



## May 2017 Community Action Month

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies were created when the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 was signed into law; and

WHEREAS, the East Central Kansas Economic Opportunity Corporation (ECKAN) was established in 1966; and

WHEREAS, ECKAN has a 50-plus year history of promoting self-sufficiency for the limited income; and

WHEREAS, ECKAN has made essential contributions to individuals and families in Garnett by providing them with innovative and cost-effective programs such as Rent Subsidies via the Section 8 program, Weatherization services, Early Childhood Education, Food Pantry, a conduit for food distribution's from Kansas Food Bank, Harvester's and Commodity Supplemental Food Program and providing case management through our Stepping Stones Program.

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies are needed as major participants in the reform of the welfare system as we know it; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families on limited income continue to need opportunities to improve their lives and their living conditions, thus ensuring that all citizens are able to live in dignity; and

WHEREAS, the poverty rate in Garnett is 22.4% and

WHEREAS, ECKAN's Community Centers provided programs and services to 1,506 families, and 3,173 individuals in its service area last reporting year; and

WHEREAS, Kansas and the entire United States must continue to wage war on poverty by providing support and opportunities for all citizens in need of assistance; and

WHEREAS, Garnett and ECKAN have worked together to meet the needs of our most vulnerable citizens;

***NOW, THEREFORE, I, W. Gordon Blackie, Mayor of the City of Garnett, do hereby proclaim May 2017 as***

## COMMUNITY ACTION MONTH

in Garnett, Kansas in recognition of the hard work and dedication of Kansas Community Action Agencies.

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Mayor