



**SouthEastern Idaho  
Community Action Agency**  
*Helping People. Changing Lives.*

# SEICAA Community Action NEWS!!

Issue: Spring 2007

## This Issue:

\*\* Mutual Self-Help  
Housing Highlights  
PG 1

\*\* News & Views of  
SEICAA  
PG 2

\*\* Fundraisers &  
Highlights  
PG 3-4

\*\* Highlighted  
Program & Updates  
Pgs 5

\*\* The Soul of SEICAA  
" THE STAFF"  
PG 6

Executive Director:  
Debra R. Hemmert  
Chairman of the Board  
Guy Price



" SEICAA is dedicated to  
strengthening individuals  
and communities through  
services, education, and  
training while promoting  
human  
potential"

## Mutual Self-Help Housing Brings Construction To More Communities

**S**outheastern Idaho Community Action Agency Inc. believes in helping people become self-sufficient. The Mutual Self-Help Housing Program started another phase by breaking ground in Montpelier on June 16, 2007. Projects in Malad are underway, with Inkom to break ground in August. The Montpelier project will construct ten homes this first year. Inkom will begin with seven homes and three more to follow. Funding for participants comes from USDA Rural Development, Community Frameworks, RCAC, and the Idaho Housing and Finance Association. Mutual Self-Help Housing Participants work at least 35 hours a week to build the homes of those in their build group, utilizing sweat equity as down payment. In the three years the program has been functional, over twenty homes have been constructed, and more low to moderate-income applicants show interest everyday.



*Groundbreaking in Montpelier, ID June 16, 2007*



*Malad Groundbreaking April 28, 2007  
April*



### Insight From SEICAA's Executive Director

Dear SEICAA Friends:

SEICAA has undergone a shift in how it does business in the past several years. Community Action Agencies across the nation have been asked to show progress in a whole different way. The year 2000 brought about a new paradigm shift in the way CAA's operate. It is no longer acceptable to just show numbers of services

and people. The concept now is to report the number of people who have become self reliant through SEICAA's programs and linkages within the communities. Entitlements and advocacy were the traditional focus for many years. Now the primary goal is moving low-income families toward self-sufficiency instead of entitlement "giveaways". The idea was a good one, implementing the process, however, proved to be a bit more challenging.

What we've learned over the years is a fairly simple concept: No matter how determined a person may be to break the poverty cycle, without assets to build economic strength, it is nearly impossible. Asset building is truly the answer to ending the cycle so many of our citizens have been locked into. By asset building I mean more than just "money in the bank". Goal setting, education, work skills and the ability to earn a livable wage are all key to escaping the throws of poverty.

In an effort to assist more families move from poverty to prosperity, SEICAA's has implemented several programs that we believe will assist the families in southeastern Idaho communities develop personal and community assets. The Family Development Program is such a program that works one on one with families and individuals to assist them determine their barriers to self-sufficiency and goal setting to empower the family to move forward. The Mutual Self Help Housing Program, where participants assist in building not just their homes but also their neighbor's home as well, is another progressive program to build family assets. When the homes are complete these hardworking families move in with approximately \$30,000 "sweat equity" for each home and owner. An additional benefit to this program is the broadened property tax base in the rural communities. The third program that has proven to be an effective tool for the participants to help build assets is the Individual Development Accounts (IDA) program. This plan matches the participating individual's own financial contribution using privately generated dollars. While there are certain rules and restrictions to the program, a dedicated "saver" can walk away at the end of a two-year period with twice the amount they personally contributed. The funds can be used for a home, education or beginning their own business.

SEICAA, as an organization, has undergone steps toward self-sufficiency during this time as well. With the "ever shrinking" federal funding experienced during the last several years, we have become more focused on the ability to find or earn unrestricted dollars. Don't misunderstand, it hasn't been, and still isn't, an easy task. The process has been a slow one to shifting our focus on earning money, not just receiving money. Through it all, I believe this may have given the SEICAA team a better understanding of what the participants may be experiencing too. The bottom line, self-sufficiency takes a lot of planning, goal setting, dedication and in most cases... a whole lot of hard work.

## PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency inc. is a private, non-profit corporation created in 1968 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 95, 737 individuals throughout seven counties of southeastern Idaho.

