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Community Action Partnership celebrates 54 years of service in Riverside County

For more than a half century Community Action Partnership has helped Riverside County residents with everything from weatherization of their homes to teaching people how to better handle their finances.

There is also the tax assistance, dispute resolution or help with finding a warm or cool place to stay during a chilly winter day or blistering summer afternoon.

Now CAP is celebrating Community Action Month, a time dedicated to recognizing the success of the national Community Action Network. Nationally, Community Action agencies connect millions of children and families to greater opportunity, which helps transform their lives and make communities and nation stronger.

This month, CAP will engage in programs and events that highlight its innovative work in Riverside County.

“Community Action Partnership serves thousands of residents in Riverside County with programs that truly benefit their lives, such as a weatherization and financial

education services,” said Supervisor Chuck Washington, chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. “This is a great opportunity to highlight these much-needed programs and bring awareness to the work of CAP and its staff.”

CAP was established in 1979 to create opportunities in Riverside County through utility assistance, asset building programs, financial literacy and advocacy. The County of Riverside Community Action Partnership is a member of the Community Action Network, originally created in 1964.

“Community Action Month is a wonderful time to honor and celebrate the impact Community Action has in the lives of families and communities across the country,” said Brenda Salas Freeman, executive director.

Freeman said that CAP, which is part of Riverside University Health System-Public Health, last year served 54,103 residents of Riverside County through services like the VITA program, which processed nearly 11,000 tax returns last year due to the efforts of hundreds of volunteers. This effort brought over \$17 million in tax refunds back into Riverside County.