

virtualCAP roundUP

February 2015: Volume 1, Issue 2

FOCUS TOPIC: Turning Every Day Moments into
Brain Building Moments from Birth-to-5



VirtualCAP RoundUP is a project by



Ohio Association of
Community Action Agencies

VirtualCAP RoundUP

Complimentary Issue – February 2015 – Volume 1 Number 2

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Turning Every Day Moments into Brain Building Moments from Birth-to-5

Share these tools with parents in all of your programs and work with community partners to make this a community-wide effort!



Science shows that the first 5 years of life are when the brain develops the fastest. **Vroom** uses the latest scientific research to help parents and caregivers discover new ways to spark brain building moments...

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Focus Topic

Turning Every Day Moments into Brain Building Moments from Birth-to-5

Share these tools with parents in all of your programs and work with community partners to make this a community-wide effort!



Science shows that the first 5 years of life are when the brain develops the fastest. **Vroom** uses the latest scientific research to help parents and caregivers discover new ways to spark brain building moments - [Vroom Playbook: A guide for bringing Vroom to your community](#).

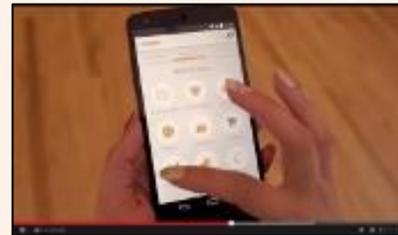
Vroom was born out of a need for creative tools and materials that inspire families to turn everyday moments into brain-building moments. It was developed with thoughtful input from parents, early childhood experts, neuroscientists, parents and community leaders.



[Vroom website](#)



[Vroom – pilot video](#)



[Free Daily Vroom Mobile App](#)

The [Bezos Family Foundation](#) provided funding, and a lot of passion, because we believe that all parents have the potential to create a bright future for their children. Our goal is to share the science of early brain development in new ways so that all children have the chance to become thriving adults. Explore the [Vroom website](#) featuring **Science & Facts, Tools & Activities (FREE)**, and **People & Partners** - all tools are available in English and Spanish.

Read about related efforts underway

Fargo, ND in the [Grand Forks Herald](#) and Providence, RI in [The New Yorker](#)

[TalkingIsTeaching.org](#)



[Talking is Teaching – Talk, Read, Sing](#) (video)

"Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing" is a campaign of [Too Small to Fail](#) in partnership with various organizations that are dedicated to improving children's early development – [access free resources by age](#).

- ['Talking is Teaching' event focuses on early childhood literacy](#)
Tulsa World - Talking is Teaching is a partnership between the George Kaiser Family Foundation, the [Community Action Project of Tulsa County](#), Tulsa Educare and Too Small to Fail...
- [Powerful Words: Talking to Infants Can Reduce the Language Gap](#) from The Tulsa Initiative Blog

Successful CAA Funding Initiatives

North Carolina Energy Efficiency Upgrades & Michigan Energy Assistance

[Fund Opens For Low-Income Duke Customers To Receive Energy Efficiency Upgrades](#) (inc. audio)

WFAE 90.7 - Charlotte, NC - In 2013, state regulators agreed Duke Energy could raise its North Carolina utility rates, to increase annual revenue by about \$400 million combined. In return, the two utilities each put \$10 million, from profits, into a fund to help low-income customers who could struggle with the increase. It's now active, and run by the non-profit [North Carolina Community Action Association's \[Helping Home Fund\]](#). "We want to reduce the energy burden and give low-income families more disposable income. That's what it's about," says NCCAA executive director Sharon Goodson...

[Consumers Energy will give \\$800,000 to Michigan Community Action in Flint](#)

MLive.com Flint, MI - Vice president of Consumers Energy Dennis Dobbs will present the check of \$800,000 to [Michigan Community Action](#). Consumers Energy is partnering with four nonprofit agencies to ensure that families in the community stay safe and warm...

Emergency Solutions Grant

[St. Tammany agency gets \\$100,000 to fight homelessness](#)

The Times-Picayune - New Orleans, LA - St. Tammany Parish government has received a \$100,000 grant to continue a program to fight homelessness by assisting needy families. The Emergency Solutions Grant from the Louisiana Housing Corp. will be available over a two-year period through the parish's [Community Action Agency...see HUD listing of ESG grantees](#).

