

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION NEWS

Summer, 1989

25th Anniversary of Economic Opportunity Act: A Pause for Reflection and Recommitment

The year 1989 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act. The Act, signed into law on August 20, 1964, eliminating "the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty," gave rise to well-known and well-established programs, such as Head Start, Legal Aid, Job Corps, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) and Community Action.

A number of events are being planned both in Oregon and throughout the nation to celebrate the anniversary - reunions of people involved in the early days of the poverty programs, conferences, fundraising banquets, picnics and rallies. The major purpose of the celebrations is to examine what has been accomplished in the past 25 years, look at the challenge for the future and generate a recommitment to meet that challenge.

Community Action Agencies were the centerpiece of President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty." CAA's were designed to provide the means for all Americans to join the nation's "Great Society." During the last 25 years, these agencies have continued to battle hunger, inadequate housing and other problems facing the poor. The CAA's have survived, and even flourished, in some cases, despite numerous cuts in federal funding and attempts to weaken essential programs.

Through the years, Community Action Agencies have advocated for and supported changes in the current welfare system, seeking innovative solutions to the problems confronting low income people. They have initiated many outstanding self-sufficiency programs and have actively promoted changes in the policies of governing bodies. Programs in CAA's vary from agency to agency, since each is governed by a local Board of Directors that plans in response to specific conditions and needs in each community. Many agencies currently are focusing on housing and emergency shelter as the problem of homelessness increases alarmingly.

WCCAO has participated with a coali-

tion of agencies that is planning the statewide celebration of the Anniversary. During the week of September 25-30th, several events have been planned:

• Speaking engagements by Michael Harrington, author of The Other America, and Frances Fox Piven, author of Regulating the Poor and Why Americans Don't Vote.



... the War on Poverty
25th Anniversary
Economic Opportunity Act
1964 - 1989

- A banquet benefitting the fund for the Homeless and Hungry.
- An afternoon picnic for anti-poverty activists of 25 years ago and today.
- A series of media stories throughout the week.

A Washington County celebration is also being planned that will focus on local issues and successes, highlighting our own Veteran Poverty Warriors. Watch for upcoming media stories, a calendar of events and invitations to join in.

More on the War on Poverty - Page 4

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 1

Whereas the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-452), as amended, declared a war on poverty; and

Whereas the Economic Opportunity Act was designed to provide every person with the opportunity to achieve the full extent of the person's capabilities and the opportunity to participate in the workings of our society; and

Whereas the purpose of the Economic Opportunity Act was to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty by opening to every person the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity; and

Whereas the Economic Opportunity Act created such well-known programs as Head Start, Follow Through, VISTA, Community Action Programs, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Job Corps, Legal Services, Foster Grandparents and Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Programs; and

Whereas the Economic Opportunity Act established the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) which served as an advocate of the poor by facing up to unmet needs and seeking answers to the riddle of poverty; and

Whereas the OEO's achievements include the enlistment of the largest peacetime army of volunteers in history, the mobilization of community resources and the pioneering of the first rural health clinics, day care centers, family planning programs, senior programs and alcohol and drug rehabilitation efforts; and

Whereas even though the Economic Opportunity Act was repealed in 1981 (P.L. 97-35, Title VI), its cause for being and legacy continues on; and

Whereas the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act will be on August 20, 1989; now, therefore, Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the sixty-fifth Legislative Assembly, commemorate the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964.

It's Happening!

WCCAO CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 20, 1989, marks the 25th Anniversary of the signing into law of the Economic Opportunity Act. Watch the papers for local events and news to commemorate this important event.

WCCAO Board meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 5:30. Please call 648-6646 for meeting location.

Brown Bag Distributions:

Beaverton: St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 11265 S. W. Cabot, 1:00-6:00 p.m. on August 11 & September 8.

Tigard: Christ the King Lutheran Church, 11305 Bull Mountain Rd and Hwy 99; 2:00-5:00 p.m.; July 14, August 11, & September 8.

