

## Message from the Director: “A Look Back and Forward”

It is a very exciting time for the staff at Champaign-Urbana Area Project as we embark on new community collaborations even while we build and strengthen long-standing partnerships. Although CUAP was incorporated as a non-profit organization in September 1990 to serve as a catalyst for citizens working together to address issues and areas affecting them, CUAP has worked in the Champaign-Urbana community for over 25 years, striving to live up to our mission in a myriad of ways. CUAP’s specific mission is to provide services to “at risk” youth and their families in an effort to combat the underlying causes of juvenile delinquency.



Representative Naomi Jakobsson in Springfield with CUAP staff (from left): Burnell Dixon, Issues Coordinator; Marilyn Garmon, Delinquency Specialist; Rep. Jakobsson; Patricia Avery, Executive Director; and Stuart Broz, Family Advocate.

During the past 25 years, the staff at CUAP have been instrumental in many social changes in our community. Our coalitions with other community groups and leaders have allowed us to be a part of building the foundation of our “village.” It is at the community level that the churches, schools, neighborhood groups, parents, and community leaders can meet to plan for the protection, support, education, crisis intervention, social, recreation, religious/spiritual, and “daily bread” needs of our children and families.

Continued, page 2

## Parent & Student Advocacy

CUAP fights for the educational rights of children through the Parent & Student Advocacy Project. The Project aims to organize parents and train them to assist each other in advocating for the educational rights of their children.

The Project seeks both parents who are eager to learn and those who are already knowledgeable about or experienced with dealing with the school districts concerning issues of discrimination, special education, or discipline. Interested in participating in the Project? Know someone who is? If so, give us a call.

## Public Housing Update

The Public Housing Committee participated in the Lakeside Terrace Easter Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt. Approximately 65 young children, 20 teens, and 20 parents attended. Urbana’s Assembly of God Church co-sponsored the event. Some of the eggs contained candy and some contained coupons which the children could redeem for money from the on-site manager of Lakeside, Patricia Adkisson.

Pizza was served after the Easter Egg hunt, and the Champaign - Urbana Area Project Housing Committee gave a seminar regarding social services available including the Section 8 landlord list, credit counseling, job training, and computer skills training. Afterwards, CUAP distributed brochures and flyers to the residents describing various social services available for them, and Burnell



Burnell Dixon at Lakeside Terrace’s Easter Egg Hunt

Dixon chose the grand prize winner of the Large Easter Basket by drawing the name of the winner, Qualan .

### Message from the Director, continued

CUAP worked with families and the community during the days of Rock 'n' Roll, Disco, hot pants, bell-bottoms, platform shoes, and (who can forget) the Afro and the Afro puffs. Those were different times, but the more things change the more they stay the same. Today's generation of youth wear low rider jeans, sagging pants, Air Jordans, weaves and waves, and lots of "bling, bling." Music and fads change, but one thing is constant: kids will be kids. Nurture, Love, and Security is the recipe for a young person's healthy development, and, at CUAP, we believe it takes the "village" to help raise a child. Because of our work in the early years, CUAP's organizing/advocacy efforts through community committees helped lead to the establishment of the Eager Beaver Preschool, LAN #24, Best Interest of Children, and Restoration Urban Ministries – all now parts of the village.

Today's world is different from that of the 70's. In order to work effectively at the community level we must understand these differences. To aid in this, CUAP will offer the Advancing Youth Development training and help broaden the understanding of today's youth culture. The staff at CUAP has a trained eye and their hands on the pulse of what is going on in our community. That is why at CUAP we believe that in order to reduce or eliminate delinquency at the grass root level you must "get in to fit in." CUAP is still going strong as a community-based organization advocating for juvenile justice through facilitating community forums, protecting the rights of youth, supporting research efforts into the impact of station adjustments, monitoring delinquency prevention programs, and encouraging acceptance of the philosophy and principles of Balanced and Restorative Justice.



On May 19, 2005, the Champaign County Board adopted a resolution presented by CUAP that supports the principles that the most effective juvenile delinquency programs are programs that not only prevent children from entering the juvenile justice system, but also meet local community needs and have substantial community involvement and support. I believe in Champaign County; because of the valiant efforts of many, we are headed in the right direction to reduce delinquency even further in our "village." According to the 2004 Community Report Card we have begun to see a reduction in both the number of juveniles committed to the Illinois Department of Corrections and the number of juveniles transferred to criminal court. The downward trend as indicated in the report is a "positive reflection of the increased options available to juveniles in our county." Our work is to organize our "village" to help provide those options, and I believe the staff at CUAP have done a tremendous job in presenting those options. My hat goes off to those community partners who have worked with us in the past and who continue to work with us today to fulfill our mission to eliminate delinquency in our community.

*Patricia A. Avery*

## Balanced and Restorative Justice

Through embracing the methodology of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ), the Champaign Urbana Area Project hopes to provide local school districts and the juvenile justice system with alternatives to suspension and incarceration for delinquent youth.

There are three basic tenets of BARJ. They are:

- 1) **Community Safety:** The system has a responsibility to keep the community safe.
- 2) **Offender Accountability:** Once a crime is committed, the offender incurs an obligation to the victim and community to make amends.
- 3) **Competency Development** – Offenders who enter the system should be more capable of being productive and responsible when they leave than when they entered (i.e., job skills training).

