The mission of Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc., is 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.

**Delivery of New Transit Buses Begins at Garrett Transit Service**

After waiting nearly three years due to Federal and State budgetary and contract issues, Garrett Transit Service (GTS) took the first delivery of 2 of 9 back ordered buses this past week. The remaining 7 will continue to arrive over the next several weeks. In order for buses to qualify for replacement, vehicles must have been in service for a minimum of 6 years and have accrued a minimum of 200,000 miles.

"The new buses that are to be delivered represent a nearly 50% turnover in the transit fleet that GTS maintains," commented GTS Director, Mike Hill. All of the replacements are equipped with lifts to accommodate wheel chair riders. Upgraded technology that includes new radios, video cameras, and automatic vehicle locators are being installed.

"Safe and secure transportation is our priority and the vehicle locators will continue to enhance our capacity to fulfill the rising need for public transportation. The mountainous terrain and harsh winters of Garrett County take a toll on our fleet," stated Hill. Continuing he stated,"We have a dedicated team of transit professionals at GTS who have been able to keep the aging fleet up and running. The new buses are a welcome sight."

More information about booking rides and rates on Garrett Transit Service [click here].
Don't Miss This

5th Annual
GARRETT COUNTY OPRY
FRIDAY JULY 14TH

6:00pm Weeks Family String Band
6:45PM Loretta Hummel and Country Grass
7:30PM Second Wind (Bluegrass, Old Time Music)
8:15PM Casselman Valley Travelers
9:00PM Rusty Halo and the Durst Brothers Band

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

M.C. TRAVIS MEDCALF

6-10PM GARRETT COLLEGE AUDITORIUM THEATER

$10.00 Adults, Children under 12 Free

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT MEALS ON WHEELS

This project promotes the Garrett County Community Action Committee's strategy of creating an environment where vulnerable Garrett County residents have access to food, access to health care, and support on life skills, thereby increasing the number of families and individuals who are economically self-sufficient and able to live independently.
Community Action Releases 2-Generation Approach Video

I am pleased to announce that Garrett County Community Action Committee (GCCAC) has released a new video about the 2-Generation (2-Gen) approach as implemented here at Community Action. The 2-Generation approach increasingly demonstrates that when focusing on outcomes, the delivery of programs and services can be improved and when this occurs families and communities benefit. Families do well in communities that do well.

Interest in our approach continues to grow. Within the last 12 months GCCAC has hosted 7 different agencies from around the US in addition to being asked to present on the topic of 2-Gen at over a dozen different meetings and conferences nationwide. This video helps to articulate how as an agency we have worked to change our corporate culture, improve our data systems, and improve the manner in which our services are provided, thus expanding our capacity to serve. Assessing family needs and goals and then linking and bundling the needed services and programs helps to shift the burden off of families and onto the programs in order to help the family succeed.

At a time when the future of budgets and programs is called into question, the needs that drive Community Action and it's community partners will remain. Community Action is committed to working with community partners to improve the quality of life of individuals allowing them a better chance to thrive and become more economically self-sufficient. The Agency will continue to offer a wide array of programs and services from senior meals, to community housing, to essential stabilization and crisis interventions and education.

I invite everyone to watch the video which can be accessed through our website and learn more about the dynamic shift that is underway and is helping to achieve positive outcomes and results.

Warm regards,
Duane Yoder
President, Garrett County Community Action Committee

Considering Making a Donation Today - Click Here

Longest Serving Board Member Recognized

Lowell Bender was acknowledged for his leadership and unwavering advocacy of Community Action for over 30 years as a member of the Board of Directors. He recently returned to participate in a strategic, scenario planning retreat that the agency held. His first affiliation with the agency was as an employee from 1968 until 1973. Years later he was asked back to serve on the Board. During the course of his Board tenure he presided as its President for 25 years.

"Lowell’s steadfast dedication and open minded attitude helped the agency and the greater Garrett County community to better grow and thrive in so many ways," said Duane Yoder, President of GCCAC.
New Director of Human Resources Appointed

Lisa Rodeheaver has been chosen as the Director of Community Action’s HR Department following the retirement of Peggy Cannon who served the agency for 19 years.

Lisa comes to Community Action with over 15 years of experience working at "big box" stores in HR and management.

When not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband and children and taking her grandkids out on the pontoon boat.

State Honors Rodney Durst for Fundraising Efforts for Meals on Wheels

Dinner Music Show are Top Fundraising Activity

At the recent convening of the Maryland Association of Senior Centers, Rodney Durst was recognized by the State of Maryland for the success of the dinner music shows that are held at the Grantsville Senior Center. “I’m humbled to be recognized for something that I love to do so much,” said Rodney. “These shows would not be nearly as successful without the generous support of local musician who donate their time and for the efforts of Senior Center staff who prepare delicious meal as well as support of the folks in the community who always turnout,” he commented.
Attendees can enjoy a wonderful night of entertainment with music ranging from Classic Country to Gospel to 50’s and 60’s Rock-N-Roll for just $10/person. All proceeds benefit the Garrett County Meals on Wheels program.

“Rodney has been a tireless advocate for Seniors and has been instrumental in advancing so many services that promote health and nutrition for our seniors,” stated Pam Hageman, Director of Aging and Nutrition at Community Action.

At right, Rodney is pictured accepting the award from Regina Jenkins, President of The Maryland Association of Senior Centers.

Way to Go, Rodney!

Check out the July Calendars for the Senior Centers

| Grantsville | Flowery Vale | Friendsville | Mary Browning |

Community Artists
Paint Support

Over 20 of fun-seeking artists gathered recently for an evening of barn-painting as part of a fundraiser for Meals on Wheels, a program administered by Aging and Nutrition at Community Action.

The evening raised $360 that will be applied to the growing needs of the program. Last year Meals of Wheels delivered over 33,000 meals to seniors and shut-ins in Garrett County.

“Everyone had a really enjoyable time for a really good cause,” said Jeannie Tichnell about the event arranged by Eileen McCrobie. “I’m so thankful for all who turned out to make the evening memorable and fun.”

Donations can still be made to the program. Click here to learn more about the program or make a donation.
"Partners After School" Innovates Fundraising

Partners After School, a program of the Garrett County Local Management Board (LMB) is hosting a kick off breakfast on July 20th at the Wisp Resort starting at 9:00 am. Serving 90 children, Partners After School provides high quality academic enrichment activities, homework assistance, nutritious snacks and recreation to Garrett County school students in Oakland, Accident, and Grantsville. Maintaining this programming benefits children and their working parents by creating a positive and safe experience.

Fred Polce, LMD Executive Director, and Duane Yoder, President of GCCAC, will discuss the positive impact of the program and how LMB is now able to utilize the Community Investment Tax Credit program (CITC) to leverage funding. By utilizing the CITC, donors will be able to receive a tax credit on their MD State Income Tax equal to 50% of their donation.

Garrett County Community Action was awarded $20,000 in Maryland income tax credits that can be applied to this effort. Individuals and business who desire to make a positive impact on the community while obtaining a tax credit are strongly encouraged to attend.
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