

OACAA Briefing

The latest news from OACAA and Ohio's CAAs



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Lifeline helps people and saves lives

LAKE COUNTY – After ten years of employment with her company, Tracy's position was downsized causing a significant reduction in income, as well as her loss of healthcare coverage. Not only was she the sole income for her family, but Tracy is also a Type 1 Diabetic requiring daily medication and supplies which cost over \$300 each month. The loss of her income immediately became a critical issue.

Tracy struggled each day to provide the most basic needs of her family. Feeling as if there was nowhere to turn, she went days – sometimes weeks—without her medication so she could put food on the table and keep her family in safe shelter.

A friend's quick thinking got Tracy to the hospital when, one day, she began to complain of tingling and numbness in her lips and tongue. She spent over a week in the hospital recovering from the damage her lack of medication caused. It was during that recovery when she turned to her local Community Action Agency for help.

Lifeline for the Empowerment and Development of Consumers, Inc. assisted Tracy with immediate emergency prescription assistance and testing supplies. The staff then connected her with a pharmaceutical company's patient assistance program for her long-term care which provided her insulin and blood pressure medications free of charge for one year. The program is also renewable if needed. In addition, Tracy received important eye examinations and nutrition classes to help her maintain a healthy lifestyle while managing her diabetes.

For people living in poverty, an unexpected situation such as a reduction of income as Tracy experienced, can quickly create a life-threatening issue. Community Action continues to create connections and partnerships to leverage resources to provide the needed supports to help people and change lives.

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To learn more about Lifeline, please visit their website at www.lclifeline.org.