



2008
Cameron Award
for
Outstanding Community Collaboration
Vision Action Network of Washington County

NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE:

(Please check one)

Individual Organization Emerging Leader

Organization:

Name: Community Action

Address: 1001 SW Baseline Street

City: Hillsboro State: OR Zip: 97123

Individual or Emerging Leader:

Title:

Organization:

Phone: Fax: Email:

PERSON SUBMITTING NOMINATION:

Contact Name: Kevin Aguirre

Title: District Manager

Organization: Oregon Department of Human Services

Phone: (503) 598-3101 Fax: (503) 598-7948 Email: kevin.aguirre@state.or.us

Address: 10777 SW Cascade Avenue

City: Tigard State: OR Zip: 97223

Why should this person/organization be considered for the 2008 *Cameron Award for Outstanding Community Collaboration*? Please make sure to highlight three areas:

- **Leadership**
- **Cross-sector collaboration**
- **Making a difference in the Community**

500 words maximum, not including optional support materials (e.g., letters of support, articles, etc.)

I hereby nominate Community Action to receive the 2008 Cameron Award for Outstanding Community Collaboration. In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low-income people to achieve self-determination. As a community partner and current Board Chair, I have directly experienced Community Action's work and can attest to the organization's outstanding commitment to cross-sector collaborations.

Community Action is recognized as a leader in efforts to reduce the causes and conditions of poverty in Washington County. Staff and board leadership are regularly involved in local initiatives related to issues of poverty and early childhood education. Currently, Executive Director Jerralynn Ness serves on the boards of the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce, Vision Action Network and the Hillsboro Foundation. She also participates on the Legacy Health Committee, the leadership group for Washington County's Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, and Chairs the Oregon Thrives initiative. Leadership staff are actively involved with the Washington County Childhood Care and Education Advisory Committee, CASH, Tualatin Tomorrow, and the Essential Health Clinic, to name a few. The Community Action Board of Directors is collaborative by design: one-third come from the public sector, one-third from the private sector, and one-third are low-income representatives.

To achieve its mission, Community Action collaborates with businesses, faith-based organizations, non-profits, the educational community and local government. Health care providers, including Providence/St. Vincent, Legacy/Meridian Park, Tuality Health Care and Kaiser Permanente sought out Community Action as their partner to provide at-risk, low-income mothers with access to quality prenatal care. West county churches organized to create the Westco Emergency Fund, providing Community Action with emergency energy and rent assistance for families in crisis. Community Action Head Start co-locates classrooms within the Hillsboro, Beaverton and Tigard-Tualatin School Districts and collaborates with district staff in the provision of early childhood education for low-income children. Portland Community College, Apollo College, Portland State University and Pacific University partner with Community Action to secure practicum experience for students in nursing or early childhood education programs. Intel partners with Community Action for Child Care Resource and Referral services for their employees. Community Action collaborates as a founding member of igivewhereilive.net, which provides an on-line donation tool for more than 60 Washington County nonprofits. Community Action's Hillsboro Family Shelter is part of a local network of organizations collaborating to address issues of homelessness and housing. Community Action's "Information and Referral Breakfasts" provides training and education for local social services providers. A unique partnership with Oregon Department of Corrections provides early childhood education at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for incarcerated mothers and their children. As one of 1,200 Community Action organizations in the United States, Community Action is a direct partner with state, county and city governments and the many government agencies addressing issues of poverty in Washington County.

Each year, Community Action plays a leadership role in responding to nearly 30,000 requests for assistance, helping thousands of families to achieve greater economic security. This would not be possible without a high level of collaboration and a diverse group of partners.