

The past year has brought Foothills Community Action a significant increase in the number of individuals and families requesting our agency's services. The amplified demand has resulted in unprecedented challenges as we have tried to respond to the needs of families struggling to make ends meet as they've lost jobs, experienced increased grocery and fuel costs, and felt the fear of wondering how they were going to keep food on the table or a roof over their heads.

In response, Foothills has strived to continue to provide services to the neediest people in our service area while also expanding existing services and developing additional programs. Despite the challenging economy, our agency has been able to respond to the needs of those who rely on our services. Many of our expanded or new programming has been funded by America's Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) -- also referred to as the "stimulus package." Through this funding, Foothills has not only created/retained services but has created jobs and increased purchasing from local businesses, thus providing a contribution to the recovery of our local economy.

Some of our agency's programs that have benefited from ARRA funding are Weatherization, Head Start, Health Care for the Homeless, Community Services, Housing and Liberty Place. Stimulus funding more than doubled the amount of money available to weatherize homes and allowed us to not only serve more households but also to increase the amount of work done per home. As part of an ARRA Head Start Expansion grant, we added a new Head Start classroom serving 18 additional children. As the economy has declined an increased number of persons have turned to the Health Care for the Homeless program. ARRA funding has allowed us to add additional primary care services and will also finance the construction of a new clinic in the upcoming months. An increase in our Community Services Block Grant has seen the creation of new job training programs including a phlebotomy course that will provide entry into the medical profession. Grants from HUD, Office of Violence Against Women, and Office of Justice Programs are allowing our Housing and Substance Abuse Recovery Programs to provide housing assistance combined with supportive services aimed at economic stability.

Hard times have reminded our agency that we are more powerful in partnership than working alone. As such we've combined efforts with a variety of others in the area to carry out programs. Among our partners are the City of Richmond & Hope's Wings (HUD HEARTH grant), Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program (Transitional Housing grant), Gateway Community Services Organization (Compassion Capital Fund grant), Kentucky Housing Corporation and the Clean Energy Corps (Weatherization program), and local governments within each service area. Some of our partners represent long standing efforts, while others have been newly formed in response to arising need.

As we continue to work toward meeting anticipated and unanticipated challenges of the future, we sincerely pledge to those that we serve as well as to those who work with us to address unmet need that our mission will remain unchanged as we continue to develop community resources so that all persons may have lives of dignity, responsibility and opportunity.

Respectfully,

Vicki Jozefowicz  
Executive Director