

**Draft
Status Report on Neighborshare
June 2000**

Rachael -
Please comment.
I'd like to get it
to Sydney for the
TVCM meeting
next week.

Draft Vision for Neighborshare

We envision a community in which all people live with dignity and have their basic needs met, including access to food, shelter, clothing and transportation.

Call me
Ken/Ther.
Lover

Draft Mission of Neighborshare

Neighborshare is a community partnership helping low-income people bridge the gap of temporary instability in order to reach self-determination. Neighborshare does this by providing rent, energy and transportation assistance, food boxes and social service information and referrals.

Neighborshare History

Neighborshare has been a part of the Tigard community for over 11 years. Beginning with conversations that first took place at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in October 1986, a community effort was initiated to respond to the needs of those facing emergency crisis.

The Neighborshare Task Force (formed in 1987) made a number of important decisions. They wrote an initial mission statement and set goals. Ultimately, what developed was the result of several considerations. The task force believed that a coordinated effort was needed, that office space should be created, that a partnership with social service providers should be developed, and that regular communication should take place within the community. During this time, the name Neighborshare was chosen.

During the next year, Community Action Organization was contacted as a community partner. Funding and volunteers began to make this project a reality. In February 1989, a Neighborshare Open House was held as "A Valentine to the Community." In October 1989, the Tigard Christian Ministries Shelter was opened at Tigard United Methodist Church with case management being provided by Neighborshare.

Neighborshare has been a collaboration between CAO and Tualatin Valley Christian Ministries for a number of years. This partnership has made Neighborshare a unique program within Washington County. While churches that are a part of TVCM provide significant funding to Neighborshare (\$18,000 plus annually) and volunteer support, in recent years, the connection between CAO and TVCM has been more informal than formal in relationship to on-going program operations. Staff from the Neighborshare office report to TVCM regularly on what is taking place in the program. In recent months, Neighborshare staff has convened community partners' meetings in order to update the community on program statistics and services and the Neighborshare budget.

What are the services that Neighborshare currently provides?

Neighborshare serves as a single referral clearinghouse for emergency services in the Tigard/Tualatin/Sherwood communities as well as in parts of unincorporated Portland.

Currently, Neighborshare has a two person staff (Rachael Criswell and Joy Harris). The office is open Monday-Friday 8:30AM to 12:00 and 1:00PM to 5:00 and Wednesday 8:30AM to 12:00.

Neighborshare provides the following services:

- Food Box referrals coordinated with St. Vincent de Paul at St. Anthony's
- Rent Assistance
- Energy Assistance
- Information and Referral
- Transportation costs
- Assistance with prescriptions
- Bus and furniture vouchers

In addition, a SAFAH Family Advocate works out of the Neighborshare office, providing case management services related to housing. Neighborshare also shares office space with Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH).

Who is Community Action Organization and what is its relationship to Neighborshare?

Community Action Organization is a 501 (c) (3), non-profit organization. It is part of community action organizations that were created through the Equal Opportunity Act that was part of President Johnson's "war on poverty" in the 1960s. CAO has served residents in Washington County since 1965. The mission of CAO is to help low-income families/individuals achieve self-sufficiency.

In order to meet this mission, CAO in Washington County provides a range of services, including HeadStart, early children education, childcare information and referral, services for low-income pregnant women, emergency assistance, shelter for homeless families, transitional housing, weatherization and other support services for low-income individuals. These services are available throughout Washington County. In addition, CAO collaborates with other community providers to deliver services to those in need.

While Neighborshare grew out of the Tigard community's interest in serving the emergency needs of low-income people in the area, Neighborshare is currently the office of various CAO programs and receives a variety of Federal, State, city, United Way and local contributions.

What is the relationship between Neighborshare and Community Partners for Affordable Housing (CPAH) and Neighborshare and the Good Neighbor Center?

The mission of CPAH is to promote a healthy community through the development of permanent affordable housing, sustainable economic growth and community-based partnerships. CPAH accomplishes this mission through five goals:

- Development of Affordable Housing
- Community Outreach/Public Education
- Development of Affordable Housing Policy Incentives
- Strengthening Community-based Partnerships
- Increasing Organizational Capacity

CPAH was formed in 1993.

Neighborshare and CPAH share office space, work collaboratively with the community and work together on the Hopespring housing project in Tigard.

Neighborshare and the Good Neighbor Center often work with the same clients who have emergency needs and live at the GNC homeless shelter. During the past year, the staff of these two programs have been a part of the same Community Resources department at CAO. Beginning in July 2000, the Good Neighbor Center will be operated by the East Washington County Shelter Partnership Council, which is now a 501 (c) (3).

What are the current concerns related to Neighborshare?

Because of the current funding available for the Neighborshare office (see attached budget), CAO will discontinue the two person staffing pattern at the office once the Jobs Plus position concludes on July 24.

This reduction in staff means that the only funded position at Neighborshare will come from revenue resources related to energy assistance. While CAO's Board of Directors has a clear interest in continuing a multi-service approach to responding to community needs, nonetheless it has directed all CAO program budgets to be "zero-based." Programs that are not fully funded are to be re-organized or discontinued. In this light, CAO staffing in Hillsboro and at Neighborshare can no longer coordinate food boxes and staffing for rent assistance cannot be continued if it is not connected to energy assistance, which is funded.

CAO's information and referral phone line will also be discontinued beginning July 1st, 2000. This means that while we will continue to maintain an I and R database on the Internet, we will not be taking general I and R calls as a community practice.

Potential Neighborshare Program Models

Timeline

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 9 | Mailing of the Neighborshare proposal to TVCM mailing list with cover Letter |
| June 22 | Presentation and discussion of proposal at TVCM
Selection of a Planning Group to further develop the Neighborshare proposal |
| July | Planning Group meets |

Presents proposal to Town Hall meeting
Memo of Understanding concerning Neighborshare worked out with CAO

Model A

CAO Board of Directors serves as the legal entity for Neighborshare
CAO makes Energy Assistance staff available (1 FTE) and continues to house 1 SAFAH
Family Advocate in the office
TVCM helps form a Neighborshare Advisory Council
The Tigard community provides volunteers and funding to expand program capacity
related to the Food Boxes, Rent Assistance and Information and Referral.
(a percentage of Neighborshare contributions are designated for staffing)

Model B

A Tigard-based 501 (c) (3) serves as the legal entity for Neighborshare and CAO
subcontracts with this entity to provide staffing for 1 FTE Energy Assistance staff.
(This approach would need time in order to develop appropriately.)