
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION NEWS

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SUMMER, 1986

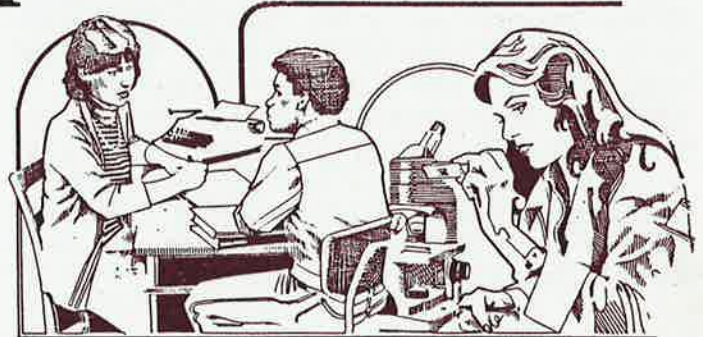
Youth program helps kids, business

This year, for the third summer, WCCAO has again received a grant from the Multnomah-Washington Private Industry Council to administer the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program for Washington County. The program is funded by the federal Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and is designed to provide low income youth between the ages of 14 and 21 with summer employment opportunities in a wide range of career fields.

WCCAO hopes to enroll up to 600 youth from throughout the County in the program. WCCAO contracts with four youth-serving agencies to provide employment and education services to youth who live in their areas. These agencies are:

Forest Grove Youth Services Center, which will serve 55 youth who live in Forest Grove, Banks, Cornelius and Gaston;

Oregon Human Development Corporation, which will serve 200 youth who live in the Hillsboro Union High School District;



Beaverton Community Youth Services Center, which will serve 130 youth who live in the Beaverton School District; and

Tigard/Tualatin Community Youth Services Center, which will serve 55 youth who live in Tigard, Tualatin, and Sherwood.

In addition, several other agencies will be running special programs for handicapped youth. These are:

Washington County Education Service District (ESD), which will serve 55 special-needs youth from the Beaverton and Tigard School Districts;

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Board Chair's Message

Al Young

Dear Friends:

Your continued response and generous support to WCCAO and our programs has led us to establish an on-going column in our newsletter. This column is titled "WCCAO Gives Thanks" and will, quarterly, recognize private donors for their financial support. In addition, our Annual Report, which is scheduled for release in September, will include a complete listing of all individuals, businesses, and organizations who have supported and contributed to our efforts to assist our economically disadvantaged neighbors.

On behalf of the WCCAO Board of Directors, please accept our deep appreciation for your interest in our organization and concern about the needy in Washington County.

Sincerely,

Al Young, Board Chair



ACTION NEWS

The winner of our "Name the Newsletter" contest is Sue Christ, secretary for the Washington County Head Start Program. Her suggestion of keeping it "Action News" was endorsed by a committee of the WCCAO Board. Many thanks to all those who submitted ideas. Jerralynn Ness, WCCAO Executive Director, will be taking Sue to lunch in appreciation for her suggestion.



Washington County Community Action Organization extends a heart-felt thanks to the following individuals for their caring and generous support during Spring, 1986:

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Tom & Phyllis Drennan

SPONSORS

Christi A. Cawood
Baker Rock Crushing Co.
St. Andrews Lutheran Church
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Meg Kenegy
B. Vaughn Critchlow
Bill & Leta Buskirk
Anonymous
Verna LaVelle
Marsha Green
John & Carla Emerling
Mark & Wendy Knudsen
Margaret Robertson, M.D.
William R. Strong
Gordon & Lucille Lind

"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life
by what we give."



You Can Help

RSVP needs volunteers who are 60 years and older to assist homebound seniors by helping with their shopping, respite care, cooking, light yardwork, friendly visiting, and by driving them to medical appointments.

RSVP needs women drivers in particular, to drive young girls and teenagers to incest-treatment appointments.

Volunteers are also needed to help with the Washington County Crime Prevention Program, and with literacy programs throughout the County, working with adults and children. Interested persons may call Elaine Wells, RSVP Director, at 642-3236.

