



Head Start To Increase Enrollment, Expand Services

Community Action Head Start has received grants totaling \$900,000 to significantly increase its enrollment and to include new programming for infants and toddlers. The expansion will add 50 more students in full-day full-year care in family child care centers during the summer of 2001, as well as 36 more students in full-day classes at the CAO Child Development Center in Hillsboro, starting in September of 2001. In spring of 2001, 54 new children will be added to the Oregon Pre-kindergarten Head Start classes located in elementary schools. Finally, the new Early Head Start program will serve 40 infants and toddlers at the Hillsboro Child Development Center children starting in September of 2001. The new funding will increase total enrollment from 460 children this year to 604 children next year.

The new grants are significant because Head Start is currently funded to serve only about half of the children who qualify for the program. The Early Head Start funding is also significant because it completes a continuum of care offered by Community Action children's programs, which currently serve low-income families in need of prenatal care, preschool, and before and after school care. Early Head Start will provide comprehensive services including full-time child care for infants and toddlers, and their parents. This program will compliment prenatal services offered by Community Action's Opening Doors maternity outreach program.

Early Head Start's main objective is to provide a safe, high quality care-giving environment for infants and toddlers that promotes their healthy



A former Head Start student with his baby brother and his mother, a CAO Family Advocate for Head Start.

physical, cognitive, social and emotional development and supports their parents who are at work or school. A partnership is formed with parents to support their role as primary nurturers and educators of their children and to support their efforts toward economic self-sufficiency. Equally important, the program integrates with existing Head Start full-day full-year structure to create a holistic birth to five program.

“Our staff are committed to the families, children, and the partners we work with. Everyone is treated with respect and dignity. The program is carefully planned to provide an atmosphere of acceptance, compassion, and enthusiasm for growth.”
—Marilyn Harrison

Established in the late 1960s as a significant tool to break the cycle of poverty for young families, Head Start preschool is Community Action's longest running program. Research shows the first five years of a child's life is critical to the success of the child later in life. Over the past 30 years, Head Start has met the educational, social and

CAO Changes Lives One Family at a Time

“The best day of my life is when my son Christopher entered Head Start and watching him grow in the program. I got involved also in his class and the teachers were very nice and asked me to get involved in parent meetings. Also they asked me about becoming a sub for them two months later. I got hired on as a temp.”

The following year, Head Start asked me to come in for an interview, and I was placed as a teacher's assistant and ever since I have been working very hard studying for my-GED certificate and raising my family. I've devoted my life to my family but most of all to Head Start.”

— Rose, a CAO Client

emotional needs for preschool age children who come from economically disadvantaged families. Head Start graduates leave the program excited and confident about learning. Their parents have a better understanding of their children and have a positive relationship with them. Lastly Head Start strives to help the family have a vision for the future and the resources and connections to realize that vision.

Early Head Start partners include the Oregon Child Development Coalition, HealthyStart/New Parent Network, and three Community Action programs: Head Start, Opening Doors, and Metro Child Care Resource and Referral.

For more information about Community Action Head Start, contact Marilyn Harrison, Child Development Director, at 503-693-3268 or mharrison@caowash.org.

Save the date!

Community Action's 4th Annual The "Celebration of Community Spirit" Dinner is scheduled for April 26th at the Greenwood Inn in Beaverton.

Please mark your calendar!



Ralph Brown
Board Chair

Thirty-five years ago, on October 13, 1965, Community Action Organization (CAO) of Washington County was established by a group of community leaders concerned about the local issue of poverty. As we celebrate our 35th anniversary year, we have much for which to be thankful. Over the past three and a half decades CAO has been able to assist thousands of low-income families achieve a better life. And all of this was possible because of the tremendous commitment and generosity of many, including our volunteers, donors, policy makers, grantors and staff.

We are honored that leaders and service providers in Washington County view CAO as an the leading organization to provide needed services for low-income residents. We will continue to be an active partner as we move into the 21st Century. As the county has grown, so have the numbers of families who struggle to make ends meet. CAO has also experienced rapid growth in the past few years, creating unique struggles for us as

our systems, staff and finances were stretched beyond their limits. Our challenge has been to manage both the positive and negative outcomes of our success.

To meet this challenge, CAO has undergone some significant changes. We have carefully assessed our fundraising needs, our ability to deliver many services, and administrative support. We have taken the necessary steps to strengthen our operations in each of these areas and let go of a number of services that weren't adequately funded, finding new providers for many programs. As a result, CAO's programs are more focused and are financially sustainable.

On August 1, 2000, CAO successfully transferred the Good Neighbor Center to the East Washington County Shelter Partnership Council, a newly formed non-profit that is highly motivated to serve the homeless in our community. With news of being awarded nearly \$1 million in Head Start ex-



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

pansion funds, our early childhood development services to low-income families and their children will be stronger than ever as we enroll more children and reach out to include 0-3 year olds. (Please see our cover story for more details.)

