

Event features work of Garrett County Community Action

FOR THE CUMBERLAND TIMES-NEWS

OAKLAND — As part of Community Development Week 2018, the Community Development Network of Maryland and Garrett County Community Action Committee will host an event highlighting the work of CAC in the community.

A discussion and tour of Community Action's work will take place Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 104 E. Center St.

Garrett County CAC has been improving the lives of families who are most in

need for more than 50 years. Community action agencies are nonprofit organizations that were created by the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act to connect elected officials, community and business leaders and low-income residents to collectively solve local problems and help people become self-sufficient. Garrett County CAC is one of 17 community action agencies in Maryland and several hundred around the country.

"Our organization's mission is simple — it's to improve the quality of life for people in need by empowering them to become more

self-sufficient and by providing essential services in collaboration and cooperation with partners," said Duane Yoder, president of Garrett County CAC. "We are committed to reducing poverty and advancing opportunities for families in Garrett County."

Serving nearly 33 percent of households and 25 percent of county residents, Garrett County CAC has helped create affordable housing, foster business development opportunities, enable workforce development and education and provide transportation services.

Garrett County CAC has been at the forefront of the Two Generation approach to client services, which is focused on creating opportunities for and addressing needs of both children and the adults in their lives together. The strategy — supported by the Annie E. Casey Foundation — aims to reduce poverty by connecting low-income families with early childhood education, job training and other tools to achieve financial stability and break the cycle of poverty.

"Garrett County CAC has been a true leader in conducting innovative and holis-

tic projects to strengthen its community and help families thrive," said Odette Ramos, executive director of the Community Development Network of Maryland.

The Community Development Network of Maryland has more than 180 member organizations from across the state, including nonprofits, small developers and community-based organizations, as well as government and business partners.

From Main Street groups to urban neighborhood organizations to rural towns, CDN strengthens, promotes and advocates for Maryland's community development industry.

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