

# lex·i·con

Redefining The Fight Against Poverty

## A Note from Richard Jackson, CEO of the East Central KS Economic Opportunity Corp.



It's been said that you cannot help another person without helping yourself. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has more than tripled Weatherization funding which will allow ECKAN to weatherize even more homes. Homes that are weatherized use less energy and reduce homeowner's energy costs, freeing up money that can be spent on other needs. Recently, one of ECKAN's Weatherization contractors who had just installed a furnace in the home of an elderly resident called and said that the main panel needed to be upgraded so as not to cause a fire. This contractor was willing to do the work for free if we would provide the materials. It just so happened that someone donated \$300 to the agency for such a purpose. As a result, our senior citizen has an energy efficient home and peace of mind. The Weatherization contractor has the personal satisfaction of having gone above and beyond to help someone in their time of need. ARRA is helping our community and our community members are catching the ARRA spirit.

## suc·cess

In Wichita, "Susan" is 8 months pregnant, looking for work, but not getting any offers. Frustrated, she begins to believe there isn't a job for her. She's not alone. SRS has identified 326 pregnant women on Temporary Assistance for Families (TAF) in the Sedgwick County area. **THANKS TO ARRA DOLLARS**, the City of Wichita Career Development Office has addressed this issue by implementing an employment program for women in their last trimester of pregnancy. **"Working Women"** is a training & support group that works on several topics, including time management, nutrition, interviewing and achieving a healthy home & work life balance. After delivery, new mothers are invited back to share their stories with other moms-to-be. **PEER GROUPS** have worked extremely well and increased participant's support systems. Many women go on to participate in a work experience program to gain knowledge and skills that are necessary to become marketable employees, **INDEPENDENT** of the welfare system. Working Women recently celebrated success with a graduation/baby shower in January.



## part·ner

Federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) and Weatherization Assistance Program ARRA dollars are administered by the **KANSAS HOUSING RESOURCE CORPORATION (KHRC)**. Through grants and technical assistance, KHRC supports the **CAPACITY** of Community Action Programs to bring Recovery services into Kansas communities. Before CSBG and Weatherization ARRA grants were awarded, CAAs submitted written plans for how Stimulus resources would be used. In keeping with the local-design/local-control philosophy of Community Action, each agency's plan was based upon identified needs and conditions of individual communities served. KHRC continues to support Community Action Agencies as ARRA resources reach cities and towns throughout Kansas by monitoring the **EFFECTIVENESS** of the programs and ensuring the **TIMELY** transfer of block grant funding.

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# ca·pac·i·ty

In July 2009, Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP) created 5 positions with CSBG-ARRA funds. The Community **CAPACITY** Building Specialist job was filled by **TRAVIS ALLEN**. Prior to SEK-CAP, Travis worked with Dynamic Educational Systems, Inc., and Workforce Development in the Kansas Department of Commerce. Travis also served the U.S. Army as a Mental Health Specialist. Of his new endeavor, Travis says, "I've always had a career in which **HELPING OTHERS** was the primary focus. That's why this position appealed to me so much because the work I do helps a variety of people in a community." Travis and others in SEK-CAP's Community Capacity Building Team have already been involved in numerous projects. They have assisted with the installation of raised garden plots to provide **DISABILITY ACCESSIBLE** services at Elm Creek Community Garden, funded Tri-Valley Development Services to provide **OCCUPATIONAL DEVELOPMENT** skills to low-income families eligible for disability-focused services, and funded **JOB RETENTION** services for low-income families working with the Mother to Mother program of Bourbon County. "The impact SEK-CAP has made is amazing. My only regret is that funds are limited. It really puts a **GOOD FEELING** in you when you can help so many people."

