

*Awards***Jerralynn Ness**

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**From:** Lisa Brown  
**Sent:** Friday, September 12, 2008 3:39 PM  
**To:** Jerralynn Ness; Kevin Aguirre  
**Cc:** Leanna Woodall; Mary Jones; Scott Schlegel; Farzana Siddiqui; Jerralynn Ness; John Russell; Lisa Brown; Natalie Horne; Nicole Cossette; Renee Bruce  
**Subject:** Happy News  
**Attachments:** OHCS nomination.doc

As you may recall, with Kevin's support we submitted an application for the Oregon Housing and Community Services 2008 Excellence Awards in the Community-Based Organization of the Year category. I'm happy to report that I just got a call that we have been selected to receive this award! I will be receiving more information, but I can tell you that it will be presented on October 6th as part of the OHCS conference. Attached is the application narrative we submitted.

Kevin, thanks so much for your endorsement. More to come as information comes my way! -- Lisa

Lisa A. Brown  
Director of Development & Community Relations  
Community Action  
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503.648.4175 - fax  
[lbrown@caowash.org](mailto:lbrown@caowash.org)  
1001 SW Baseline  
Hillsboro, OR 97123

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

Faxed 8/14/08  
1:15 pm

## Nomination Application

Please use this form for each nomination. There is no limit to the number of individuals or organizations you can nominate. You may copy this form as many times as necessary. The awards will be presented during the Oregon Housing and Community Services Conference on October 6, 2008:

- |                                                                  |                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best New Affordable Housing of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Management Company of the Year                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Partner of the Year                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Tenant Services of the Year                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to Special Needs Housing     | <input type="checkbox"/> Lender of the Year                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of Affordable Housing      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community-Based Organization of the Year |

### Submitted By:

Name: Kevin Aguirre  
Organization: Oregon DHS  
Address: 10777 SW Cascade Ave. Tigard, OR 97223  
Phone/Email Address: 503-819-2643 Kevin.aguirre@state.or.us

### Nominee:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: Community Action  
Address: 1001 SW Baseline St. Hillsboro, OR 97123  
Phone/Email Address: 503-693-3230 lbrown@caowash.org or jness@caowash.org  
Lisa Brown Jerralynn Ness org

Entry Description: Complete a nomination form for each entry. Supporting documentation may not exceed three single-spaced pages, text only. Photos are requested and must be accompanied by an executed OHCS Photo Release Form.

The supporting documentation should include a brief description of the person, project or activity; when and why it was completed; what was accomplished; who benefited; and why it should be considered for an award.

Nominations can be mailed, faxed or submitted electronically. All nominations must be postmarked or received no later than **August 15, 2008** to be eligible for consideration.

Submit Entries by **August 15, 2008** to:

Sandy McDonnell, Administrative Services Manager  
Oregon Housing and Community Services  
725 Summer Street NE, Suite B  
Salem OR 97301-1266  
Ph. 503-986-2012 Fax. 503-986-2020  
Email: sandy.mcdonnell@hcs.state.or.us

*Selected  
pr call  
9/12*

*10/6<sup>th</sup>  
presentation*

## DEADLINE

Nominations must be postmarked or received  
no later than 5:00 p.m. on

**Friday, August 15, 2008**

## **Oregon Housing & Community Services**

### **2008 Excellence Awards**

#### **Community-Based Organization of the Year**

**Nominee:** Community Action, serving Washington County

**Nominated by:** Kevin Aguirre

**I hereby nominate Community Action for the Oregon Housing and Community Services Excellence Awards, Community-Based Organization of the Year.** 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 helping economically challenged Oregonians. Provided here is information about Community Action's role as a non-profit organization dedicated to low-income children and families in Washington County.

#### Mission

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

#### Background

In response to President Lyndon B. Johnson's *Economic Opportunity Act of 1964*, a motivated group of Washington County leaders concerned over the causes and conditions of poverty came together 43 year ago to organize Community Action. As a result of Johnson's original initiative to launch a national war on poverty, a network of more than 1,200 organizations now comprise the nation-wide Community Action Partnership. As one of 18 Community Action Organizations in Oregon, Community Action is one of the largest private non-profits in Washington County.

#### About Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. The organization cares about the entire community and is dedicated to helping individuals help themselves and each other. It is Community Action's vision that all Washington County residents are strong, resilient, involved in the community, and live with dignity and security.