Hillsboro: American Legion Hall, 285 W. Main, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., August 18 & September 15.

Cornelius: Cornelius Baptist Church, 198 S. 16th Street, 3:00-6:00 p.m.; August 25, & September 29.

Forest Grove: United Methodist Church of Christ, 2032 College Way, noon-6:00 p.m.; July 28, August 25, & September 29.

Tualatin: The Tualatin Brown Bag site has closed. Members please use the Tigard site for distribution.

Beaverton Good Neighbor Days: September 8, 9, & 10. A donation of 2 cans of food will entitle you to a raffle ticket to win a cord of wood at TVFC's booth.



Board Chair's Message

Jim Sehon

Board continues war on poverty

Dear Friends,

This year, the WCCAO Board of Directors moved it's annual election of Board members and officers from October to June to coincide with our fiscal year. I would like to introduce you to our 1989-90 members and their alternates.

Executive Committee

Board Chair, Jim Sehon

Vice Chair, Mayor Cliff Clark

(Theresa Clark)

Treasurer, Jose Jaime

(Ramon Olivas)

Secretary, Mayor Shirley Huffman

At Large, Sherry Robinson

(James Van Dyke)

At Large, Shirley Harper

(Lynda Tatum)

Private Sector

Bob Casey

Shirley Harper (Lynda Tatum)

Sherry Robinson (James Van Dyke)

Maria Loreda

Mary Tobias

Public Sector

Mayor Clifford Clark,

(Theresa Clark), Forest Grove

Mayor Shirley Huffman, Hillsboro

Mayor Larry Cole

(Nancy Wilcox), Beaverton

Representative Al Young (Jan Young)

Representative Tom Brian

Commissioner John Meek

(Mary Sorenson), Washington County

Low Income Sector

Jim Sehon

Mike Kelly (Marco Hernandez)

Elaine Meyers (Sister Ina Marie Nosack)

Jose Jaime (Ramon Olivas)

John Vazquez (Tambra Stocker)

Juan Urrutia (Carole Moore)

I am looking forward to this upcoming year as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act. In October, we will continue our tradition of an annual banquet but will celebrate our successes and give thanks to our supporters. For WCCAO our 1989-90 fiscal year will be a time when we rededicate ourselves to the principals of the Economic Opportunity Act and reestablish that it is "The policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation, by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity." We hope that you will join us.



ACTION NEWS is the quarterly newsletter of the Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO), published by the WCCAO Administration, 451 S. First, Hillsboro, OR 97123. ACTION NEWS is coordinated by WCCAO staff member Pam Brousseau and is edited and designed by volunteer Stephen W. Smith. (Please inform WCCAO of any address corrections.)

... People Helping People

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, Executive Director)	648-6646
Client Services Dept. - Intake, Information & Referral	648-0829
Cheryl Hilbert, Director	648-6646
Heating Assistance (December - March)	640-8951
Neighborshare (Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood)	639-0495
Children and Youth Department (Cathy Wise, Director)	648-6646
Housing & Energy Conservation Dept. (Leon Laptook, Director)	642-3236
Hunger & Nutrition Dept. (Val Donley, Director)	642-3236
Resource Development Dept. (Pam Brousseau, Director)	648-6646
"Play It Again" Thrift Store	644-8956



Executive Director's Message

Jerralynn Ness

WCCAO moves to new home -- formulates 1989-90 Annual Plan

WCCAO has a new home! Unexpectedly we received an offer (we could not refuse) to sell our office building on 2nd Street in Hillsboro. We will be leasing, for the next two to three years, an office at 451 S. First Street, Suite 600 and 700, about five blocks away. During that period of time we will be developing and implementing a capital campaign to raise funds for a permanent home. We hope to consolidate more of our programs and staff under the same roof. By owning our own building outright, we can preserve more of our resources for direct services.