WCCAO is holding its first gala fundraising event. It will be a Mardi Gras Ball on February 28, 1987, with dinner, dancing to Dixieland Jazz, and a silent auction. Volunteers are now being sought to serve on the Steering Committee and seven subcommittees. If interested, call Jerralynn Ness or Pilar Kleier at 648-6646.

The Shelter Home is looking for donations of a good, working lawn mower and a microwave oven. If you can help, please call Cheryl Hilbert, 648-0829.

The Tualatin Valley Food Center needs volunteers to assist with daily food donation pick-ups. Drivers can use their own trucks and receive a mileage reimbursement of 18¢ per mile or drive the Food Center Van. Drivers are needed for afternoon pick-ups from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Volunteers can choose one day a week on which to drive. For information on how you can help, call 642-3236.



By August 1, the Weatherization and Energy Access Programs will be moved into the Volunteer Center.

There is a warehouse available at the Volunteer Center to store weatherization materials, tools, and equipment, while the room used currently for meetings will become the Energy Program office. There will still be a conference room available located in the center of the complex. Any volunteers wishing to help with the move will be greatly appreciated! Call 640-8811 and let the Energy Program know how when and how you can help.

August 22, 23, 24: The Sale of the Century, a fundraiser for projects housed in the Volunteer Center, including Tualatin Valley Food Center (TVFC), Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

The sale will be held at the Volunteer Center, 20515 SW Blanton, Aloha (off Tualatin Valley Highway between 198th & 209th). Hours will be:

- Friday, August 22, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Saturday, August 23, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Sunday, August 24, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

July 9, August 13, September 10: WCCAO Board of Directors Meetings are held at the Methodist Church, 8th & Lincoln, Hillsboro, on the second Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. Contact Pilar Kleier, 648-6646, for schedule changes.

Dates for USDA commodities distribution are listed below. These distributions would not be possible without volunteer efforts. For more information, call 642-3236.

Thursday, July 17
Thursday, September 18



ENERGY

Thoughts on summer energy issues

by Judy Schilling

With the arrival of warmer weather, human service workers in Washington County might be tempted to breathe a sigh of relief, knowing that for a few months, at least, low income families won't be faced with a life-threatening situation every time they are unable to pay their heating bills.

But while those of us who work with Energy Assistance programs might find some joy in warmer weather, we know that the potential for human suffering still continues despite the rise in temperature.

Many elderly people face severe health problems without some type of summertime cooling. And what individual or family can stand to lose the year's supply of food stored in the freezer, or even the weeks supply of groceries that would rapidly spoil in summer heat? Bathing, feeding the very young or the very old, safely illuminating the home and the outside areas are all necessities that, if lost through inability to pay a bill, pose a hazard as threatening to the spirit as cold is to the body.

This past winter, WCCAO's Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) served 3,780 low income households in Washington County in a four-month period. Nearly \$675,000 in federal aid was used to help keep these families warm through the winter. More than 30% of those applying were seeking assistance for the first time. And about 40% of these families receive other government assistance.

After the program ran out of funds and closed on March 31, calls for assistance still came in at the rate of 30 to 40 per day for several weeks.

With ever-rising energy rates, increases in the cost of living, and a trend toward more families forced to accept low-paying jobs because of Oregon's



sluggish economy, it is hard to feel hopeful that these families will ever become energy self-sufficient. What can a family do in the short-term? Some options exist. By law, Oregon's regulated utilities (PGE and Northwest Natural Gas, in this area), must offer their customers a time-payment plan when they are facing a shutoff. This allows the family to pay their arrears in 10 equal monthly payments for the next 10 months. For some families, it buys enough time and keeps the heat on until they can pay the overdue bill. For others, it only delays the inevitable: a shutoff.

If a shutoff would endanger the health of any person in the household, the customer has the option of getting a signed statement from their doctor, describing their condition, and length of time the condition is expected to last. These medical certificates can be in effect for up to six months, are renewable, and will prevent any shutoff from taking place.