Community Action serves all of Washington County and works in partnership with local governments, businesses and other non-profits to reduce the effects of poverty on local families and to provide them with the resources to achieve social and economic self-sufficiency. Community Action is respected for its genuine concern and knowledge regarding issues of poverty, and works with funders and other service providers to collaboratively identify and address critical community needs. Community Action is a respected leader in the area of early childhood development and is a catalyst in community efforts to address issues of homelessness and affordable housing.

### Programs & Services

Community Action helps people and families meet their basic needs and connect with opportunities for self-reliance by providing a diverse set of programs and services designed to address the root causes of poverty and provide long-term solutions for those struggling with issues of poverty.

*Housing & Homeless Services* provides shelter and housing for homeless families, advocates for children to ensure school success and assists families in achieving housing stability. As a collaborative partner with programs such as *Bridges to Housing*, Community Action is committed to helping families set goals and build the skills necessary to avoid homelessness and retain permanent housing.

*Energy & Emergency Rent Assistance* prevents homelessness and assures that families can remain safe and warm in their homes by providing financial assistance for those facing eviction or termination of heat and electricity services. Community Action advocates for families with local utility companies and provides referrals to other services that can help address related issues.

*Weatherization* helps families reduce energy bills by assessing home energy use, recommending cost saving measures and identifying available resources to improve energy efficiency. Community Action works in partnership with other agencies to address home-related health and safety issues identified during the energy audit process.

*Child Care Resource & Referral* provides access to quality, affordable child care for working families and strengthens the local child care network by providing training for providers and businesses. Participating providers receive mentoring support and access to a variety of professional development resources focused on critical issues such as nutrition and literacy.

*Opening Doors* provides pre-natal and parenting support that connects low-income women with the resources for a healthy birth and successful parenting. Programs such as *New Parent Network* help first-time parents learn about child development, health and physical well-being, and creating support systems.

*Head Start* prepares low-income pre-school and special needs children for educational success. Parents play an active role in Head Start, working alongside teachers in the classroom and participating in regular parent meetings and leadership development activities.

*Information & Referral Services* oversees Community Action's participation as the Washington County partner for *211 Info*, a four county collaboration providing information and referral to critical health and human services. In addition to maintaining an extensive database of local services, Community Action hosts training and workshops for social service providers and annually produces a comprehensive resource directory.

### Community Impact

The following is a brief overview of the direct services provided by Community Action in 2007-2008.

- **201** homeless children and parents had the chance to get back on their feet by staying at Community Action's Hillsboro Shelter Home and receiving supportive services, while **569** families facing eviction did not become homeless because of rent assistance provided by Community Action.
- **8,403** families stayed warm and safe in their homes with heat and electricity bill paying assistance from Community Action, and **224** families had lower fuel costs and warmer homes because they received weatherization services.
- **1,336** parents were able to go to work or school because they could access quality, affordable child care, and the availability of these resources improved as **1,582** child care providers participated in skill building and training throughout the year.
- **979** pre-school children gained a solid educational foundation by participating in Community Action's Head Start program and the more than **400** graduates who transitioned into kindergarten classrooms in Washington County schools were ready to learn.
- With access to appropriate pre-natal services, **608** low-income pregnant women were better equipped for a healthy birth. **93 %** of the **52** at-risk pregnant women who received comprehensive pre-natal services gave birth to healthy babies and **126** at-risk families received parenting support to prevent child abuse and neglect.
- By dialing 2-1-1, **14,631** callers were connected with vital health and social services in partnership with *Info211*.
- **830** volunteers were actively engaged, contributing **9,717** hours of assistance to various Community Action programs.

### Financial Accountability

Community Action is committed to the highest standards of fiscal stewardship. In 2007-2008 the organization received over \$16 million in financial support from a variety of sources, including individuals, businesses, corporations, foundations, faith based organizations, civic groups, community organizations, United Way, local government, and state and federal grants. Revenue is also generated through fees and rebates. For every dollar that is received by Community Action, 90.5 cents goes directly to the delivery of programs and services. Community Action has consistently received the highest possible rating following the annual independent audit conducted at the close of each fiscal year.

### Conclusion

The causes and conditions of poverty are complex and far-reaching, but one thing is clear: whether providing access to early childhood education, assistance with rising energy bills, or shelter and transitional support for homeless children and their parents, Community Action is making a difference in Washington County by helping low-income families achieve greater economic security.