WCCAO is just putting the finishing touches on our 1989-90 Annual Plan. Our budget will be about 15% less, so we have tightened up all of our operations to accommodate these cuts without shutting down services. We are putting into place a strong development effort to raise more revenue through fundraising, private contributions and income ventures, such as our Thrift Store in Beaverton ("Play It Again"). We are extremely heartened by the return of local government as a supportive partner.

Highlights of our 1989-90 Annual Plan include:

- More emphasis on promoting self-sufficiency and case management.
- Continued provision of a wider range of basic need services, such as shelter, fuel assistance, rent assistance, information and referral, transportation, weatherization, food, etc.
- Support and advocacy to increase the availability of affordable child care and

housing for low income families.

- Operation of four Head Start Centers (Tigard, Beaverton, Hillsboro and Cornelius) with a centralized kitchen for food service provision.

- Strategies to increase the quality and quantity of food donated to Tualatin Valley Food Center. We have noted that donations of food to our food bank are down and wonder if it's a result of the extra giving that occurred during the migrant crisis. We hope this is not a downward trend and that a rebound will occur this year.

- Technical Assistance and Case Management support from our Neighborshare (Tigard) office to the new family shelter to be operated by Tigard Christian Ministries.

- Increased sub-contracting of Weatherization measures to the private sector.

- Further development of our Parenting Center, Homeless Children's Program, Migrant support initiatives and Thrift Store project.

- Continuation of Fair Housing activities, energy conservation and education, Brown Bag Project, Christmas Clearing Bureau and Thanksgiving baskets.

- Operation of a summer youth employment and training project in weatherization, emphasizing team building and community services.

- Increasing our efforts in fundraising, volunteer recruitment and resource mobilizing.

- Increasing efficiency and effectiveness of management and management information systems.

In addition, 1989 is the 25th Anniversary of the signing into law of the Economic Opportunity Act. This Act has had a tremendous impact on America's poor and WCCAO will be involved in many activities to commemorate this important event. 1989-90 will once again prove to be a very busy and important year for WCCAO. As always, we welcome your participation!

We've Moved!

WCCAO's New Address:
451 S. First Street
Suite 600 and 700
Hillsboro, OR 97123
(503) 648-6646

You Can Help!

WCCAO needs the items or services listed below. Can you help?

Tool donations needed for Self-Help Weatherization Tool Lending Library:
Contact Rosa, 642-3236.

- screwdrivers (Phillips)
- small hammers
- putty knives

Furniture donations; contact Pilar, 648-6646

- waiting room chairs, small tables
- room dividers for offices
- meeting room table and chairs to accommodate 25 people.
- typist chairs (2)
- file cabinets (good condition) legal and letter size (3)
- chairs
- small office table
- folding tables

Office equipment donations; contact Pilar, 648-6646

- letter quality printer
- desktop publishing software
- laser printer

Volunteer clerical help needed at Aloha and Hillsboro offices; contact Pilar 648-6646 and Nancy 642-3236.

- Receptionist (Hillsboro); 1:00-5:00 P.M., Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Receptionist (Aloha); anytime during 8:30-5:00 P.M., Monday-Friday.
- Data entry and word processing.

Volunteers Needed For:

"Play It Again" New and Quality Resale Shop; call Virginia, 644-8956.

- head clerks
- clerks
- clothiers (menders, launderers)
- sorters and taggers

Capital Campaign to generate funds for purchase of a central office for WCCAO, contact Pam, 648-6646.

Mardi Gras 1990 Committees; contact Pam 648-6646.

- Decorations
- Auctions
- Sponsorships
- Promotions

Volunteer Drivers needed for Tualatin Valley Food Center (TVFC) to pick up donated food; Monday-Friday, morning or afternoon shifts; contact Bev, 642-3236.