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Reverend Zernial Bogan for allowing us the opportunity to present this method of working with young people on his Saturday Morning WEFT radio show, "SPEAK UP!" Stay tuned for more on BARJ!

202 W. Hill St., Suite 3W  
Champaign, IL 61820

Tel: (217) 373-2827  
Fax: (217) 373-5013

<http://www.cuapweb.org>  
[cuap@cuapweb.org](mailto:cuap@cuapweb.org)

## Children's Mental Health Initiative

In June 2004, the CUAP Board of Directors instructed the staff of the Champaign-Urbana Area Project to focus upon improving the quality and accessibility of mental health services available to at-risk youth in Champaign-Urbana. CUAP staff began by working closely with the mental health service access committee facilitated by the Champaign County Mental Health Board. This committee consisted of representatives from a variety of mental health providers and community organizations, including the Mental Health Center of Champaign County, the Don Moyer Boys and Girls Club, the Psychological Service Center of the University of Illinois, and Best Interest of Children.

This spring, the service access committee submitted an application for a six-year, \$9.6 million grant from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration. CUAP staff took a lead role in the development of the grant, with Stuart Broz acting as the grantwriter. The application developed Project ACCESS, a system of care for Champaign County's children with serious emotional disturbance. It builds upon the County's strengths and resources to address the challenges faced by children and families who are currently underserved with respect to mental health care.

If funded, Project ACCESS will restructure the way in which mental health services are delivered in Champaign-Urbana. The project will supply Champaign County with neighborhood-based wellness centers where mental health services will be accessible in a comfortable and welcoming setting. These wellness centers will be multipurpose and will serve as centers for community organizing, meetings, and programming as well as mental health care. Mental health services will be provided within a family-centered framework.

The coalition of agencies surrounding Project ACCESS is a strong one, and it will continue working together regardless of whether or not the project receives federal funding. CUAP will assist the further development and organization of this coalition, strengthening the efforts of agencies to work together to improve the provision of mental health services to those who are not receiving them.

∞ *Welcome* ∞

to CUAP's new board members:

~Kate Hellenga~

Juvenile Programs, Champaign Police Department

~Walt Smith~

Former Director, Douglass Community Center

## Juvenile Issues Forum

The Community Wide Station Adjustment Initiative was kicked off at the Champaign County Juvenile Issues Forum, and over 20 area agencies sought to become a part of this effort. Station adjustments enable youth to avoid entering the juvenile justice system by completing a set of requirements. The Initiative is geared towards developing an infrastructure to support station adjustment requirements that are restorative both to the community and to the youth themselves. Additionally, County wide statistics on Station Adjustments were prepared by Marilyn Garmon to provide a snapshot of how they are being used in Champaign County. Station adjustment usage has increased dramatically in the county, but so too did the number of delinquency petitions that were filed by the State's Attorney's Office under its previous administration.

The next Juvenile Issues Forum will be held June 24th at 8:30AM at Parkland College.

Burnell Dixon II was recently awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Housing Authority for his work with residents at Lakeside Terrace

CUAP would like to thank Dorothy Moreland for four years of service. Dorothy, we wish you luck and happiness in your new position.

## From the School House to the Jailhouse



The Champaign Urbana Area Project's Delinquency Prevention Specialist, Marilyn Garmon participated as presenter on a panel organized by Janice Mitchell of the Mental Health Center of Champaign County. Geared towards families in Urbana, the event was called "*From the Schoolhouse to the Jailhouse.*" Ms. Garmon relayed local suspension statistics to a crowd of over 100 people, and related this information to the numbers of young people being sent to the detention centers and IDOC. Community participation was very strong throughout the event.

# We need your help!

CUAP serves children and families in Champaign-Urbana, but it will not be able to continue without help from people like you. When you make a tax-deductible donation to CUAP, you are making an investment in our community.

Your contribution will help us to expand our programming in a variety of areas \_\_\_\_\_

- Increased activities in advocating and organizing for mental health care access.
- AYD - professional development trainings for youth workers in Champaign County
- Life skills programming for youth.
- More educational advocacy for children in need.
- Advocacy and assistance for Public Housing residents.

**YES!** I would like to help support CUAP's work in the community by making a donation of:

- \$10 Friend**
- \$25 Supporter**
- \$50 Core Supporter**
- \$100 Community Supporter**
- \$250 Pillar**
- \$500 Community Pillar**
- Other \_\_\_\_\_**
- Please keep me on your mailing list**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
 CUAP  
 202 W. Hill St. #3W  
 Champaign, IL 61820



## OUR WAY OF SAYING

**Join the staff and board of directors of CUAP for an evening of food and fun June 30, 6-8pm at Jillian's on Neil Street.**

**THANK YOU.**

## ANNOUNCING:

### Advancing Youth Development

~ a training for youth workers ~

- Improve the quality of your youth or afterschool program
- Work positively alongside teens to support them in achieving their goals and outcomes
- Use national youth development language when talking to funders, politicians, and all those who support your important work
- Motivate the youth you work with to be active, engaged, creative, and responsible for their own development
- Successfully complete the only nationally recognized training program for youth development work

**Interested?** Contact Marilyn Garmon at 373-2827 for more information



Champaign-Urbana Area Project  
 202 West Hill St. #3W  
 Champaign, IL 61820