

LOCAL

TUESDAY
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A3

JACKSON CITIZEN PATRIOT

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS CENTER

CAVA provides housing help

Center will help families facing foreclosure or homelessness

By Tarryl Jackson

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The Community Action Agency has opened a center to help families who are facing foreclosure or homelessness.

The Community Solutions Center, 511 S. Jackson St., will

serve as the primary location for free foreclosure-prevention services and transitional housing and homeless services.

"We want people to know that they don't have to pay to talk with someone about modifying a mortgage or the foreclosure process, and that

there are certified professionals, not scammers, available to help," Marsha Kreucher, CEO of Community Action Agency, said in a statement.

The agency has seen an increase in demand from people in search of free housing and foreclosure counseling. From Oct. 1, 2008, through

Sept. 30, the agency had 1,449 appointments for various housing services in Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee counties. That is up from 693 in the previous 12 months.

"There's so many people going into foreclosure," said Jessie Murray, spokeswoman for Community Action

Learn more

The Community Solutions Center is at 511 S. Jackson St. For more information, call 788-6495.

Agency.

Eight staff members who already work for the CAA

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Center to provide housing help

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were transferred to the new center, Murray said. The

agency is leasing the space for two years, she said.

The Community Solutions Center also offers mediation

services to help privately resolve disputes between two parties.

Other services include financial education, establishing and repairing credit, avoiding predatory lending and basic banking skills.

The site will also provide for the coordination of more than 50 volunteers working this upcoming tax season to prepare and file income taxes through the agency's free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program.