Substance Abuse Prevention

[Sieda Community Action Selected for Appanoose County Substance Abuse Prevention Grant](#)

Sieda Community Action - The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) has awarded [Sieda Community Action](#) five-year funding to implement the Iowa Partnerships for Success Project...part of a \$1,045,300 million federal grant to reduce underage drinking and youth binge drinking, and the problems associated with both.

[\\$100K grant puts focus on fighting opiates](#)

Andover Townsman - Andover, MA - "In the first year, it will be a planning grant, and we will work with the different community providers and residents to do a needs assessment, to see where the hot spots are in the communities, where opioid abuse or overdoses are emanating from," said Magoon, director of the Lawrence-Methuen Community Coalition, a subsidiary of the [Greater Lawrence Community Action Council...](#)

CareQuilt EHS-Childcare Partnership – A public/private partnership created to establish a rural, replicable model for a coordinated birth-to-kindergarten-entry quality early care and education system by partnering with 8-12 rural family childcare programs and 4 center-based programs to elevate instructional practices, family engagement and comprehensive services to meet or exceed Head Start and quality childcare standards.

[Maine Agency Gets \\$5 Million for Early Childhood Education](#)

Maine Public Broadcasting - Bangor, ME - Tracye Fortin is with [Kennebec Valley Community Action Program](#), which coordinates the CareQuilt program. Fortin says the federal money will allow the program to add an additional 72 low-income children, "as well as a very large training component, and support component, for families and for other providers-whether they are center-based teachers or family childcare providers."

Homeowner Empowerment – Mid Michigan Community Action's Homeowner Empowerment Program meets homeowners at all stages--from the first-time homebuyer to long-time homeowners. We are firmly committed to providing the best possible service. We are certified adopters of the National Industry Standards for Homeownership

Counseling, Homeownership Education, and Foreclosure Intervention. Our staff are certified by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and by NeighborWorks America.

[MMCAA gets grants for homeowner program](#)

The Morning Sun - Mt. Pleasant, MI - Two Midland-based foundations awarded the grants to the [Mid Michigan Community Action Agency's...“Homeowner Empowerment Program.”](#) which provides people assistance in becoming financially self-sufficient through budgeting, home buyer education, credit repair, foreclosure prevention and down payment assistance...

MLK Women’s Hope Project – What began...as a [project to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy](#) has now evolved into a year-long partnership with the local non-profit [Monticello Area Community Action Agency’s Hope House program.](#)

Also, proceeds from the 40th running of the [Charlottesville 10 Miler](#) will help fund Hope House and Steps To Success – also see [MACAA staff & friends](#) taking on the **2015 Ten Miler** to promote additional donations for the agency’s programs.

[UVa Today: 'MLK Women's Hope Project'](#) (inc. video)

CBS19 Newsplex - Charlottesville, VA - It is called the 'MLK Women's Hope Project' and the Women's Center has partnered with the Monticello Area Community Action Agency's (MACAA) Hope House...

Comedy for a Cause – [more info.](#)

[Community Action Inc. to Host “Comedy for a Cause” Fundraiser](#)

Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce - Haverhill, MA - “Comedy for a Cause,” will include a live auction, raffles and mystery balloons to benefit [CAI’s “Opening Doors to Economic Opportunity” fundraising campaign...](#)

Innovative CAA Program Initiatives

MADE In Missouri Entrepreneurship Competition – The primary function of [MADE in Missouri](#) is to coordinate the MADE In Missouri State Entrepreneurship Competition, in which participants interested in developing a business may compete with others to win startup capital for their ventures.