A final option is to seek financial assistance from welfare, local churches, or other helping agencies that might have funds. A family might not meet the eligibility guidelines, or funds may have dried up. Even if private funds are available, chances are that they are not enough to meet the generally large bills owed by families facing shutoffs.

If all the options have been exhausted, and the family is still in crisis, what then? This is the question being posed by Energy Assistance programs throughout the state, as they work together to promote more long-term solutions to this growing problem.

WCCAO has been at the forefront among community action agencies working on low income energy issues. In addition to Energy Assistance, WCCAO's Energy Program provides weatherization services for low income renters and homeowners, education on energy issues and utility rights, and referral for other basic needs.

Looking at the long-term solutions, program personnel have been studying programs in other states in which utility companies provide guaranteed service to low income households in exchange for a monthly payment based on household income. Many energy assistance programs in Oregon work with private utility companies to solicit and disburse private donations which help supplement federal dollars and provide more flexibility in whom might be served. Oregon's State Energy Assistance office is looking into the possibility of setting up an Energy Trust Fund that would allow smaller utility companies and private donors to pool funds for assistance so that administration would be streamlined and money donated could earn interest.

These, and many other exciting possibilities, are being discussed now, and will be looked at closely throughout the summer months. Even though it will be hard to recall the chill of winter, those of use who have witnessed the struggle of families trying to keep warm know that this will be the time when what we do makes the most difference for those we will serve next winter.

Reception honors WCCAO volunteers

The Volunteer Center and the WCCAO Emergency Shelter honored their more than 500 volunteers by holding a reception on May 22, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Hillsboro. The reception was sponsored by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Tualatin Valley Food Center, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), and the Wood Co-Op (all programs of the Volunteer Center), as well as the WCCAO Emergency Shelter Home.

The reception was given to say "thank you" to all individuals who, collectively, contributed more than 88,000 hours of service to these programs, which serve the needs of the low income population in Washington County.

WCCAO was extremely fortunate to receive numerous donations for the reception from local businesses, including invitations, flowers, decorations, and food items. These donations were an acknowledgement of the need for and support of volunteerism in our community, and WCCAO gratefully extends its thanks to the businesses that made these contributions:

Canned Food Warehouse
Reser Fine Foods, Inc.,
Safeway, Cedar Mill
Good Samaritan Hospital
Fred Meyer
Impressions
Howard's on Scholls
Albertson's, Hillsboro
Safeway, Aloha
Food Warehouse
Albertson's, Aloha
Safeway, Tanasborne Mall
Hill Florist and Gifts
Mi-Ru Flowers and Bridal
Briar Rose Cinnamon Rolls
"Party Time" Rentals
The Party Place
Frito Lay
Parties Galore
Westside Rentals and Gifts
Steinfeld's



Executive Director's Message

Jerralynn Ness

It is hard to believe that WCCAO is nearing the completion of its 20th year of service to our community. Over the years, as our community needs have changed, so has our organization and the services we provide. As we celebrated our 20th Birthday this past year, we reflected with pride on our past accomplishments and contributions to our community. WCCAO has been instrumental in establishing or helping to establish numerous programs that serve the needs of our low income residents.

We realize that our future presents us with great challenges and numerous opportunities as we continue our endeavors to help low income residents of Washington County become self-sufficient, while preventing their destitution.

One of our challenges this past year has been to communicate to you, in the larger community, about who we are, what we do, and why we do it . . . for broad community support and involvement is essential to our work. And your response has been tremendous.

Our ideal goal would be to go out of business because poverty has been eradicated along with society's social problems. Realistically, we know that won't happen. As long as there are Washington County residents facing economic hardships and social problems we intend to be ready to respond.



Head Start

Looking at '85 - '86

The 1985-86 Head Start year proved to be a very successful year. Nearly 170 children received Head Start services, while funded enrollment remained at 144.

In the areas of parent involvement and parent activities offered by the program, Head Start exceeded all established goals. This is significant, since parent participation is one aspect that makes Head Start different from other preschool programs.

This was the first year Head Start provided a Speech and Language Specialist on staff rather than on contract. This change contributed to a number of improvements in this service. The program will be broadening its special services next year by hiring a Handicap Specialist.

