

# Community



Fall 1997

# CONNECTIONS

*A Quarterly Publication of Community Action Organization*

## Community Volunteer Groups – ... they do the work that we can't do.

Dozens of volunteers cleaned, raked, hauled, fenced, tilled, mowed, painted, remodeled, pruned and planted at several CAO sites in September. Intel employees and other volunteers did a variety of jobs at CAO's Shelter Home as well as our Cornelius and Aloha Head Start centers for the Intel-SOLV (Stop Oregon Litter and Vandalism) Washington County clean-up day and the United Way Day of Caring. In addition, students from Multnomah School of the Bible spruced up the play yard at the Hillsboro Head Start center and a group from the First Congregational Church in Hillsboro began construction of a donated tool shed at the shelter home.

"They do the work we can't do," says Carol Bump, teacher at the Aloha Head Start center. Volunteers helped get the center ready for the new school year by washing windows, setting up the classrooms, repairing the playground, and tilling space for the children to plant gardens. "They were so wonderful...they took it on as a mission." One day's work by the volunteers saved the staff several days of work, says Carol. "They were absolutely so well organized," says Judy Nagy, Center Coordinator of the Hillsboro Head Start center. Within two hours, the group of students had cleaned out the whole yard and shed, while still taking time out to talk to and sing songs with the children who were playing in the yard.

"We really depend upon volunteer groups to maintain the shelter," says Carol Surrency, Shelter Coordinator. Budgets are tight, so volunteer efforts count. "It amounts to a huge amount of money. It's as good as a big financial contribution." Volunteers not only cleaned up the landscaping and began building a new shed, they also acquired donations of new plants. At Aloha Head Start, the lumber to build a new and improved sand box was entirely donated.

Having volunteers visit and help out at our sites also helps CAO to educate the public about our organization. Carol Bump sees it as public relations work. "These children are this community." Volunteers finished the day understanding more about poverty in Washington County, and committed to helping Head Start and Community Action. How could she tell? After a hard day of physical labor, they left talking about getting a fence donated and volunteering to install it.



*Intel employees volunteer at Community Action's shelter for homeless families.*



Margaret Eickmann  
Board Chair

## Introducing our new Board Chair....

Welcome to Margaret Eickmann, our 1997-98 Board Chair. Margaret has been on the Board since 1994, when she joined as an alternate for former Senator Bob Shoemaker. An Oak Hills resident, she works for the Regional Arts and Culture Council in Portland, and recently completed her Master's degree in Public Administration. Her volunteer activities over the past twenty years attest to her commitment to building strong communities. "I lived in Washington County for five years without knowing about its best kept secret—Community Action," says Margaret. "I'm delighted to now be in a position as Board Chair to tell people about the mission of the agency, its highly dedicated staff, and the life-changing impact it has on the people in our community."

A very special and heartfelt thanks to our outgoing Board Chair, Cindy Hirst, who

will continue as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. The other 1997-98 Executive Committee members are: Jeff Fish, Vice Chair; Maria Loreda, Secretary; Russ Wilkinson, Treasurer; and Craig Kinnie, at-large.

In addition, 1997-98 Board members include: Dan Aberg, Deena Barrett, Mayor Ralph Brown, Councilwoman Evelyn Brzezinski, Representative Chuck Carpenter, Commissioner Kathy Christy, Mayor Rob Drake, Mayor Gordon Faber, Councilwoman Darlene Greene, Charlotte Karvia, Jutta Kress, Mayor Lou Ogden, Rick Patrick, Katrina Pirkle, Dick Stenson and Jesús Plasencia.

Many thanks to our outgoing members who have contributed so effectively to our work: Priscilla Orozco, Holly Grant, Shirley Huffman, and Sandra Miller.

### GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES ARE NEEDED!

The CAO homeless family shelter needs gardening tools to put in our newly donated shed. If you can contribute tools, materials, labor or cash to support the shelter's landscape maintenance work, all donations will be gladly accepted. To donate, call Carren Woods at 693-3255.



Intel employees come through for CAO: a raffle to benefit CAO brought in over \$13,000, thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of Intel employees. Prizes included a computer system and dozens of items and gift certificates donated by local businesses. This was the second year for the event which raised more than last year.

### You May Designate Your United Way Donation To Help CAO!

It's almost time for the annual United Way campaign to begin. If you haven't given before, consider giving this year. If you have given in the past, please remember that you may designate your donation to Community Action Organization.

Thank you for thinking of us  
when completing your form  
this year!

# A Letter to Our Friends from Jerralynn Ness...



Jerralynn Ness  
*Executive Director*

Corporate mergers seem to be a regular part of the news these days, but seldom do we hear about mergers in the non-profit world. Several months ago, however, Community Action was approached by Family Care of West Tuality, a provider of child care related services, to discuss the possibility of a merger. Family Care was in a strong but pivotal place in their development, and realized the potential benefits to their organization if they were able to join a larger agency that shared similar values, mission and goals.

While CAO has never experienced a merger, the merits of joining Family Care were readily apparent. Our family-focused missions are very compatible and the ability to preserve and strengthen needed services for the community was compelling.

CAO provides a range of services to help families achieve self-determination and move out of poverty, but up until now has not played a large role in child care services. Affordable, quality child care is an essential ingredient for many families to achieve their goals. Family Care fills a unique niche by focusing their efforts upon improving the quality of home-based child care by helping providers to strengthen their skills and services. In addition, they connect families who need child care with providers and operate before- and after-school child care programs.

For several months, both Boards examined the pros and cons of a merger. Finally, with great enthusiasm, we decided to take the plunge. On July 1st, Family Care staff became employees of CAO and

have since relocated into our multi-service center. On October 1st, the merger should be final. We are thrilled to add their critically needed services and their dedicated staff.

Family Care has set aside their separate identity. In so doing, they ensure that important services to families and children are preserved and continue to grow. We appreciate and are inspired by this selfless act.

We look forward to our future together. Washington County is better off when families have access to services that enhance their well-being and ability to achieve economic stability. Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our Community Action family!

Community Connections is the quarterly newsletter of Community Action Organization, 1001 SW Baseline St., Hillsboro, OR 97123, and is published by the Development Office.

Community Action Organization is a private, non-profit corporation. In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low income people to achieve self-determination.

For further information:  
Administration: 648-6646  
Client Services Department:  
Hillsboro 648-0829  
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(Neighborshare)

## Focus on Family Care

Family Care of West Tuality was established in 1967 and has been providing child care services in Western Washington County ever since. The programs they bring to CAO include:

- **ABC Soup** is a nutrition reimbursement program for family child care providers. Specialists visit the homes and provide training and technical assistance on providing nutritious meals and snacks.
- **A Kid's Domain** provides before-and after-school age child care for pupils in the Forest Grove and Banks school

districts. During the summer, "Camp Eco" provides school age child care in a day-camp setting.

- **Metro Child Care Resource and Referral** links parents looking for child care with center and home child care options. In addition, parents, providers and businesses can acquire information on a range of topics including choosing or providing quality care, child development, and promoting literacy. Training and technical assistance is also available to child care providers.

# Community Action Organization Donors / March 14, 1997 - June 30, 1997

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 Lucille Woods  
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## HOLIDAY CRAFT BAZAAR & CAFE

to benefit the programs of Community Action Organization



Sunday, December 7, at CAO, 10 am to 6 pm

Holiday crafts, gifts and scrumptious snacks by employees, friends of Community Action Organization. Child care available for shoppers (\$3.00 donation requested).



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