 1969. SEICAA has always worked very hard to provide programs that meet the ever changing needs of the communities which the Agency serves. SEICAA has moved from an agency that provided noon meals to seniors- to providing USDA Commodities, and Children's Services- to now expanding affordable housing opportunities for all those striving for the

American Dream. SEICAA will continue to shift with the changes in the times and will always be committed to providing assistance for the approximately 158,600 individuals in Southeastern Idaho. SEICAA remains dedicated to providing programs to help break the cycle of poverty and assist individuals in their quest for self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Thank you, Southeastern Idaho for 40 wonderful years!



## Montpelier Mutual Self-Help Housing Group Completes Homes

Nine homes in Montpelier, Idaho were completed in December 2008. SEICAA MSHH participants received Certificates of Occupancy in January 2009 and have moved into their beautiful, new, energy efficient homes. The homes are located on Moose Loop in the Foothills Subdivision.

Montpelier MSHH participants started construction on the nine units in October 2007 and completed all nine units in a record 14 months, an average of one home per 1.5 months.

SEICAA's MSHH Program is supported through funding from the United States Department of

Agriculture- Rural Development, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines' Affordable Housing Program, Community Frameworks, and Idaho Housing and Finance Association. Participants are required to complete Homebuyer and Post-Purchase Education Courses supported through grants from Key Foundation, Bank of America, and Washington Mutual.

SEICAA is currently recruiting for a second phase of homes in Montpelier., nine participants in Preston, Soda Springs, and a second phase in Malad. If you, or someone you know may be interested, please contact Ramona Raymond at (208)232-1114 x 157.



**MONTPELIER HOMES  
12-2008**



## SEICAA Programs Receive Donation from First United Methodist Church



**MOTHER & SON MEALS  
ON WHEELS RECIPIENTS**

SEICAA received donations from the First United Methodist Church for Community Services and the Meals on Wheels Program. The \$1000 donations for each program assisted SEICAA in providing vital services to participants in each of these programs.

SEICAA appreciates the donation and support from local organizations, as the Agency relies on community partnerships to provide services to those in need. SEICAA looks forward to working together for referrals and fostering stable relationships. Thank you!

## 2008 Holiday Events Make an Impact

The Holiday Season is always a busy time for SEICAA Community Services. Coordinators work to provide everything from dinner to gifts.

**Bannock County:**

- ◆ Bannock Civitan's 7th Annual Holiday Party benefited 163 children.
- ◆ 73 Children participated in "Shop with a Cop."
- ◆ 31 Families received assistance through the Adopt a Family Holiday Program.
- ◆ 10 Families received Thanksgiving Dinner; Christmas Trees; and Christmas Dinner from 1st Annual Eagle Scout Project.
- ◆ 35 Families participated in "Simply Christmas."

**Bear Lake County:**

- ◆ 72 Families received toys from the Toys for Tots Program.
- ◆ 29 Families received turkeys for Thanksgiving & Christmas.
- ◆ 35 Library books donated from the library for food boxes.
- ◆ 12 Families were adopted by the LDS Church for Christmas.

**Bingham County:**

- ◆ 80 Households assisted through Santa's Helper Program.
- ◆ 400 Children benefited from Children's Community Christmas Project.

- ◆ 30 Families received assistance through the Shoebox Christmas Program.
- ◆ 150 Thanksgiving boxes distributed.
- ◆ SEICAA's Food Bank helped the Ministerial Association's Christmas food box distribution that provided over 500 households with food.

**Caribou County:**

- ◆ 6 Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinners distributed.
- ◆ 12 Families received assistance through Shoebox Christmas.
- ◆ 5 Families were adopted for Christmas.

**Franklin County:**

- ◆ 59 Households received Holiday Baskets.

**Oneida County:**

- ◆ 88 Families received Holiday Baskets.
- ◆ 21 Families & 55 children received assistance through the Sub for Santa Program.

- ◆ 6 Children participated in the "Shop with a Cop Program."

**Power County:**

- ◆ 81 Families received Holiday Food Boxes with one gift per child through the help of St. John Lutheran Church.

*"To do something, however small, to make others happier and better, is the highest ambition, the most elevating hope, which can inspire a human being."*

*Sir John Lubbock*

### SEICAA'S ACQUISITION HOUSING PROGRAM

### RECEIVES \$75,000 GRANT THROUGH ZION'S BANK

In January, SEICAA received notification that its grant application to the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle for down-payment assistance in the Acquisition/Infill Housing Program was approved. SEICAA secured \$75,000 to be utilized for five units of affordable housing. SEICAA's application was one of only three in Idaho, and the only one in Southern Idaho, to receive funding. Zion's First National Bank is SEICAA's sponsor for the Affordable Housing Program (AHP) down-payment assistance funds.



KELLY ANDERSON, ZION'S BANK REGIONAL PRESIDENT; MARK MCOMBER, POCATELLO BRANCH MANAGER; DEBRA R. HEMMERT, SEICAA CEO; ROB McMINN, POCATELLO BRANCH MANAGER; & ROBERT RENDON, ZION'S BANK SVP & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

## Acquisition/Infill Housing Pours Foundation



1439 N. HARRISON. BASEMENT AND FIRST LEVEL.

SEICAA poured the foundation on the first home in the Acquisition/Infill Housing Program. SEICAA is the general contractor for all units in the program. The Acquisition/Infill Housing Program utilizes limited sweat equity by participants, as feasible, to lower construction costs and keep the units affordable.

Participants in Acquisition/Infill Housing must pre-qualify through SEICAA based on several factors including income level, credit score, and debt-to-income ratio. Once an applicant receives pre-approval through SEICAA, necessary paperwork is taken to a local bank for loan pre-approval. Once

mortgage pre-approval is received, contracts are signed and the home is started. Participants close on the mortgage and purchase the home upon completion.

