

# SEICAA COMMUNITY ACTION NEWS

January-June 2011



## SEICAA S.E.R.C. PROGRAM- FOCUS ON ENERGY CONSERVATION

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♦ Executive Director: Debra R. Hemmert

♦ Chairman of the Board: Cory Phelps

“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.”

SEICAA’s Weatherization Program was among the highest performing programs in the United States in 2010. SEICAA’s Weatherization Program received American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to increase production and make qualifying southeast Idaho homes more energy efficient. At the start of 2010, SEICAA



set a goal of providing weatherization services on 500 homes; SEICAA exceeded the established goal by 27.4%, completing a total of 637 units.

SEICAA’s exceptional production, along with other high performing agencies in Idaho, resulted in a statewide grant pilot program. The Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (S.E.R.C.), a pilot program through the U.S. Department of Energy, has a goal of providing and studying the effectiveness of highly rated energy efficient products and materials. In addition to completing various S.E.R.C. related energy measures, SEICAA has

been tasked with community based marketing to gauge the best methods of disseminating information to the public.

SEICAA designed an energy conservation campaign utilizing children to demonstrate simple ways to use limited resources. SEICAA believes that through showing children completing tasks that they will then encourage their parents to integrate the practices in their homes. SEICAA has taken a broad approach to marketing, including through the agency’s webpage ([www.seicaa.org](http://www.seicaa.org)); Facebook; Twitter; YouTube; commercials featured on local channels KIFI, KPVI, and KIDK; and a commercial featured at the Carmike Pine Ridge 10 digital theater.

Catch SEICAA’s commercials on the local stations through January 2012 and in the movie theater until March 2012. For more information on S.E.R.C. contact SEICAA’s Weatherization Program at 208-232-1114 x 200.



# Focus on Success

"In an effort to share more information with our community, I am yielding my Executive Director's column to highlight a SEICAA success story. While we see many individuals and families who are able to achieve remarkable things, I believe this young woman deserves to be recognized for her accomplishment" Deb Hemmert, SEICAA Executive Director.

Trish is a 32 year old woman who for many years was a manager of local convenience store. Due to an economic downturn she was laid off. Shortly after losing her job, she was forced to move in with her parents; and then she found out she was pregnant.

Overwhelmed with excitement and fear she began thinking more of her future and what she really wanted to do with her life. She started taking classes at the ISU outreach center in Blackfoot to get her GED. She was then referred to SEICAA's GED program for extra assistance with tutoring and testing fees.

Trish is very well spoken and intelligent; when she is determined about doing something there is not much that can stop her. SEICAA's GED educator knew immediately Trish would pass the GED tests with high scores. Trish took her GED very seriously, studied and worked hard.

She immediately began setting other goals. Trish set her sights on furthering her education and becoming a licensed cosmetologist. She then worked toward improving her living arrangements. Trish applied for housing at SEICAA's South Oak Apartments; affordable apartments based on the rental market in the Blackfoot community. Since Trish had good credit and was receiving unemployment benefits, she was eligible.

Trish needed assistance with the deposit and first month's rent. Trish approached SEICAA's Bingham County Coordinator to see if the agency could help. Since she was in SEICAA's SEICAA Family Development Program and was successful in getting her GED, SEICAA was able to utilize United Way funds to pay her first month's rent.

Now that she had found permanent housing she was able to focus on getting into the ISU Cosmetology Program. Unfortunately, the program was full until the spring semester. Trish was upset, but learned about another school for cosmetology. She set up an appointment with an instructor that helped her get a grant to pay for at least 90% of her training, and provides the access additional financial aid as needed. Trish now has her GED, is pursuing her educational goals, is living an affordable apartment, and has a beautiful baby girl.

Trish had the initiative to get out and find community resources that could help her, and she utilized the services to the betterment of her and her daughter. Trish is just one example of how commitment, dedication, and determination of personal goals can change a person's life and make it better.

## Oneida County Bike-A-Thon

SEICAA's Oneida County Office held the annual Bike-a-Thon fundraiser in conjunction with Malad Elementary, Oneida County Sherriff Department, Malad High School Honor Society, and other local businesses and organizations.

- ◆ 14th Annual event
- ◆ 98 participating elementary students
- ◆ 1674 laps around Malad City Park Greenbelt
- ◆ 837 miles total
- ◆ \$2400 raised for emergency needs for those struggling economically in Oneida County
- ◆ 3rd graders raised the most funds of any group

## SEICAA VITA Tax Assistance Preparation Program

SEICAA started providing VITA to income limited households and elderly in 2011. SEICAA is recruiting volunteers to assist in tax prep for qualifying households. Volunteers may work 1-20 hours a week. SEICAA's VITA Program provides training and support for volunteers and services directly to those qualifying for free tax prep. For more information, contact SEICAA at 232-1114 x 152.

- ◆ 20 households assisted
- ◆ \$22,857 received in tax returns
- ◆ \$8300 Earned Income Tax Credit received
- ◆ \$5120 save in tax preparation fees

### Grants Update



SEICAA received grant support from local foundations and businesses to support program activities. SEICAA's financial

literacy program received continued support from Bank of America and Washington Federal Savings.



SEICAA's GED Program received additional support from Heinz to assist 15 individuals in completing their basic education certificate.



