



CRDC FOCUS

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Crowley's Ridge Development Council, Inc.

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Community Action Month 2003

What a celebration!

May is already several months in the past, but for many CRDC employees, it probably seems like only yesterday. For agency staffers, Community Action Month comes in two sizes – busy and busier. OK, so busy isn't a size, but you get the point.

Throughout the CRDC service area, special events were being heaped onto an already busy schedule, but members of the staff and no small number of volunteers seemed to be enjoying the special observance along with thousands of their peers across the nation.

"Community Action Month is when we really kick into high gear in our efforts to put the CRDC name before the public," says Robert Wilford, executive director.

"Technically, we are a Community Action Agency serving eight counties, but anyone who knows anything about us knows that various services spread even further afield in Arkansas. For the most part, however, we restrict our special activities to our eight county area."

Wilford explained that the observance of Community Action Month in May works well in Northeast Arkansas because of all the festivals that historically occur during the month.

"If there's a festival going on in May, you can bet someone from our human services section or other program areas will be there," Wilford explains. "Even if it's just a table with brochures and a sign, CRDC is going to be represented."

Typically, head start graduation and special events for the students and their parents take place in May, adding to the excitement.

The CRDC employee picnic at Craighead Forest Park drew a good crowd as we gathered for good eats, good times and great company. Plans are in the works to hold the event at a state park near Wynne next year to make the picnic more accessible for staffers and their families.

And, of course, for many from CRDC,

May meant a trip to Eureka Springs for the Arkansas Community Action Agencies Association's annual conference. It was a great learning experience and an incredibly good time in the beautiful Ozarks.

Wilford and Tommye McElroy were heavily involved in the planning of the event and Wilford was appointed a member of the state board's slate of officers during the conference. Bringing even more recognition to CRDC were the efforts of Wendy Alexander and Hayden Morrison. Both were presenters during the session with Wendy speaking on "customer-driven case management" and Hayden addressing "fundraising fundamentals: the role of board members, agency leadership, and staff."

Aging Services feted their customers to a special event as did the nice folks at Northeast Arkansas Regional Recovery Center.

"Things were going on all over the place," Wilford points out. "It would be impossible to touch on all of them. But, we have a lot of photographs inside this issue of the CRDC FOCUS and that should give you a taste of all that was going on."

So take a look and join us for the fun next year!



CRDC employees were having a great time as they awaited the start of a general session at the ACAA state conference in Eureka Springs!