SEICAA's Acquisition/Infill Housing Program is sponsored by the City of Pocatello, Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle's Affordable Housing Program, and Idaho Housing and Finance Association. For more information about SEICAA's Acquisition/Infill Housing Program, contact Lynette Sampson at 208-232-1114 x 113 or visit [www.seicaa.org](http://www.seicaa.org).

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation incorporated in 1969 to combat poverty in southeastern Idaho. SEICAA provides a network of integrated services where no eligible person is turned away. SEICAA provides and advocates for resources that empower Southeastern Idaho residents to have the skills and resources necessary to improve their quality of life and become self-sufficient. Services are provided for over 158,627 individuals throughout seven counties of southeastern Idaho.

<b>Administration:</b>	<b>(208) 232-1114</b> Ext 101
<b>Community Services:</b>	<b>(208) 233- 7348</b>
<b>Affordable Housing Program:</b>	<b>(208) 232-1114</b> Ext 108
<b>Community Development (Construction):</b>	<b>(208) 232-1114</b> Ext 111
<b>Senior Services:</b>	<b>(208) 233-2878</b>
<b>Weatherization:</b>	<b>(208) 237-0991</b>
<b>Veteran Services:</b>	<b>(208) 234-2466</b>
<b>Financial Literacy:</b>	<b>(208) 232-1114 x 109</b>
<b>Outreach Offices:</b>	
<b>Bannock County:</b>	<b>(208) 232-1114</b>
<b>Bingham County:</b>	<b>(208) 785-1583</b>
<b>Bear Lake County:</b>	<b>(208) 847-1462</b>
<b>Caribou County:</b>	<b>(208) 547-4257</b>
<b>Franklin County:</b>	<b>(208) 852-1515</b>
<b>Oneida County:</b>	<b>(208) 766-2737</b>
<b>Power County:</b>	<b>(208) 226-7330</b>

**SEICAA “ Agency in Action”  
televised show informs  
Pocatello community!!**

Stay informed: Watch Channel 12  
Wednesdays and Saturdays.



*Introducing the “soul” of  
SEICAA..*

*Employee Appreciation*

### *Letter from Meals on Wheels Client to the Letter to the Editor in the Idaho State Journal, December 2008:*

“I need to share a wonderful experience to the best of Pocatello. Yes, Meals on Wheels! The people involved are so professional and caring that gracious doesn’t express my gratitude. Especially this Christmas season. A wonderful lady from Meals on Wheels brought me a Christmas gift wrapped. It was 150 pieces of Mars candy. Eight hours later I still wipe tears. These people really care for our senior citizens. They bring meals and dignity to us seniors. God bless each and every one of them. I would encourage all of Bannock County people know what they do, and whenever you can make a donation to the Meals on Wheels, you are donating to your own future. I give what I can. They bring meals that are nutritious, that I haven’t had since I was a child. Meals on Wheels outdid themselves to me today. Thanks, Pocatello, Bannock County, people, be aware of what they do and endorse them. I am humbled by their work. Merry Christmas to all of those wonderful people.”

*Thank  
You!*



**SEICAA Homebuyer Essentials:** All classes held in SEICAA's Main Conference room located at 825 E. Bridger, unless otherwise indicated. Reservations recommended. Call Merriann at 232-1114 x 109.

**Money Management Schedule:**

*Bannock County:*

May 11: 12-6PM

June 15: 12-6PM

June 22 & 23: 6-9PM

April 15: 9AM-3PM

*Oneida County:* SEICAA Office 300 N. 100 W.

April 29: 9AM-3PM

**Homebuyer Education:**

*Franklin County:*

May 13: 8-5:00 PM

(1 hour lunch break)

**\*\*SEICAA Franklin County**

**Office- 16 S. 1st W. Preston, ID\*\***

Visit [www.seicaa.org](http://www.seicaa.org) for complete schedule.

**Post-Purchase Education Schedule:**

**\*\*please note locations\*\***

**Malad-** SEICAA Office 30 N. 100 W.

May 6- 12:30-3:30PM

August 12- 12:30-3:30PM

December 2- 12:30-3:30PM

**Montpelier-** SEICAA Office

**680 N. 4th, Ste. 3**

April 1- 12:30-3:30PM

July 29- 12:30-3:30PM

December 9- 12:30-3:30PM

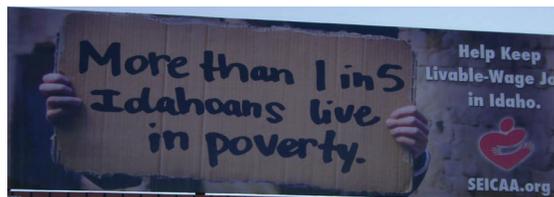
*Help us Make It Happen...*

The overwhelming number of people in crisis can be assisted with your help. Your generous tax deductible donation is greatly appreciated. All contributions directly benefit those needing assistance in the SEICAA seven county service area.

=====  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Enclosed is my gift of \_\_\_\_\_  
 =====

*"Success is the American Dream we can keep dreaming because most people in most places, including thirty million of ourselves, live wide awake in the terrible reality of poverty."*

*Ursula K. Le Guin*



## SEICAA

641 N. 8th Avenue  
Pocatello, ID 83201



Community Action Partnership of Southeastern Idaho:  
America's Poverty Fighting Network

**Visit us on the web  
at: [www.seicaa.org](http://www.seicaa.org)**

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Community Action News is a publication of the  
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Or [lsampson@seicaa.org](mailto:lsampson@seicaa.org), 232-1114 Ext 113

