

**COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION
HILLSBORO FAMILY
SHELTER**

Shelter Commemorates 25 years of Service in 2000

Since 1975, Community Action Organization has been operating a shelter in Hillsboro, providing safe and stable housing and support services for families. Approximately 70-75 households, consisting of 275 individuals come to the shelter each year, referred by government agencies, community service groups, churches, and friends.



The shelter provides a variety of services including assessment, case management, and classes in tenant education, parenting, and health. Also, supplied are food boxes, linens, phone and mail services, personal hygiene items, and access to washers and dryers. Children attend school and participate in activities and special events coordinated by the Children's Program staff.

Currently located in the historic Shute House on SE 12th Ave. in Hillsboro, the shelter is making plans to commemorate, during the year 2000, a quarter century of service to families in crisis.

Without the support and assistance of community groups and individuals in Washington County, the work of the shelter could not be maintained. The community will be invited to share with us as we honor the dedication that has made this service possible.

*** **COULD YOU DO IT?** ***

If you made \$8 an hour and had to support two children, could you do it?
Budget for a Family of Three (one adult, two children)

Hourly Wage	\$6	\$7	\$8	\$10
Monthly Gross	1,040	1,213	1,387	1,733
Monthly Net Pay	832	970	1,109	1387
Expenses				
2-bedroom Rental	621	621	621	621
Day Care for 2 children	600	600	600	600
Groceries	300	300	300	300
Medical	200	200	200	200
Utilities	105	105	105	105
Bus Pass	46	46	46	46
Education/Entertainment	30	30	30	30
Clothing	30	30	30	30
Total Expenses	\$1,932	\$1,932	\$1,932	\$1,932
Net Shortfall	-\$1,100	-\$961	-\$823	-\$545

Many homeless families trying to become self-sufficient are single parents supporting children on minimum wage jobs. From the chart above, it is easy to see the difficulty in trying to become independent and self-supporting. *What would you do?*

Inside this issue:

A Recent Graduate & The Children's Program visits Newport Aquarium	2
Homeless Education Update	3
Famous Quotes	4

A single mother with a 9 year old daughter, and two sons age 7 and 9 were living in substandard housing. Her landlord decided to sell the property instead of making the needed repairs. She tried looking for a new place to rent, but was unable to find anything because of an eviction from the previous year. She had no relatives or friends that were in a position to help her, so her only safe option was to move her family into the shelter. The mother felt she had failed at her responsibility to provide for her family. She also was upset at having to give away their pets.



A Recent Graduate

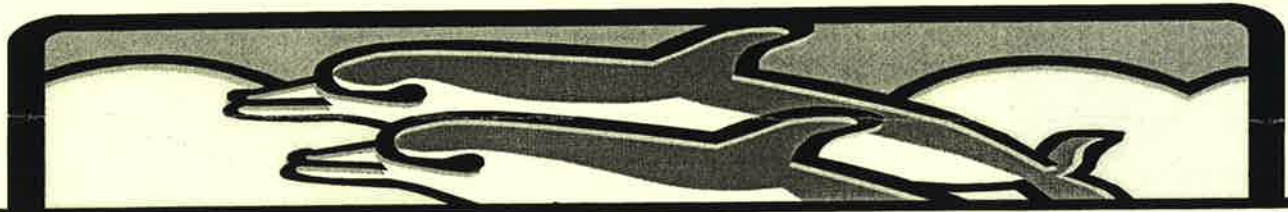
The safety and structure of the program made it possible for her to set goals and develop a plan to gain stability. She received support and encouragement from staff to pursue her goals. The case manager checked with her regularly to help keep her focused and on track.

She was also provided with a weekly food box and access to phone and laundry facilities. She attended weekly parenting classes and bi-weekly health classes.

The children participated in the after school program and enjoyed a holiday party. Two of the children had serious learning disabilities that made school a challenge.

The Homeless Education Liaison helped them with school supplies and individualized tutoring.

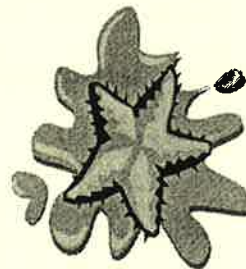
The mother attended a tenant education program through Community Action Organization. The classes helped her build the skills to become a good renter and to keep her home safe. Shelter staff helped her find housing resources and write a cover letter to turn in with housing applications. The day she was scheduled to move out of the shelter she picked up the keys to her new apartment.



Children's Program visits Newport Aquarium

One of the best parts about time off from school is the opportunity to take field trips with the Hillsboro Shelter Children's Program! Four children recently took advantage of the break from school and ventured west with two staff members to the Oregon Coast and the Newport Aquarium. For some of the children, it was their first trip to the Pacific Ocean. For others, it was an opportunity to see the ocean

from a different perspective, as a learning tool. At the aquarium, they were especially amazed by sea anemones and starfish probably because those were the ones that they were allowed to touch! The kids then put their new information to good use when they visited Yaquina Head State Park. They explored high and low,



from the top of the lighthouse down to the tide pools in the bay. They couldn't help but laugh when they were caught off guard by the rising tide! That made for a long, WET ride home! It was a great day for all the kids (and staff, too) and hopefully it will be a very positive memory of their stay at the shelter.



Homeless Education Update

In this, our first newsletter, I wanted to provide a short introduction to the homeless education program for the Hillsboro School District.

Where is the homeless education program located? It is located in the basement of the Community Action Family Shelter in Hillsboro. Unlike many other homeless education programs, the Hillsboro School District program is administered through Community Action Organization, a social service agency. This agreement allows for greater access to homeless students and allows homeless students greater access to community resources.

Why do we need a homeless education program? Homeless kids have many unique educational barriers. Because

For more information call Ben Zelinsky at 640-3263.

homeless kids tend to move around a lot, they are more likely to miss school and have gaps in their knowledge. Homeless kids are also more likely than the rest of the population to experience neglect or abuse. These factors contribute to an environment which is not conducive to learning. As a result, homeless kids are more prone to drop out of school and tend to score lower on standardized tests than other kids.

Homelessness is a big problem in Washington County. The most recent data estimates that there are 870 homeless students in the Hillsboro School District. This number is up from about 540 last year.

What services are offered? The homeless education program offers help with transportation, enrollment, and school supplies. The program also offers after school tutoring and information referral to other services. All homeless or highly mobile school aged children in the Hillsboro School District are eligible.





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Famous Quotes:

About the Shelter program:

"Very clean...safe..."

"...Thank you very much for the help you gave to me and my daughters when we needed it."

About the Staff:

"...They were very perceptive to emotions and needs."

"Everyone was so helpful and great to us!"

About the family advocate:

"I enjoyed talking to the family advocate because now I am able to do something that wasn't possible...I can do things on my own. I just needed to talk to somebody that was understanding."

About the Children's Program Coordinator and Homeless Education Liaison:

"Very caring, Lindsey is very dedicated to the children's needs and very patient."

"Ben was most helpful, and willing to give 100%."

"Great with the kids!"

About the parenting class:

"Good teacher!"

"I learned a lot about taking care of my son."