**Administration:** (208) 232-1114

**Community Services:** (208) 233- 7348

**Mutual Self-Help Housing Program:**  
(208) 232-1114  
Ext 108

**Community Development (Construction):**  
(208) 232-1114  
Ext 111

**Senior Services:** (208) 233-2878

### 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.



**Bannock County Meals on Wheels Gears Up for First Annual Driving for Dough Charity Golf Tournament**

SEICAA's Meals on Wheels will be hosting its First Annual Driving for Dough Charity Golf Tournament to benefit the Meals on Wheels Program. Those interested in participating can use the entry form on this page to enter. The tournament will be held September 29th, 2007 at Riverside Golf Course in Pocatello. Please feel free to contact Helen Mayberry at 233-9677 ext 139 or Lynette Sampson at 232-1114 ext 113 with any questions or concerns.

**Zions Bank Contributes Time to Help Meals on Wheels Participant**

Employees of Zion Bank completed a community service project by helping with routine maintenance of an elderly Meals on Wheels participant's home. Zions Bank painted the exterior of the home, mowed and weeded the lawn, fertilized the yard to encourage grass to grow, decorated the yard with potted flowers, and re-hung a porch light. Zions Bank donates both time and money to help further community goals. Zion Bank represents the spirit of the community and SEICAA is fortunate to maintain such a great relationship.



June 19, 2007



ENTRY FORM

Pre-Payment preferred (but early morning registration the day of tournament will be available). All teams **must** have a team captain. Players submit money to their team captain. If pre-paying please mail entry form and fees by September 21, 2007.

**\$50.00/player - includes greens fee and dinner**

**TEAM CAPTAIN** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handicap \_\_\_\_\_ or average 18-hole score \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM MEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handicap \_\_\_\_\_ or average 18-hole score \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM MEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handicap \_\_\_\_\_ or average 18-hole score \_\_\_\_\_

**TEAM MEMBER** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Handicap \_\_\_\_\_ or average 18-hole score \_\_\_\_\_

# of dinner guests (\$8.50/guest) \_\_\_\_\_

Send form & payment to:  
**SEICAA - Driving For Dough**  
 641 N. 8th Avenue  
 Pocatello, ID 83201  
 (208) 232-1114



Entry Fee is a tax-deductible donation

## Upcoming Fundraisers

SEICAA is preparing for a long hot summer filled with planning and anticipation of numerous upcoming fundraisers. In addition to the Bannock County charity golf tournament, Preston, Soda Springs, and Montpelier are all gearing up for their annual tournaments to benefit area needy individuals. Stone Soup Fundraiser planning is underway in Bannock and Bingham Counties. Much planning in early summer will lead to wonderful events at the end of the season and early beginning of fall. See you there!



### Oneida County SEICAA Bike-a-Thon a Success



The tenth year of Oneida County's SEICAA sponsored Bike-a-Thon with Malad Elementary Students was a big success. Ninety-four participants joined together in May 2007 and

rode 1612 laps, a combined total of 806 miles, around the Malad City Greenbelt.

Students collected over \$2300.00 in pledge money, all of which was deposited into the Oneida County Stone Soup Fund. Local businesses contributed

over \$2500.00 for the event. All student participants received a new backpack, toys, certificates, and those without helmets received one from SEICAA. The Bike-a-Thon was much anticipated and was enjoyed by all who participated.



*Student participants May 2007*

## A SEICAA Success Story

*Submitted by Karen Briand,  
Bear Lake County Coordinator*



Approximately two years ago, I received a phone call from a local business telling me about a homeless family of five that was in need of assistance. They had been through some very difficult times and needed assistance securing housing and finding jobs. I met with the family and we talked about the steps it would take to get them into the Mutual Self-Help Housing Program. Bear Lake County SEICAA found them a place to stay, and both parents found jobs. SEICAA began working with both individuals on repairing their credit. Over the last year, they have worked towards the goal of owning their own home. SEICAA helped arrange financial assistance through a small loan to help buy beds for their children; they just finished paying the loan back. In August, they along with seven other families, will start construction on their own home. The growth in the past year with this family is truly amazing; they have had to endure some very hard times to reach this point in their lives, but they never gave up.

Congratulations on all you have accomplished, and on becoming homeowners!

