DORA: THE AMBASSADOR OF GARRETT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION

Dora has been employed by Community Action for over 20 years. During that time, all four of Dora’s children have benefitted from being enrolled in the Head Start program. “Attending Head Start helped my kids learn how to get along with other children and also helped them to develop the skills they needed to be successful in kindergarten,” says Dora.

Dora’s story starts in 1992 when she was working at the local grocery store and learned of a job opportunity as an accounting assistant with GCCAC. Through hard work and by utilizing the many supportive services offered by Community Action, Dora is now Vice-President of Finance for GCCAC, owns a home, and is the proud parent of four high school graduates, one of whom recently graduated from college!

Through participation in the agency’s Individual Development Account (IDA) Program, Dora’s daughter saved $1,000, which was matched two to one by the IDA program for a total of $3,000. This amount was used to assist with her tuition to Frostburg State University.

In addition to working at the agency, Dora sometimes works for her former employer in a part-time capacity. As an employee in a very busy grocery store, she meets many people who have questions about GCCAC’s programs which she is happy to answer. She is also able to provide accurate information to those who may not fully understand how some of the programs work.

As Dora says, “Community Action can assist families form A-to-Z, not just A-to-D.” From early childhood education to savings accounts for college, GCCAC has many programs to support a family’s progress towards self-sufficiency.