Rededication to the War on Poverty a Must

On November 23, 1963, a new president used his first day in office to dedicate his Administration to making the American Dream a reality for all Americans. In one of his first acts following President John F. Kennedy's tragic assassination, Lyndon Baines Johnson committed himself to waging a "War on Poverty" to reverse what he was afterward to call "the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in the nation". During the next several months, Johnson employed every strategy at his disposal to winning passage of the historic Economic Opportunity Act through Congress. And in the years since the Act became law, community action agencies have worked just as diligently to fulfill their mission to improve the lives of the nation's poor.

Today, 955 nonprofit CAA's operate in 96 percent of all cities and counties in the United States combining public and private support to provide food, housing, education, job training, health and other services to the nation's 32 million poor people. As a testimony to their effectiveness, these agencies and other programs created by the Economic Opportunity Act helped reduce the poverty level in this country from 22.4% to 11% over a nine year period.

Many things have changed since President Johnson threw all of his authority behind the fight against poverty. More recently, President Ronald Reagan advocated for drastic reductions in federal funding for the programs that form the core of the community action agencies' budgets. While these budget cuts have hurt, community action agencies have survived, even flourished, and continued battle hunger,

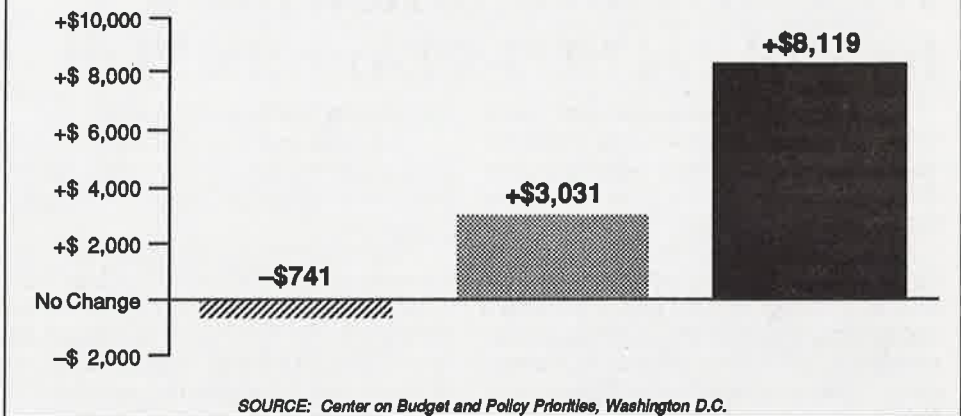
inadequate housing, illiteracy and other problems facing the poor.

These agencies are needed today as much as they were 25 years ago. Because, while the War on Poverty has helped, it has not eliminated poverty. Today the face of

1970's, higher even than during the major recession of 1974 and 1975.

CAA's continue in their commitment, but they can't do it alone. They need the commitment of government and individuals to "invest in people".

Change In Median Income, 1978 - 1987 For Lower and Upper Income Families



poverty is likely to be that of an elderly woman, a child or a minimum-wage family. Consider these statistics:

- One in every five children in America is poor.
- Nearly three quarters of all the poor over age 65 are women.
- Two out of five poor people (41.5%) over the age of 14 work, representing the highest percentage of working poor since 1968.
- Although 1987 represented the fifth year of economic recovery, the poverty rate last year was higher than in any year in the

This session, the Oregon Legislature passed a resolution commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the enactment of the Economic Opportunity Act, and on Wednesday, June 14, Governor Goldschmidt signed HB2475, declaring a state anti-poverty goal. Twenty-five years after the original Economic Opportunity Act is signed, Oregon takes a stand and makes a commitment to see that the poorest among us are a priority. Should enough other states take that same stand, perhaps President Bush could be urged to follow in the footsteps of another president twenty-five years ago to once again wage a "War on Poverty."

The war at home

Washington County, with its healthy economy, might seem immune to the rise in poverty in the nation as a whole. During 1980-89, per capita income in the county rose by more than 40%.

However, during the same period, the number of Washington County citizens living at or below the poverty line grew by a staggering 135.7% while the population as a whole grew by only 16.7%.