Our energy assistance services have also expanded to become a year round program, preventing twice as many families from losing their heat and utilities. We have changed the nature of our Information and Referral program to focus on keeping the information current and accessible to dozens of community providers, so that "no door is the wrong door" for residents seeking social service information and referrals. This has replaced our 24-hour live referral service. And last, but not least, the changes in our resource development program saw great success as Community Action friends increased their giving by 43% — raising more than \$770,000 in private funds to support our work.

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Looking For New Ways to Give?

Stock Gifts

Charitable gifts of appreciated stock provide great tax benefits. If you donate stock, you can deduct the full fair-market value of appreciated assets, while avoiding capital-gains taxes. If you would like to discuss making a stock gift to CAO, please call Sharon Bosserman-Benson at (503) 693-3255 or e-mail sbenson@caowash.org

Showers for Shelters

Host a shower for our homeless shelter and provide many families the resources they need to get on the road to self-sufficiency. Or choose other themes and client groups to benefit layettes for expecting moms, school supplies for Head Start students, etc. CAO will provide each host/hostess with invitations to send to guests, a program speaker, and staff to assist with the shower. If you are interested in hosting a shower, please call Melissa Campbell at (503) 693-3230 or mcampbell@caowash.org

Car Donation Program

Have a vehicle sitting around that you don't want anymore? You can donate it to CAO and help your neighbors in need. The car must run; your donation is tax deductible. Please call Melissa Campbell at (503) 693-3230 or e-mail mcampbell@caowash.org

Pave the Way...

Don't know what to give that special someone for the Holidays? CAO is offering a way for you to honor that special someone and at the same time "pave the way" for someone in need. For a \$50.00 donation we will inscribe a personal message on a brick located in the pathway in front of our Multi-Service Center in Hillsboro. We will send a card to the person you select, indicating the message to be engraved. The proceeds will be used to benefit the work of CAO. If you would like to purchase an engraved brick, please call Melissa Campbell at (503) 693-3230 or e-mail mcampbell@caowash.org

Summer Highlights!

Shelter Celebrates 25 years!

On August 24th community members helped celebrate the Community Action Family Shelter Home's 25th birthday with a catered lunch, sponsored by Columbia Community Bank, and a program highlighting supporters and volunteers. Speakers included U.S. Rep. David Wu and Cornelius Mayor Ralph Brown, both Community Action board members, among others. The celebration kicked off Community Action's campaign to heighten public awareness of homelessness that affects more than 8,000 people a year in Washington County. Throughout the year, local celebrities and politicians will stay at the shelter, leaving only when they've raised \$1,500 in donations (the average cost of first and last month's rent). For more information on the shelter stays, contact Sharon Bosserman-Benson at 503-693-3255 or sbenson@caowash.org



Congratulations Wine Raffle Winners!

Community Action's 5th Annual Wine Raffle drawing occurred on September 21 at a reception with the CAO Board of Directors. Cooper Mountain Vineyards, Montinore Vineyards, Ponzi Vineyards, Oak Knoll Winery, Tualatin Estates Vineyards, and Helvetia Winery were recognized for their donations of wine the past five years. At exactly 6 p.m., board chair Ralph Brown drew the lucky grand-prize winner, Nan Horton-Levy and Andrew Levy, followed by ten runner-ups including Judy Willey, Jack Flaig, Kristin Webb, James Culp, Su Casa Imports, Bibianne and Ken Scheckla, Sharon and Michael Totman, Sunrise Rotary Club, Ruth Loomis, and Cindy Sehorn. Community Action and the Washington County Wine Association have raised more than \$45,000 in raffle tickets sales over the past five years to benefit low-income families in our community. Thanks to all who participated, you have made this year's wine raffle a great success!



Putting for Bucks-- Golf Tournament

The combined forces of the Aloha and Hillsboro Sunrise Rotary resulted in a successful 10th Annual Celebrity Invitational Corporate Golf Challenge on September 29th. Proceeds from the tournament support the Community Action Family Shelter Home along with local high schools scholarships. More than 200 golfers and celebrities participated in the tournament this year. A family who stayed at the shelter shared their story with the golfers during dinner. For more information about participating in next year's tournament, e-mail HSRF@golfbenefit.org





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In partnership with the community,
Community Action assists low income
people to achieve
self-determination.

Community Action Organization is a
private, non-profit corporation.

For further information contact:
Resource Development: 693-3230
or see our website:
www.caowash.org

Thank you Cooper Mountain Vineyards!

Community Action Organization
thanks the
Washington County Wine Association



Our partnership has resulted in more than \$45,000 raised from nearly 2,500 bottles of wine donated to Community Action's wine raffle over the past five years (not to mention many happy raffle winners!) The real winners are the 12,000 low-income children and families living in Washington County and benefiting from Community Action programs. Thanks to the participating wineries and everyone who purchased raffle tickets!

Thank you Tualatin Estates Vineyards!

Thank you Montmore Vineyards! Thank you Ponzi Vineyards!

Thank you Helveta Winery! Thank you Oak Knoll Winery!