



U.S. Congressman
Keith Ellison is scheduled
to tour CA of Minneapolis'
Weatherization Program
on August 10, 2011.



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The Buzz

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Self-Sufficiency: It Really Works!



This quarter, the Self-Sufficiency Program is delighted to highlight one of their graduates for recent achievements. **Martin** emigrated to the United States in 2000 with his wife. In November 2010, they both graduated from the Self-Sufficiency Program. But, that's not all, they also celebrated their ten-year wedding anniversary. While in the program, one of Martin's goals was to prepare for becoming a U.S. citizen. Between working full-time and going to school for his GED Martin had a full schedule but he was determined to make his dream of being a U.S. citizen a reality.

In the summer of 2010, Martin attended and completed citizenship classes, and he completed his citizenship application in that fall. CA of Minneapolis assisted him with the application fee and from there it was a waiting game.

We are now pleased to announce that Martin successfully passed his citizenship test and interview. On May 24, 2011 Martin was sworn in as a citizen of the United States of America. We are very proud of Martin's achievements and know that with hard work and dedication, success is next.

*For confidentiality purposes, the name has been changed.

The last several weeks have presented the agency, our staff and our board of directors with challenges, opportunities and unbridled turbulence that required a steady hand while navigating natural disasters and political maneuvering. On May 22, 2011, an EF1 tornado ripped through the North side of Minneapolis and left in its wake hundreds of homeowners and renters without electricity, water, food, and shelter for several days and longer. CA of Minneapolis sprung into **ACTION** and launched *Project Boots On The Ground*. Staff went door to door with important information about emergency resources available for people in need.

On July 1, 2011, the state government of Minnesota shut down due to its budgetary impasse by the state legislative leadership and the governor. As a direct result, our services to our customers were interrupted, or completely shut down as well. And, at the federal level, we braced as our federally elected representatives debated the national debt ceiling.

Collectively, these issues combined to create a very toxic environment to carry out our mandated programming. Community Action of Minneapolis will continue to deliver our services and provide assistance, day in and day out, during these challenging times. We are poised and ready to continue creating opportunities for the people we serve, and to utilize the resources available to us to do our job and do it well.



When “DISASTER” Strikes: Community Action of Minneapolis Responds

Tornadoes are among the most devastating and awesome forces of nature, and they do not discriminate. On Sunday, May 22, 2011 around 2:00 p.m., an EF 1 tornado left 274 homes with major damage. 1,608 homes had minor damage, and 1,831 homes were affected to a lesser degree.

On Monday, Bill Davis, President/CEO of CA of Minneapolis, called an emergency meeting with his managers to discuss how CA of Minneapolis can assist the victims of this devastating tornado. Bill and his staff went door to door in the devastated area passing out emergency services information.



From left to right: Bill Davis, President/CEO and Cheryl Morgan Spencer, CA of Minneapolis; unidentified volunteer.

U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison to Visit CA of Minneapolis

U.S. Congressman Keith Ellison, 5th Congressional District, (Minneapolis), will be touring our Weatherization Program on Wednesday, August 10, 2011. Congressman Ellison is interested in seeing how the weatherization stimulus dollars were being affectively utilized by our agency. We are pleased to have this congressional review of our top performing Weatherization Program as designated by the State of Minnesota Department of Commerce. Other state legislators and elected officials will be joining Congressman Ellison during this walk through.

Ben & Jerry's Closes: Ending Nonprofit Youth Skills Program

After 11 years, the Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop on Washington Avenue closed, ending the nonprofit training program behind the store as well. CA of Minneapolis, the shop's owner, wasn't able to come to an agreement with its landlord over an increase in rent.

CA of Minneapolis' Chief Administrative Officer, Wanda Walker, who ran the shop, said she was sad to see the program come to an end. "For us, it wasn't about the ice cream," Walker said. "It was about changing individuals' lives."

Since the nonprofit opened in 2000, the shop trained 800 youth, provided jobs for 600 and paid out roughly \$818,000 in wages.

Supporting Education and Our Youth

CA of Minneapolis presented **Tia Matthews** with a college scholarship during the Spokesman Recorder's Graduation Celebration. Tia graduated from St. Paul Central.



From left to right: Angela Davis, WCCO; Tia Matthews, Cheryl Morgan, CA of Minneapolis; Tracy and Tony Matthews, Tia's mother and brother.

Community Action Day: Working In The Community With The People We Serve

Friday, May 6, 2011 was Community Action Day at CA of Minneapolis. CA of Minneapolis staff, board members and volunteers took to the neighborhood where they planted a garden at Ascension Place and the Youth Farm's Lyndale location, and built and painted a shed at the Powderhorn Youth Farm location. Community Action Day culminated with the presentation of the 2011 Fay Harrison Award to **Uniqueka Smith**.



From left to right: Wanda Walker, CA of Minneapolis Senior Staff Member; Fay Harrison, CA of Minneapolis Board Member, and Uniqueka Smith.

Upcoming Events

The **21st Annual Festival for Fathers & Families** is Saturday, August 13, 2011, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm, at North Commons Park, 1801 James Ave. N. in Minneapolis.

Visit our website at www.campls.org to view our events.