Though the poverty population of Washington County is still below the national average, the rapid growth of this population segment (5.7% in 1980 to 11.5% in 1989) is especially troubling in light of the general prosperity of the county. For county residents, the war must begin at home.



Washington County Commissioner Bonnie Hays and Forest Grove Mayor Clifford Clark cut ribbon to open twelve new units of the Elm Park Apartments in Forest Grove. WCCAO assisted the Housing Development Corporation in construction of the new farmworker housing units

The role of Action Agencies in the War on Poverty

On August 20, 1964, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Economic Opportunity Act passed by the Congress of the United States. The preamble to that Act states:

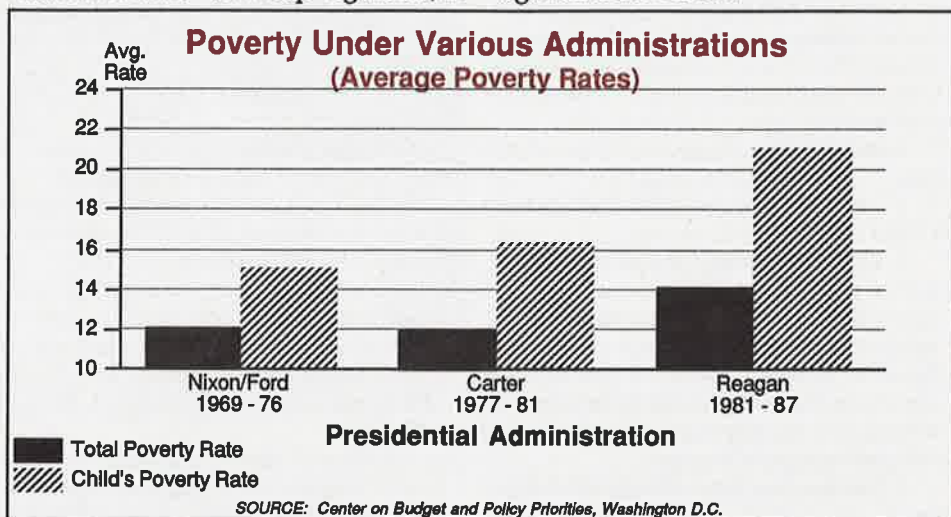
"Although the economic wellbeing and prosperity of the United States have progressed to a level surpassing any achieved in work history, and although these benefits are widely shared throughout the nation, poverty continues to be the lot of a substantial number of our people. The United States can achieve its full economic and social potential as a nation only if every individual has the opportunity to contribute to the full extent of the capabilities of each individual and to participate in the workings of our society. It is, therefore, the policy of the United States to eliminate the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty in this nation, by opening to everyone the opportunity for education and training, the opportunity to work, and the opportunity to live in decency and dignity."

The result of this legislation, implemented by the Office of Economic Opportunity, was to reduce the level of poverty in this country from 22.4% to 11% over a nine year period. The War on Poverty has been credited with bringing over 20 million Americans out of the shadow of poverty to take their place in mainstream America. Millions were educated, received health care, found jobs, obtained decent housing, and participated fully in the society. The elderly, who had constituted the largest group in poverty, made significant progress. Minorities gained access to education in unprecedented numbers and found new private, public and political roles. Had it not been for this initiative, some estimate that the number of people in America today would number seventy million, roughly twice its current total.

At the heart of this movement were the 1,000 newly formed Community Action Agencies, created to serve as the local outposts against poverty. It was community action agencies around the country who pioneered such programs as Head Start, the Job Corps, Meals on Wheels, the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and community day care centers. According to University of Connecticut Professor Marcia Bok, there are three distinct goals which characterized the community action agencies at the time of their formation: (1) their goal was to eliminate poverty at its roots; (2) they were established as non-profit agencies that would be independent from state

or local government; and (3) they were meant to empower citizens through their participation in the planning, decision-making, and operation of these agencies. Essentially, the community action agencies were viewed as "self-help" agencies, fi-

nanced by federal monies, but designed to mobilize resources and deliver services to poor people who, armed with information and backing from the community action agencies, were now able to fight for their rights and their needs.



