Press Release

Appalachian Community Action & Development Agency, Inc. (AppCAA) is pleased to announce that Mrs. Lisa Barton, Executive Director, recently received the FAHE Leadership award for 2024. This award is given based on several criteria, such as exceptionally effective and cooperative at cross-member partnering, emerging leaders stepping in or stepping up to make a powerful impact, leaders creating a legacy by their dedication to the mission, extraordinary leadership resulting in the accomplishment of significant goals, inspirational progress in overcoming obstacles, making a personal investment in local communities and providing inspiration as a role model to encourage others.

FAHE brings people, organizations, and resources together to build homes, communities, and a thriving Appalachia through expanding economic opportunity and security for all. As leaders they speak with a unified voice to influence policy, philanthropy, and systems change. Working with a network of 50+ nonprofits across the Appalachian portion of Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, Virginia, Alabama, and Maryland, using their expertise in finance, collaboration, innovation, advocacy, and communication to achieve a more prosperous Appalachian region. With a focus on leadership, housing, education, health and social services, and economic opportunity, Fahe empowers the people and communities of Appalachia with the resources, opportunities, and tools needed to build a better life. Their strength in numbers creates positive change in Appalachia, one of the poorest and most difficult regions of the country to serve.

Mrs. Barton is recognized for her advocacy leadership, having AppCAA as a strong partner in the Ballad Working Group, always has her eye on how innovations could impact the work done in communities and with families. Lisa always includes other staff, bringing them to Fahe Meetings and telegraphing she always has an eye to the future, as well as her current accomplishments as Executive Director of AppCAA.
Mrs. Barton began working at AppCAA in 2016 as the Finance Director, and became Executive Director in 2020. She spearheaded our Whole Family Services Program, which led to engaging families with children, sometimes led by single parents, who were attempting to work, or continue their education, but had so many setbacks and desperately needed support to mitigate these setbacks. The program started with six families. In 2023 AppCAA was fortunate to be one of the 4 agencies in Virginia to be part of the Diaper Distribution Pilot Program, also spearheaded by Mrs. Barton. The Diaper Distribution Pilot Program provides diapers and diapering supplies to families each month to assist them with children who are in diapers or pull ups. The families also participate in the Whole Family Program, or disabled participants enroll in Housing/Financial Counseling. This gave AppCAA a great advantage in assisting the Whole Family Participants. AppCAA now serves over 50 families with Whole Family Services, and The Diaper Distribution Pilot Program. AppCAA has recently begun

administering a Down Payment Assistance Program for qualified homebuyers, and the Virginia Individual Development Account (VIDA) Program, which is a matching savings program that can assist with up to ten thousand dollars towards a down payment. We also administer SPARC funds through Virginia Housing to assist with up to a one point reduction on the interest rate for the life of a home loan.

Founded in 1965, Appalachian Community Action & Development Agency, Inc. serves Lee, Scott, Wise Counties, and the City of Norton. We strive to be an agent of change, empowering our communities to be strong and self-supporting. Currently, AppCAA provides weatherization/housing repair to help improve and preserve the housing stock in our service area, housing counseling including first time homebuyers pre-purchase counseling and assistance programs, financial counseling, education and empowerment, free income tax preparation, emergency, and whole family wrap around services, including diaper distribution. Please contact AppCAA online at appcaa.org or call at 276-452-2441 for more information.