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Welcome to Your UB, the University at Buffalo web log. This blog is meant to be a community resource where you can learn about the university, we can exchange information, and you can read about the activities and individuals making a difference in our communities around the world.

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Upcoming Events

- Fruit Belt Clean-A-Thon
- University Community Farmers Market
- Samuel P. Capen Garden Walk

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

The CAO-UB Connection

8:00 AM



A steady stream of Fruit Belt residents bring questions, concerns and tax forms to the CAO-UB Community Wellness and Neighborhood Development Center on High Street, a partnership of the Community Action Organization of Erie County (CAO) and UB's Center for Urban Studies.

The center's four case managers provide information about jobs, health, education and training, community organizing, home improvement and more. Families come for free food and clothing, income tax preparation, and help finding emergency shelter or a doctor. Block club leaders meet with members, while individuals use the center's computer lab and attend job-readiness courses in the center's first-floor classroom.

The collaboration between UB and the CAO began in 2005 when they received a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to develop neighborhood revitalization in the Masten and Ellicott districts. After the HUD grant ended in 2008, the CAO officially began sharing its building and staff with the Center for Urban Studies, directed by Henry Taylor, a UB professor of urban planning.

Taylor and the center's director, UB alumna Jacqueline Hall, now develop CAO programs based on Taylor's 10 years of neighborhood development research in the Fruit Belt. Their local partners include the City of Buffalo, Buffalo Federation of Neighborhood Centers, the Futures Academy, Kaleida Health, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, St. John Baptist Church and UB.

Student interns from UB, the Futures Academy and Buffalo State College help case managers run the center's programs.

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25 minutes ago

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54 minutes ago

Jog for the Jake is this Sunday
<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubcares/jake>
about an hour ago

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managers run the center's programs.

Intern David Trent, a graduate student in urban planning at UB who is also a real estate developer and affordable-housing advocate, sees the neighborhood as "surprisingly cohesive," but with a lot of work still to be done.

"To start, we need more local employers to hire people living around them," Trent says. Since 2008, the CAO-UB Center has helped place 30 local residents in entry-level health sciences jobs at the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus.

CAO-UB Center's core programs are:

Emergency services. Disaster preparedness information, financial and legal aid, short-term housing, and food and clothing giveaways.

Case management, information and referrals. Certified social workers assist with quality-of-life issues, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Block club development. Meeting space and office services for block clubs, homeowners and tenants. Nine block clubs have been created in the Fruit Belt in the past two years.

VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance). Free tax preparation, electronic tax filing, refund transfers and bank account set-up.

Health care employment and training. Kaleida Prep and Roswell Works job placement programs include free work-readiness courses about the health sciences industry.

Save Ourselves (S.O.S.). A public safety program for teenagers that provides a welcoming environment and information about personal responsibility, health and safety.

Keep Buffalo Neat. Affordable, fee-for-service landscaping and outdoor clean-up for Buffalo properties. The program hires local employees and 26 Fruit Belt households are currently participating.

For more information, visit the CAO-UB Center at 326 High Street or call 886-2616.

Labels: [City of Buffalo](#), [Economic Development](#), [Health and Wellness](#), [neighborhoods](#), [UB downtown](#)

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Blog Archive

- ▼ 2010 (47)
 - ▼ June (7)
 - The CAO-UB Connection
 - Camps for the Mind
 - The Doctor Can See You
 - ISCIWNY Means Jobs
 - University Community
 - Farmers Market Opens
 - Saturday...
 - UB Partners Day
 - Law Clinic Brings Dollars to the Neighborhood
 - ▶ May (8)
 - ▶ April (10)
 - ▶ March (13)
 - ▶ February (8)
 - ▶ January (1)
- ▶ 2009 (40)



Comment as:

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Your UB Web Site
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Reaching Others
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UB 2020 Progress

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UB, Amherst to cooperate on development