

May 5, 2023

# CAC FIRST FRIDAYS



## Monthly Strategy Updates from our President and CEO

*"It is our mission to end poverty by empowering and improving people's lives while building strong communities."*



Keith Pitts, President & CEO  
Community Action Committee of Pike County

### Have you ever considered that you are a champion?

Author and speaker Agunloye Oyerinde is quoted as saying that, *"Champions are made by their passion and persistence."*

And, the Merriam Webster dictionary defines a champion as: *cham•pi•on (cham-pē-ən) 4: one that does battle for another's rights or honor.*

That sounds a lot like what you do each and every day, doesn't it? You feel a drive from deep within your heart to turn over every stone to help the person in front of you. You are a champion—fighting in the trenches alongside other champions - for the rights of those in our communities to rise out of their poverty situations to live healthier lives.

I am thinking that now is a good time for us to look back on a few examples of our CAC champions in action.

## IN THIS ISSUE WE Are the Champions

**"Champions are made by their passion and persistence."  
– Agunloye Oyerinde**

**THAT'S HOW WE ROLL!**

We were struggling. CAC helped me apply for SSI and SSD due to my medical diagnosis. I was approved for \$1321 per month—plus a lump sum. My wife and I were shocked when we called the bank and found out that there was \$17,000 in our account! I had to hand the phone to my wife because I couldn't stop celebrating. The first thing I did was buy new tires for our car!

Your help has changed our lives!

**BRAND NEW START**

I started this journey to sobriety after losing my leg and getting addicted to pain pills. Then, heroin led me to live on the streets of Lucasville. I came into treatment at rock bottom. I surely didn't think it would ever be possible to live a "normal" life again. Then, I met Genna. She told me she could help me get started in life again. I had been 14 years without a driver's license, and so we started the steps of getting it back. The Transitions Program supported me with eight-hour driving courses, six months of insurance, fines and reinstatement fees, and helping me get my car fixed.

Now, I am taking classes to get my Peer Support and Chemical Dependency Counselor Assistant (CDCA) certification. I can't thank you all enough! I also have got a job at Step Wellness as a Residential Aide and I am proud to say that I am 17 months sober!

Thank You!

**WIDE OPEN SPACES**

I have six children. In November we were living in an overcrowded rental that was outside my kids' school district, so everything was a challenge. I found a rental big enough for us, but I had no way of paying the deposit plus first month's rent on it in addition to the rent on my current place. I reached out to Community Action. Within a day, they had assisted me with an application for rent assistance, communicated with my landlord and PMHA for me, and got me approved for assistance. My rent was paid for the first few months. They even helped me put together a self-sufficiency plan so I could make it on my own. My kids and I were able to move with peace of mind. Now we are living back in our school district, the kids are able to spread out, and we all love our new home!

**ON THE NICE LIST**

I had to miss several weeks of work due to one of my children being hospitalized in Columbus. I had no way to get my kids anything for Christmas. My case manager heard my struggles. The staff arrived at my home one day with Christmas gifts for us all—including me! They even snuck them into the trunk of my car so my kids wouldn't know. I can't thank y'all enough! Kids said this was the best Christmas ever.

Thank you for being a champion for someone today and everyday. Thank you for fighting in their corner when they aren't able to.

Until next time...