## Weatherization: SEICAA's Highlighted Program

The fiscal year has ended for the Weatherization Program, and numbers are impressive. During the last year, Weatherization completed small, but significant, improvements on 154 homes. Within the 154 homes, 692 windows, 159 doors, 1,073 bags of Insulsafe, 1,282 bags of Cellulose, 29 furnaces, 4 wall heaters, 328 rolls insulation, and 6 sliding doors were installed. Although one fiscal year has ended, crews have continued to stay busy helping more homes become more energy efficient.

In addition to basic weatherization improvement, improving efficiency of mobile homes built before 1975 has kept crews on the go. Funding supplied from the Mobile Home Safety Program enabled Weatherization to purchase egress windows and furnaces for those in need. Ten mobile homes were completed with Mobile Home Safety Funds, with the program total equaling \$21,500.

Weatherization utilized LIHEAP funds for emergencies. The program utilized \$16,000 to help 21 homes purchase furnaces, water heaters, and plumbing and furnace repairs. Funds from the USDA Housing Preservation Grant further enabled Weatherization to spread needed resources. Rural Development approves projects that improve safety and health of dwellings. The repairs in this program include electrical upgrades, windows, roof repairs, storm doors, furnaces, and sewer repairs. At the end of the year, eight homes were completed with the grant.



## SEICAA Helps Alleviate Hunger With USDA Commodities

SEICAA distributes USDA Commodities to the public once a month. The program is vital to the families needing food. Under the program, families qualify for USDA commodities for one year, and typically receive food once a month for a full year. SEICAA typically distributes an average of 920 households a month in southeastern Idaho. During the first quarter of 2007, food commodities were distributed to 5522 needy families.

*"Nobody made a greater mistake  
than he who did nothing because  
he could do only a little."*



*Edmund Burke*

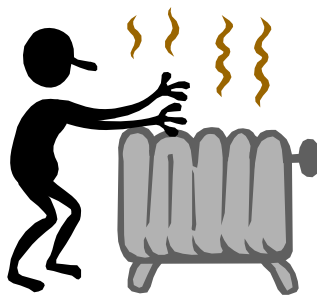
COLLABERTIVE TEAMWORK  
IS THE ESSENCE OF ALL  
ORGANIZATIONS!!  
Introducing the team of  
Weatherization....



*“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”*

*Mahatma Gandhi*

Working in the Weatherization Program provides comfort for those in need during the harsh winters and too hot summers. The Weatherization Program provides assistance to the economically disadvantaged through funding received from the Department of Energy, Idaho Power, and Rocky Mountain Power. The ongoing goal to reduce energy consumption within homes by making them more energy efficient has been very successful. SEICAA 's Weatherization Program reduces consumption with attic floor and wall insulation, weather stripping, energy efficient furnaces, storm windows, and education on how to reduce energy costs. All the services are available because of the hard working and dedicated people working in the Weatherization Program. Thanks everyone!



**SEICAA**  
641 N 8th Avenue  
Pocatello, ID 83201



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

**Southeastern Idaho Community  
Action Agency Inc. Board of  
Directors**

**Guy Price, Chair**

*Private Sector*

**Renee Richardson, Vice Chair**

*Public Sector*

**Suzanna Nelson, Treasurer**

*Private Sector*

**Kay Stilwell, Secretary**

*Low-Income Sector*

**Lin Whitworth**

*Public Sector*

**Ron Frasure**

*Public Sector*

**Elmer Martinez**

*Private Sector*

**Dave Maguire**

*Private Sector*

**Marianne Donnelly**

*Public Sector*

**Rhonda Anderson**

*Low-Income Sector*

**Paula Miller**

*Low-Income Sector*

**Judy McClahahan**

*Low-Income Sector*

**Beth Hill**

*Private Sector*

**Mary Watkins**

*Low-Income Sector*

**Janice Lawes**

*Public Sector*

**Community Action News** is a publication of the  
Southeastern Idaho Community Action Agency of  
southeastern Idaho

Executive Director Insight: Debra R. Hemmert

Articles by: Lynette Sampson

Photos by: Shalynn Peirsol, Lynette Sampson,  
Helen Mayberry, Merriann Forest

Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Please address comments to:  
Marketing and Public Relations

641 N. 8th Avenue  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Or [Isampson@seicaa.org](mailto:Isampson@seicaa.org), 232-1114 Ext 113