CAA Success Story: [MADE Cultivates Small Businesses in Missouri](#)

[2015 MADE In Missouri Competition announced](#)

News Tribune - Jefferson City, MO - MADE is a diverse group of organizations, agencies and university, entrepreneurs and other professionals dedicated to cultivating entrepreneurship in Missouri. The alliance is facilitated by [Missouri Valley Community Action Agency...](#)

VISTA CAN Program – Beginning June 2014, [Community Action of Nebraska](#) initiated the [Statewide VISTA CAN program.](#) The VISTA CAN program is a Statewide joint collaboration between several Community Action Agencies throughout Nebraska, Central Plains Center for Services, Family Housing Advisory Services, and Nebraska Family & Children’s’ Foundation. VISTA CAN program aims to alleviate poverty by increasing the capacity of CAAs & programs.

Opportunity Passport Program – Provides similar matched savings account services specifically for youth aging out of the foster care system. In addition to saving, participants of our IDA and Opportunity Passport programs complete financial literacy training designed to prepare them for continued financial success.

[Opportunity Passport](#)

Lincoln Journal Star - Lincoln, NE - The [Opportunity Passport Program...offered through Community Action Partnership of Lancaster and Saunders Counties,](#) eases the transition for children aging out of the foster care system by providing a matched savings account program and financial education...

Padres Unidos is a 16-week Spanish language parent training program, which uses the nationally recognized [Parent Project SR®](#) curriculum to teach parents concrete identification, prevention and intervention strategies for the most destructive adolescent behaviors.

[Mexican stew raises money for a good cause in Roseland](#)

The Press Democrat - Santa Rosa, CA - ...to support the Roseland school and [Community Action Partnership's Padres Unidos program](#)...the Winter Pozole Night is an important event that helps the school provide uniforms to children in need and supports Padres Unidos' parenting classes for those with at-risk youth.

Elder Mentor Program – [RurAL CAP's Elder Mentor Program](#) increases school readiness for preschool children, increasing school success for K-12 students – and for all children, reinforcing social skills, cultural values and resilience.

[Our Community - Elder Mentor Program!](#) (inc. audio)

KNBA - Anchorage, AK - The Elder Mentor program has been active for over 30 years. It provides a small stipend for Elders that are passionate about helping children learn. Elders are able to share their cultures, values and strengths for a whole new generation...

Day Worker Center – The mission of the [Day Worker Center in Santa Cruz County](#) is to facilitate the hiring of day workers, both men and women; and to guarantee them dignified wages and safe working conditions in accordance with U.S. and California law. Additionally, the Center offers a variety of supportive services and training opportunities to its members to enrich their skill sets with the goal of providing quality services to the community.

[Day Worker Center fundraiser Saturday aimed at attracting more employers](#)

Santa Cruz Sentinel - Santa Cruz, CA - A program of the [Community Action Board](#), the Day Worker Center has more than 400 registered workers who made \$240,000 in wages last year and more than 500 registered employers — 50 of which are regulars...

Social Enterprise: Arthur & Friends – [Arthur & Friends](#) is a program of [NORWESCAP](#), a community action agency in northern New Jersey, which is developing employment opportunities in Agribusiness occupations and industries based on the strengths, needs, and desires of individuals with a disability, including self-employment and entrepreneurship where appropriate

[Green opportunities grow for the disabled](#)

Indiana Daily Student - Bloomington, IN - [Growing Opportunities](#)...is a product of the South Central Community Action Program. It was inspired by another successful program in New Jersey...

Repair Cafés are free meeting places and they're all about repairing things (together). In the place where a [Repair Café](#) is located, you'll find tools and materials to help you make any repairs you need. On clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, appliances, toys, et cetera. You will also find repair specialists such as electricians, seamstresses, carpenters and bicycle mechanics. Visitors bring their broken items from home. Together with the specialists they start making their repairs in the Repair Café.

[Repair Cafe attracts a variety of broken items](#) (inc. video)

The Bulletin - Norwich, CT - They weren't looking for a miracle, just a skilled set of hands to help fix their belongings at the region's second Repair Café, hosted by [The Access Community Action Agency](#)...

Angel Cars – The mission of [Angel Cars](#) is to refurbish and distribute donated autos for the sole purpose of liberating and empowering single parents that are lacking accessible transportation by giving them ownership of their own vehicle.