Current facts on poverty in America

- The number of poor people in the United States is higher now than in 1970s. In 1986, 32.4 million people lived below the poverty line, compared to 24.7 million people in 1977. The poverty rate for all Americans is 13.6%

- The "poorest of the poor" group is growing. In 1986, those who fell into the "poorest of the poor" category (incomes below half the poverty line) reached its highest level, 39.2%, in over a decade.

- The fastest growing group among the poor is the working poor. In 1986, two out of five poor people (41.5%) over the age of 14 worked. This is the highest percentage of poor working since 1968. From 1979 to 1983, the number of working people who fell below the poverty line rose from 6.5 million to 9.4 million (44.6%). Even after four consecutive years of economic recovery, the number of working poor had fallen only slightly in 1986, to 8.9 million.

- Children constitute the poorest age group. In 1986, one out of every five children (20.5%) lived below the poverty line. Among Black children, more than two in five (43.1%) are poor. Among Hispanic children, more than one in three (37.7%) is poor.

- Most of the poor in the United States are white. In 1986, whites constitute more than two-thirds (69%) of the poor; Blacks represent 28%; other races represented 3%.

- Women are more than twice as likely to be poor than men, and the older they get, the poorer they are likely to be. Nearly three quarters of all the poor over age 65 are women. Older women have 20% less Social Security income than men and are more likely to rely on it as their sole source of support.

- Most poor people in America do not receive welfare payments. Only one third of the poor people in this country receive Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the principal public assistance program for poor families with children that is commonly known as "welfare".

- Those who do receive public assistance continue to struggle to make ends meet. In 1986, a family of three receiving both the maximum AFDC grant and food stamps was still left below the poverty line in every state. And, in 29 of those states, that assistance left the family below 75% of the poverty line.

- Many poor families do not have health care coverage. In 1986, nearly one-third of all poor families did not receive any medical benefits from the U.S. government. Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor, covers only 45% of all poor families. One child in five has no health insurance, public or private. Over half of these children live in homes where at least one parent works full time.

Food shortage at crisis proportions

Tualatin Valley Food Center (TVFC) is experiencing a drastic food shortage that is severely impacting weekly distribution to food banks around the county. According to Val Donley, Director of WCCAO's Hunger and Nutrition Department, the shortage is not an isolated condition in Washington County but is found throughout the State of Oregon and, to some degree, the entire nation.

Several factors have caused the shortage:

1. Oregon received a 50% reduction in USDA food.
2. Donations from Oregon Food Bank, part of the Second Harvest national food network, have been significantly reduced. Mergers and buy-outs in the food industry (brokers, retailers and wholesalers) have resulted in fewer donations to the network; what used to be donated is going to salvage companies to sell cheaply.
3. New tax laws have discouraged donations.
4. TVFC lost 18,000 pounds of food

when a trailer storing the food burned down.

Oregon Food Bank has been working with the Legislature to make them aware of the problem and encourage their action to alleviate it. They are also creatively using donations that normally would have been turned down because of handling problems.

TVFC is dealing with the crisis locally by trying to get the word out that the public must respond to this "red alert" in whatever way they can. Possible options are:

1. Individuals bring donations to the TVFC warehouse, 20515 SW Blanton in Aloha, Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

2. Food Drives (civic groups, places of employment, neighborhoods); we can provide barrels to collect the food and are able to deliver and pick them up. We are also able to help organize the drives. Call Val at 642-3236.

TVFC will have a booth at Beaverton Good Neighbor Days on September 8, 9, & 10 to collect food in exchange for raffle tickets. The winning ticket will receive a



The empty space in the TVFC warehouse reflects the current food shortage crisis

cord of wood. Please participate in this effort and encourage others you know to do so also.