In addition to continued support, SEICAA received a first-time \$5000 grant from the Home Foundation to be utilized as "matched" savings for the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program. In SEICAA's IDA Program, individuals work with staff on financial literacy, research their asset purchase goal, and make monthly deposits toward their goal. The Home Foundation's grant will provide matched savings contribution for individuals completing contractual obligations.



Nancy, SEICAA's 1st IDA Graduate

# SEICAA GED Program

SEICAA started the GED Program in September 2009 with funds received through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. SEICAA's GED Program provides tutoring services, assistance with pre-assessment and GED test fees, and other related needs. SEICAA's GED staff travel to provide services in outer counties and provide flexible schedules to further assist those working toward their basic education certificate.

SEICAA's GED Program is unique from other programs, as the agency also utilizes volunteers who provide a variety of additional assistance including

basic literacy tutoring for those lacking basic reading and/or comprehension skills. If you would like to volunteer as a tutor, please contact SEICAA at 208-232-1114 x 139.

- ◆ 221 GED graduates
- ◆ 53 actively being tutored
- ◆ 77 graduates are perusing additional education
- ◆ 137 graduates have improved their employment

**"Action is the foundational key to all success."**

*Pablo Picasso*

## Her Alibi Donation

Her Alibi antique store in Pocatello held High Tea and a silent auction to benefit SEICAA's Meals on Wheel Program. The event was a success and attendees had a keen time. Her Alibi is planning another event for the spring of 2012.



## Postal Food Drives

SEICAA county office provide emergency food to households in need; this service is especially valuable in outreach counties where SEICAA is the only organization providing assistance. The postal food drives, Boy Scout food drives, and other organizations that collect food for charity, provide shelf-stable food to SEICAA twice a year. Thanks to postal employees, area Boy Scout Troops, and volunteers for making events successful!

**Bannock:** 8,250 pounds of food received

**Bear Lake:** 3,469 pounds of food from Boy Scout Drive

**Bingham:** 5,000 pounds of food donated

**Franklin:** 7,500 pounds of boxed and canned food donated to SEICAA

**Oneida:** 353 canned and boxed food items received

## Meals on Wheels Golf Tournament

SEICAA's Meals on Wheels provides hot meals to homebound seniors in Northern Bannock County. SEICAA started an annual golf fundraiser in 2007 to supplement program funds impacted by budget cuts. For the 2nd consecutive year, beautiful weather greeted 80 total golfers!



- ◆ \$5000 raised with 100% of proceeds applied directly to program costs
- ◆ 20 participating teams

**SEICAA Homebuyer Essentials:** All classes held in SEICAA’s Conference room located at 825 E. Bridger Pocatello, unless otherwise indicated. Reservations recommended. Call Stephanie at 232-1114 x 152. Visit [www.seicaa.org](http://www.seicaa.org) for complete course schedules.



**Money Management Schedule:**

Pocatello:

October 11th: 10:00am  
 November 16th: 1:00pm  
 December 12th: 10:00am  
 December 14th: 5:00pm

**Homebuyer Education:**

*Bannock County:*

September 28th: 5:00pm  
 November 3rd, Section A: 1:00pm  
 November 10th, Section B: 1:00pm

**Post-Purchase Education Schedule:**

**Pocatello-** Winter Session  
 November 19th: 9:00am

Find course updates at:

“Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency Inc.” on  
 or [www.seicaa.org](http://www.seicaa.org)



*“The only time we should look down upon another human being is when we are bending over to help them up.”*

Author Unknown

# LIHEAP

- ◆ 6076 Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) applications completed
- ◆ \$1,198,120 total benefits provided

In addition to providing energy assistance, SEICAA referrals all households to Weatherization for further energy-related assistance. All households receiving energy assistance are provided energy conservation information and referrals to SEICAA’s services to increase self-sufficiency. SEICAA offers family development case management, Individual Development Accounts, FDIC Money Smart, and credit counseling to assist individuals and households achieve stability and self-reliance. For more information on SEICAA’s self-sufficiency services, contact SEICAA at 208-232-1114 x 126.

## 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.

- Administration:** (208) 232-1114  
Ext 101
- Community Services:** (208) 233- 7348
- Affordable Housing Programs:**  
(208) 232-1114  
Ext 108
- Rental Housing:** (208) 234-0966
- Senior Services:** (208) 233-9677
- Weatherization:** (208) 237-0991
- Veteran Services:** (208) 234-2466
- Financial Literacy:** (208) 232-1114 x 152

### Outreach Offices:

- Bannock County:** (208) 232-1114
- Bingham County:** (208) 785-1583
- Bear Lake County:** (208) 847-1462
- Caribou County:** (208) 547-4257
- Franklin County:** (208) 852-1515
- Oneida County:** (208) 766-2737
- Power County:** (208) 226-7330

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

Stay informed: Watch Channel 12  
Wednesdays and Saturdays.



# Upcoming Events

## Bingham County Stone Soup:

Tuesday, October 11: 5:30-8:30pm  
Mountain View Middle School, Blackfoot  
Contact: 785-1583 for more information

## Bannock County Stone Soup:

Monday, October 17: 5:00-8:00pm  
ISU SUB Ballroom, Pocatello  
Contact: 232-1114 x 126 for more information



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.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my gift of \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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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