The experience, commitment, and competence of the almost 40 staff members in the Head Start staff contribute to the program's ability to provide quality services to children and families in Washington County.

The Head Start staff wants to thank the many members of the community who gave time and money to the program. Without such support, Head Start would not be able to meet the various needs of those served.



The Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO) is a private, non-profit corporation, providing a wide variety of services to the needy in Washington County, Oregon. Information on WCCAO programs is available from the following individuals:

- WCCAO Administration (Jerralynn Ness, Exec. Director) 648-6646
- Energy Program (Pam Banks, Director) 640-8811
- Heating Assistance (December through March) 640-8951
- Youth Employment Program (Betty Abela, Director) . . .648-6646
- Head Start Program (Cathy Wise, Director) 648-6646
- Volunteer Center (Linda Davis, Director) 642-3236
- Shelter & Housing Services (Cheryl Hilbert, Director) 648-0820
- Paralegal Assistance 648-0513

Youth employment cont'd

(Continued from Page 1)

Hillsboro Union High School District, which will serve 12 handicapped youth from Hillsboro and Forest Grove in a co-worker project;

Banks High School Career Exploration Project, which will serve 60 special-needs youth, between 14 and 16 years old, from Banks, Gaston, Forest Grove, and Tigard/Sherwood.

Each participating organization will be providing youth with Pre-Employment Training, a short class in how to look for and keep a job. Youth may be placed in summer or permanent jobs, and some youth will have a chance to take part in vocational classroom training being offered through Hillsboro Union High School District, St. Vincent's Hospital, and Beaverton School District.

For further information about the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program, call Diana Stotz (Summer Program Coordinator), or Betty Abela (Youth Employment Director), at the WCCAO office. All involved in the program are looking forward to an exciting and successful summer.

Wood CoOp gains independent status

As of July 1, 1986, the Washington County Wood CoOp, a program of WCCAO, will become an independent non-profit organization. They will operate under the name of Washington County Wood Cutters, Inc., with Carl Crain as their chairman.

WCCAO and the Volunteer Center wishes to thank each and every Wood CoOp member for their past dedication and commitment to the running of this program, and we wish you much success in the future.

For further information on the Wood Cutters, please call Carl Crain at 649-9814, or Frank Kneeland at 649-6606.

Hosts sought for Asian Students



Hosting a foreign student is a unique opportunity to broaden the world view of your family and community members. It is also a link that enables you to always have a home and family in another part of the world. It helps bridge the gap between East and West by creating human stepping stones that unify mankind.

Foster Scholar Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering international understanding. Programs are conducted to and from seven Asian countries (Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, and Thailand) for students in high school and college.

The main emphasis of Foster Scholar Foundation is the college/university 10-month stay, for Asian students 18 to 24 years old. Students participating in this program will live with carefully selected volunteer American host families who will accept the students into their homes as members of their families for one academic school year. At this time, host families are being sought in the greater Portland area.

By opening your home, you enable high-caliber foreign students to study and exchange ideas campus and home environments. Should you or someone you know be interested in hosting an Asian exchange student, please call John Emerling, 245-2410, or write John at 8570 SW Birch Street, Portland, OR, 97223 (John is a member of the WCCAO Board of Directors).



Seniors sponsor Resource Fair

Coinciding with Older American Month, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and the Beaverton Mall sponsored an Senior Resource Fair in the mall on Tuesday, May 13.

Information about programs and services available in the Metro area was provided. Fourteen organizations, including Oregon Legal Services, Visiting Nurses Association, Washington County Sheriff's Department of Oregon Volunteer Services, and Beaverton School District's

Teach to Each program were represented. The participating programs were a blend of organizations that offer volunteer



opportunities to seniors and organizations that provide needed services to seniors.

To the enjoyment of shoppers and Fair participants, the Hillsboro Senior Center Band entertained during the lunch hour.

It is hoped that the Senior Resource Fair will become an annual event for the senior community.

**Washington County
Community Action Organization**
245 S.E. Second
Hillsboro, OR 97123
(503) 648-6646

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