Jesuit volunteers say good-bye after year of service

Each year, for the last several years, the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) has sent four young people to WCCAO. They pledge a year to work with the disadvantaged, living in circumstances similar to those of the people they serve in order to better understand their plight.

This year four young women have become an integral part of our team and will be sorely missed. These women are Kristen Swartwout, Meghan Hughes, Martha Droge, and Renee Roemer.

Kristen Swartwout worked this year in the Client Services Department, providing screening, information, referral, intake, needs assessment and direct assistance to families in crisis. "I met a lot of nice people, learned about poverty and the welfare system. I believe the biggest problem is lack of affordable housing." Kristen is from Philadelphia and will return there to live at home and work until she goes to Vermont Law School to specialize in environmental law.

Meghan Hughes worked part of this year

in the Transportation Program, finding and coordinating volunteer drivers to help the elderly and disabled get to medical appointments and other destinations. In February she switched to the Client Services Program to have more direct contact with the clients. Meghan says that she "greatly enjoyed working with seniors" and found it "eye opening to work with low income and homeless people." She is from Beloit, Wisconsin, but has decided to stay in Oregon, find a job and eventually go to graduate school in occupational or physical therapy.

Martha Droge worked in the Emergency Family Shelter. During night shifts she provided screening, information, referral, intake, needs assessment and direct assistance to homeless families. When she worked day shifts, she participated in the case management of Shelter families and promoted the program in the community, giving presentations to civic groups, corporations and churches. She was responsible for the programs for children in the Shelter, as well as parenting classes and setting up a day care program. Martha is from the Washington D.C. area and, after a month of travelling, she will return there, hopefully to a position with the State Department in diplomatic security. She says that she "wouldn't exchange the experience this

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WCCAO was served for the past year by these four Jesuit volunteers: (l-r) Kristen Swartwout, Meghan Hughes, Renee Roemer and Marth Droge.

Over 400 volunteers honored at May 25th reception

Awards awaited over 400 volunteers on May 25, 1989, as WCCAO held its Annual Volunteer Recognition Reception at Bethel Congregational Church in Beaverton. Volunteers, staff and community members joined together to enjoy a delicious smorgasbord of food and music by Jo Anna Burns-Miller. A cake was cut and served, commemorating over 16,000 hours of service donated by WCCAO volunteers.

The reception was spiced up by the energy and wit of Washington County Commissioner Bonnie Hays, who was the featured speaker. Commissioner Hays spoke about the value of volunteerism in Washington County, and, while her speech eloquently described the "big picture," two veteran volunteers for WCCAO, Dorothy Eby and Jim Callendar elaborated on the nitty gritty of volunteerism, moving the audience to laughter and tears as they described their experiences and motivations for volunteering.

The presentation of awards was made by WCCAO's Executive Director, Jerralynn Ness and Board Chair, Jim Sehon. Time considerations limited individual recognition to only those volunteers receiving plaques, while many others received pins and certificates. Those honored with plaques each contributed over 150 hours of volunteer service to WCCAO during a nine month period of time. Wilma Klein contributed



Volunteer of the Year Wilma Klein with RSVP Director Elaine Wells. Wilma contributed more than 700 hours of her time to WCCAO.

over 700 hours and earned special recognition as Volunteer of the Year.

The ceremony and reception was closed by Elaine Wells, Director of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, who thanked the RSVP Volunteers for their many hours of service during the 13 years that WCCAO has sponsored RSVP. She stated that, although sponsorship for the program is changing with the new fiscal year (July 1989), WCCAO will remain an avid supporter of volunteerism and RSVP in the community and will make sure that the ties that bind us

are preserved.