[Angel Cars Program Answers Another Prayer](#) (inc. video)

Siouxland News - Dakota Dunes, SD - Thanks to the Angel Cars program with [Community Action Agency of](#)

[Siouxland](#) and Tires, Tires, Tires; transportation shouldn't be much of a problem for them anymore. Valerie's now the proud owner of a used Chevy Impala...

Also see this other recent success story: [Sioux City Mother Receives Free Car](#).

Group Workcamps – [Group Workcamps](#) are weeklong mission trips where your youth group will work hard repairing homes for people in need, while experiencing the amazing power of community to accomplish God's work.

[Home Repair Help Coming to Boone County](#)

WSAZ-TV - Charleston, WV - [EnAct](#), which is the official community action agency of Kanawha, Boone, Putnam, Fayette and Clay counties, has received a \$10,000 grant from the AEP Foundation. The money will go to support EnAct's Group Mission Workcamp in Boone County. The week-long trip will provide home repairs for low-income families...

More Interesting CAA News

Opinion – [Clare Higgins: Keeping it real about Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

Daily Hampshire Gazette - Northampton, MA - Clare Higgins of Northampton, the city's former mayor, is executive director of the nonprofit Community Action! of the Franklin, Hampshire and North Quabbin Regions...

[Creating Common Good: A Practical Conference for Economic Equality](#) – Clare Higgins, former Northampton mayor and executive director of anti-poverty agency Community Action, introduced the conference.

Opinion – [The Anti-Poverty Soldier: Are things really that bad in America?](#) By Clarence Hightower, executive director of Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties

Sun Focus - Eden Prairie, MN - In 2013, the Oregon Center for Public Policy published a study utilizing its "Family Budget Calculator" to determine the "basic level of economic security" for families. This alternative instrument designed to more accurately measure poverty suggests that 44% of Americans, nearly 140 million people, currently experience economic insecurity. In essence, this means that close to one-half of all Americans are in or on the edge of poverty. The research findings of the Oregon Center for Public Policy are further bolstered by a 2013 report from Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Living Wage Calculator...

Allocating Solar Energy to Low-Income Families

[Iowa bill would give excess solar energy to the poor](#)

Midwest Energy News - St. Paul, MN - Iowa state Rep. Mary Mascher, who has been investigating the best way to have solar panels installed at her Iowa City home, has come up with an alternative: why not donate that power to low-income customers in peril of having their electricity shut off...

[Minnesota Group Works To Help Low-Income Families Go Solar](#)

ClimateProgress - RREAL is planning on building a solar garden that will be owned by a community action organization... That community action group will allocate shares of the garden's power to families eligible for federal energy assistance. Then, instead of the federal energy assistance dollars going directly to utilities, those families will see the credits they get from the solar garden show up on their electricity bill...

Veteran's Leadership Committee – [SEK-CAP seeking volunteers for Veteran's Leadership Advisory Committee](#)

Pittsburg Morning Sun - Pittsburg, KS - Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP) is seeking volunteers to participate in a Veteran's Leadership Advisory Committee...

Did You See?

Other highlights from the Community Action Network and others concerned with poverty in the U.S.

2014 State CAP Association Annual Reports (RPIC News Feed) – [Utah](#) – [Idaho](#) – [Missouri](#)

The Community Action Risk Mitigation Blog Series: #1 - [Virtual CAP News Feed](#) - CAA executive directors, fiscal officers, and human resource managers are often seeking material that can help with risk management for their organization. The Community Action Partnership's Nonprofit Risk Management Center affiliates page is a good place to start.

50 Years 50 Stories - Lincoln Action Program - [50 years - 50 stories](#) (or #50years50stories for our friends on social media) is a special campaign we are doing in honor of our 50th anniversary. Throughout 2015, we are highlighting our participants, partners, employees, and other community stakeholders as a way of sharing our story with the community...

Half in Ten Annual Poverty and Inequality Indicators Report - [Building Local Momentum for National Change](#) - Center for American Progress report

How are the top 1% doing in your state? - [The Increasingly Unequal States of America](#) from the Economic Policy Institute includes an [interactive feature](#), which provides state-level data on lopsided income growth between 1979 and 2007.

How the poor get by in America - [This powerful Reddit thread reveals how the poor get by in America](#) by Max Ehrenfreund, *Washington Post*