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H05-1580. Community Action House. Records, 1972-2008. 1.50 linear ft. PARTIALLY RESTRICTED

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H05-1580. Community Action House.

Records, 1972-2008. 1.50 linear ft. **PARTIALLY RESTRICTED**

Abstract

Community Action House (CAH) was organized in 1969 by local churches, organizations, and interested citizens in response to the Latin-American community's appeal for help in integrating its members into the Holland area. It is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization, serving not only the Latino community of Allegan and Ottawa counties, but other ethnic background citizens as well. The organization has a Board of Directors who are men and women from the community. They, in turn, hire a director. Volunteers are an important part of the CAH and serve in almost every facet of the agency's operations. CAH is funded by monies from local churches, businesses, organizations, individuals, federal and state grants and the United Way. It provides emergency assistance to people in need, including two food pantries, monthly food distribution, assistance with hygiene products, household cleaning supplies, baby items (diapers, formula) and foreclosure intervention services. CAH also provides skill-building services including education classes (first-time homebuyer, financial literacy and home maintenance education) and EPIC, a 5-month intensive program that teaches empowerment, employment training and team-building skills. Since 1992, CAH also runs a community kitchen at Western Theological Seminary, which is open every weekday from 11:30-1:00 throughout the year. CAH opened its first thrift store in 2000 at the Macatawa Resource Center. In 2011, the store was moved to its current location at 694 Michigan Avenue, and is known as the Community Action House General Store. Proceeds from the General Store are used to fund agency programs and services. CAH began its work in a house at 166 East 8th Street, and then moved to a building at 345 West 14th Street. That structure was razed in 1994 and a new building constructed on the site, which is barrier-free and more spacious. In 1999, an office was also opened on the north side of Holland on 136th Avenue. The collection consists of reports, newspaper clippings, programs, and history of the organization. There is also a large collection of videos (DVD) of TV news spots and other programs promoting the work of the Community Action House.

Accession No: H05-1580
Provenance: Community Action House
Donor: Community Action House
Photographs: 32 images
Processed by: Heidi Simmons, 2005
Elaine Bruins, January 2011

History

Community Action House (CAH) was organized in 1969 by local churches, organizations, and interested citizens in response to the Latin-American community's appeal for help in integrating its members into the Holland area. It is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization, serving not only the Latino community of Allegan and Ottawa counties, but other ethnic background citizens as well. The organization has a Board of Directors who are men and women from the community. They, in turn, hire a director. Volunteers are an important part of

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Scope and Content

The collection consists of reports, newspaper clippings, programs, and history of the organization. There is also a large collection of video tapes of TV news spots and other programs promoting the work of the Community Action House.

Container List

Box 1

Annual Reports

1976-1989

Related Materials, 1981-1998

Capital Campaign, 1992

Case Management Program, 1992 and 1994

CDs, Radio Spots, n.d. (2 items)

Certificates and Awards, 1996-2006, n.d.

Church Involvement, 1986-1995

Client Profile and Needs, 1977-1991, n.d.

Clippings

Additional Concerns and Government Action, 1982-1997, n.d.

Agencies for Help, 2006, 2007, n.d.

Articles in Spanish, 1982-1997

Building and Renovations, 1976-2007, n.d.

Church and School Involvement, 1983-1995, n.d.

Coupons, Advertisements, 1983-2001, n.d.

Editorials, 2004
Employees and Board Members, 1977-2005, n.d.
Finances, Demand and Success Information, 1982-2005, n.d.
Food and Hunger, 1983-2008
General CAH Information, 1974-2004, n.d.
Hernandez, Leroy, director, elected in 2000, 1990, 2000
Holiday Season, 1981-1999
Homelessness, 1987-2001
Housing, 1982-2006, n.d.
Medema, David, director, elected in 1981, 1982-1988
Misc. drives, donations, and benefits, 1982-1998, n.d.
Reyna, Cynthia, director, elected in 1990, 1990-1991
United Way and Weed and Seed, 1993-2000
Volunteers, 1972-1998, n.d.
Community Kitchen and Food Pantry, 1995-1997
Correspondence, 1983-2007, n.d.
DVDs
 Community Action House, Accents: Donations needed, 2002
 Community Action House PSA Commercial, Clothes Closet, n.d.
 Community Action House, n.d.
 Community Action House Demolition, 1995
 Food Drives, 1996-1999, 2001 (4 items)
 Golf Marathon, 2002
 Homeless Candlelight Vigil, News Report, 1999
 Macatawa Resource Center, News Report, 1999
 Teen Pregnancy, 2002
 United Way Showcase: Thanksgiving & Christmas, 1997
 What Does the Executive Director of the Community Action House Do?, 1995
"Each Can Helps," 1987-1997
Employees, n.d., 1992-1993
Finance Committee History
 Director's Reports, 1987
 Director's Reports, Income Statements, Balance Sheets, Service Provision, 1994
Five Year Planning, 1990-1995
Fore Hope Open, Golf fundraiser, 2007 (1 image)
General Information about the CAH, 1987-1996
Holiday Season, 1997
Housing Board, 1973-1995
Literature in non-English, 1995
Membership, n.d.
Memos, 1986-1996
News Releases, 1982-2000
Newsletters
 1973-1993
 Related Materials, n.d.
Operation's Committee, Meeting Minutes, 1994-1996 (2 folders) **(RESTRICTED)**

Other Organizations' Newsletters that Mention CAH, 1992-1999

Photographs

- Car Wash, 2000 (3 images)
- Community Action House, n.d. (17 images)
- Miscellaneous, n.d. 2004 (71 images)
- Open House, 2000 (4 images)
- Reyna, Cindy, n.d. (2 images)
- 345 West 14th Street, n.d. (3 images)

Planning Agenda, n.d.

Relevant Government Topics, 1994

Resource Development Meetings, 1994-1995

Soup For All, 2004

Staff Meetings, 1992-1995

Target Community Grant, 2000

Three Year Planning, 1995-1998

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, 1994

United Way and Weed and Seed, 1986-1995

Various Trends and Charts, 1981-2001

Volunteers, 1987

Oversized (See Hope College Oversized Collections)

Building Blueprints, n.d.