Many businesses in the community made the Volunteer Recognition Reception possible through their generous contributions. We would like to recognize them and thank them for their continued support of WCCAO and volunteerism:

Major Sponsor

Standard Insurance Company

Sponsors

General Telephone

Rainbow Printery

Reser's Fine Foods

Paula Karrick

Bales Thriftway

Award Specialties

Hills Florist & Gifts

Fred Meyer

The Party Place

Contributors

Albertsons, Aloha

Food Warehouse, Beaverton

Albertsons, Hillsboro

Frito Lay, Vancouver

Beaverton Bakery

Joanna Burns-Miller

Beaverton Foods

Party Time Rentals

Baseline Thriftway,

Safeway, Aloha

Safeway, Tanasbourne

Canned Food Warehouse

Walmart, Hillsboro

Washington County youth carry on long tradition

A half century ago, many Oregonians found relief from the Great Depression through participation in President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps. That tradition continues today in the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC), established in 1987 by the Legislature with the encouragement of Governor Goldschmidt.

This summer WCCAO's Housing and Energy Conservation Department is participating for the second time in conducting an OYCC project. Ten of Washington County's disadvantaged youths are employed to help improve our environment, learn good work habits and cooperative group participation skills.

For eight weeks, the ten youth are guided through a variety of activities. Some of the activities are aimed at learning actual job skills, such as insulating an attic, installing weatherstripping, landscaping or doing repairs. Other activities focus on helping the youth learn to cooperate with each other and improve their own self-esteem. Still



other activities are geared towards simply enjoying Oregon's beautiful environment and learning to appreciate it more.

Two weeks into the project, several youths indicated that they were having a very good experience that they found to be both educational and fun.

Funding for the project is provided by the State of Oregon Youth Conservation Corp and the Private Industry Council, through Oregon Human Development Corporation and Beaverton Community Youth Services.

WCCAO welcomes new employees

The Hunger and Nutrition Department welcomes Martin Vantuberger, Martin works part-time assisting with pickup and distribution of bread, while he also attends school under a PIC sponsored program.

The Resource Development Department welcomes Virginia Dagg and Mary Kemp. Virginia is the new Resource Development Coordinator, in charge of "Play It Again", WCCAO's new Thrift Store benefitting its programs, and volunteer coordination. Mary is a PIC placement at "Play It Again", training in retail sales and management.

The Housing & Energy Conservation Department welcomes Becky Risner, David Melan, Brennan Williams and Michael Caballero to its Summer Youth Employment Project for Weatherization. Becky is coordinator for the project, while David is field supervisor



Seed Money Challenge Proves a Point -

ShaRon Worsley, of Innerpeace Connection, hands Val Donley a \$600 check for use by TVFC for buying food.

Attendees of Innerpeace Connection workshops are offered \$10 "seed money" by ShaRon and Bruce Worsley if they will promise to double it and donate it to TVFC. Thus far, twenty people have participated, some more than tripling the original seed money.

Those interested in the Innerpeace Connection program may contact Sharon at 626-0362. To participate in TVFC fundraising, contact Val at 642-3236.

Jesuit volunteers (cont'd.)

year for anything. It was satisfying to work with families in crisis, because I was in a position to actually help them."

Renee Roemer worked most of the year with the Tualatin Valley Food center, coordinating the Brown Bag Distribution. She also worked a couple of weeks at WCCAO's thrift store, "Play It Again", and since May has been at Neighborshare, the branch office of WCCAO in Tigard. At Neighborshare, Renee has been providing intake, needs assessment, information, referral and assistance to clients and is setting up a volunteer program for the site. Renee grew up in Wisconsin and went to college in Montana, majoring in social work with a minor in human development. She enjoys working with teens and children and will seek employment in the Northwest to counsel and provide therapy for them. Despite a struggle with the rain and persistent cloudiness of the winter here, she "enjoyed the year, met a lot of great people and found a real appreciation for volunteers."

WCCAO has gained a real appreciation for Renee, Martha, Kristen and Meghan. We will miss you and wish you well!

Washington County Community Action Organization

451 S. First
Hillsboro, OR 97123
(503) 648-6646

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Shirley Harper, At Large

Inside ACTION NEWS:

25 years of War on Poverty
WCCAO has new home
Continuing the War on Poverty
Food shortage reaches crisis level
Jesuit volunteers say good-bye