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**Charlotte A. Randolph, Parish President**

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Lafourche Parish Community Action Awareness Month

May is Community Action awareness month across the state. The Lafourche Parish Office of Community Action, under the direction of Executive Director, Denise Hughes, is committed to providing services in accordance with identified community needs, and has several programs that strive to meet those needs. "We want to be a model Community Action Program," said Hughes. "We want to build partnerships and develop programs to help make a difference in the lives of families"

In an annual community needs assessment, utility payment assistance, drug trafficking, cost of food and transportation are the major concerns.

#### Energy & Home Assistance

The Office of Community Action has a number of programs designed to assist low-income families meet their energy needs and have better homes. The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides funds for eligible households to meet the costs of home heating and cooling. The program can make payments to households that fall within 60 percent poverty guidelines and is designed to assist ongoing accounts. The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) works hand in hand with the LIHEAP program to assist in making low-income homes more energy efficient. WAP's purpose is to increase the comfort level of a home, while reducing the energy costs by doing minor repairs including insulating and sealing the structure. Homes occupied by children, the elderly or handicapped individuals are given priority. Community Action can also assist residents to pay one month of rent or mortgage, utility deposits, damage deposits, utility bills, lodging, medication and emergency food through its Homeless Prevention program.

#### Feeding Assistance

Community Action also has programs to assist residents with meeting their food needs. The Child/Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides reimbursement from the state for individuals providing family day care in their home. The program's intent is to improve the health and eating habits of its participants. Providers receive menus and guidelines for providing nutritious, well-balanced meals to the children in their care. The Community Food and Nutrition (CF&N) program provides food vouchers to assist clients with the purchase of food.

All of the community action programs have certain requirements that individuals need to meet. Further information on program benefits and individual requirements is available at each of the three Community Action sites.

#### Community Outreach & Education

This year Community Action will host its second annual Teen Expo. The expo invites area youth to gather and share ideas. Speakers, professional entertainments, and youth participant performances make up a day of education and fun for our area youth.

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Charlotte A. Randolph	Parish President	Mark Atzenhoffer	District 5
Tyrone Williams	District 1	Lindel Toups	District 6
Michael Delatte	District 2	Phillip Gouaux	District 7
Michael Matherne	District 3	Brent Callais	District 8
Tommy Lasseigne	District 4	Daniel Lorraine	District 9

When tax time comes around, Community Action is there to help low-income residents with tax assistance and aid in preparing their taxes.

Community Action employees have been attending business and civic organization meeting across the Parish. "We want the residents across the parish to know that we're here to help," said Hughes. Hughes and staff have recently joined Community Action Agencies from across the state to share ideas and learn from each other.

Community Action operates offices at three locations across the parish. The main office is at the Sondra Barrios Building at 1612 Hwy 182, Raceland, Louisiana. One satellite office operates in the southern portion of the parish at the Galliano Annex Building at 101 West 112<sup>th</sup> Street, Cut Off, Louisiana. Another satellite office operates in the northern portion of the parish at the Martin Luther King Center at 1445 Martin Luther King Blvd., Thibodaux, Louisiana.

For further information contact the Office of Community Action at (985) 537-7603 or 1-800-794-3160.