



Community "IN" ACTION

Newsletter August 17th, 2009

Deadline is the second Friday of the month; Contacts for articles are: Child Dev. - Farzana Siddiqui, F&CR & Layout - Barb Dame, Development & Community Relations - Lisa Brown, HR - Nicole Cossette, All others - Nancy Peters. Editor: Renée Bruce

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

August 20th marks a very special day in the history of Community Action. This is the day, in 1964, that President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Economic Opportunity Act, thus launching a national war on poverty. A national anti-poverty plan soon followed and Community Actions were formed.

The 1960s were a time of sweeping social change and issues of poverty were at the forefront. John F. Kennedy shed light on the appalling effects of the abject poverty he observed as he traveled the country during the 1960 Presidential primaries. Issues of equality and opportunity were to play a significant role in the Kennedy administration. In fact, the concepts for Community Action were introduced by President Kennedy. Following President Kennedy's assassination, President Johnson made a commitment to carry forward this work. Johnson's domestic platform, called *The Great Society*, was a proposed set of programs focused on the elimination of poverty and racial injustice.

To give you some perspective on just how important this time was in our Country's history, these are the major pieces of legislation enacted in the 1960s:

- Civil Rights Act of 1960
- Equal Pay Act of 1963
- Civil Rights Act of 1964

Directors' Corner continued

- Economic Opportunity Act of 1964
- Voter's Rights Act of 1965
- Age Discrimination Act of 1967
- Civil Rights Act of 1968

It was during this time that race, gender, age and economic status were formally removed as barriers to education, housing, jobs, health care, and other social and economic opportunities. Of course change did not happen over night and discrimination is still something that can diminish the rights of individuals in our country, but these laws created a foundation for communities to work together to chart a future that offered every citizen the chance to succeed.

So much has happened in the 45 years since President Johnson stood before Congress and said: "...*This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America. I urge this Congress and all Americans to join with me in that effort.*" Through this call to action our own Community Action agency was formed in 1965 to address issues of poverty at the local level. Today, literally tens of thousands of lives have been changed because of our work at Community Action. Certainly it hasn't always been easy and there have been many challenges along the way, but I am proud to say that we have always remained steadfastly committed to the Community Action promise and to our mission.

At the end of this month, I will be heading to Philadelphia for the Community Action National Conference. Renée Bruce, Lisa Brown, Katherine Galian and Ron Sarazin will be joining me. The 45th Anniversary of the Economic Opportunity Act will be commemorated during the conference. There will also be many exciting sessions, including a presentation by our Board Chair, Ron Sarazin. In addition, Lisa will be serving on a panel to discuss resource development in Community Action. I

Directors' Corner continued

know that we will all come back inspired and ready to share what we learn from our Community Action colleagues.

It's hard to believe the summer is winding down. I hope you've each had an opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends, and to soak in the fabulous summer sun that comes our way this time of year. Thank you for your continued good work and all that you have contributed to Community Action's rich legacy.

NEWS OF NOTE



Lisa Brown, Director of Development and Community Relations, is now the supervisor of the front desk at Community Action's main office in Hillsboro. A new column has been added to the newsletter on page 2, called "Up Front" for sharing with Community Action staff, news and information from the front desk.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Welcome to:

Zuly Munoz-Avina, Program Assistant for Weatherization



UPCOMING EVENTS!

IS Committee Meeting	9/01
Safety Committee Meeting	9/10
Hillsboro Building Meeting	9/15
Board Meeting	9/17

September 2009

BIRTHDAYS



Joslyn Edmonson	9/2
Vicki Ware	9/2
Bill Urban	9/3
Mike Wirkkula	9/5
Jerralynn Ness	9/6
Sabrina Hernandez	9/7
Leah Brand	9/8
Rex Britton	9/10
Lisa Brown	9/15
Debra Palmer	9/15
Christina Summers	9/15
Diana Lu	9/16
Anna Laparra	9/18
Katherine Galian	9/20
Matthew Helberg	9/24
Milagros Carranza	9/26

(If you want your birthday acknowledged, be sure to complete an authorization form – contact HR)

September 2009

ANNIVERSARIES



32 years	Sharon Bolmeier
27 years	Elaine Burrell
19 years	Renée Bruce
17 years	Lori Balch
13 years	Victoria Dominguez
11 years	Joan Brown
9 years	Ruth Iliafar & Sandra Dunlap
8 years	Debra Palmer & Josefina Moran
7 years	Brenda Neri, Harry Weiers, Jr. & Chris Kuran
6 years	Maria Regino
5 years	Yangchin Topgyal & Margaret Springer
4 years	Rex Britton & Joyce Suchoski
3 years	Karen Murray, Genie Guisinger, Willy Silva & Marlene Rodriguez
2 years	Maria-Luisa Meza-Shahabi, Tina Amela, Apolonia Sebastian & Ramona Conklin
1 year	Emma Hanley, Monica Oyola, Sharmane Bearcub, Felicia Taylor, Ashley Peterson, Elizabeth Draper, Kimberly Gazaway & Kimberly George

UP FRONT!

Our Hillsboro Main Office front desk staff work hard to provide a welcoming environment and positive experience for every guest who enters our building or calls for assistance. They are an integral part of our day-to-day operations, providing support in many ways. As space is available, we will use the Community "IN" Action newsletter to share with you important information to ensure that we can offer the best customer service possible. We consider all of you to be customers too, so let us know if you have any question or concerns. A number of improvements and updated processes are in the works and your suggestions have been a big help.



More to come next month! – Lisa Brown
(lbrown@caowash.org or 503-693-3230)

Green Tip of the Month

Contributed by Kimberly Gazaway, A Community Action Green Team Member



Some people take fresh running water for granted, especially here in the rain capital of the United States. These days, it is vital to save as much water as possible to help the earth's sustainability.

Here are some water-saving tips to consider:

- Water the yard and garden before 10 am and after 5pm and save up to 300 gallons per month.
- Take your car to a car wash that recycles water.
- Sweep your driveway or patio instead of hosing it down and save up to 150 gallons every time.
- Use the runoff water from cleaning your fruits and vegetables to water the houseplants.
- You can save more than 150 gallons of water per month just by shortening every shower by 1 or 2 minutes.

Be a role model for your family, friends and neighbors and spread the word. It's a small step toward helping a global issue. Water conservation. Save water. Save money.

Think green. Be green.

For more tips on conserving water, go to:
www.conserveit2o.org or www.wateruseitwisely.com



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Studies show that educational achievement gaps already exist at Kindergarten entry. Children from low income families are more likely to start school with limited language skills, health problems and social and emotional problems that interfere with learning. The larger the gap at school entry, the hard it is to close.

Language proficiency is a key predictor of school success. Early literacy skills (size of vocabulary, recognizing letters, understanding letter and sound relationships) at kindergarten entry are good predictors of children's reading abilities throughout their educational careers. Language and literacy skills enable children to develop cognitive skills and knowledge and to interact effectively with peers and adults.

This year, our Head Start program has received additional funding to provide greater literacy experiences for our children and their families. The funds will be used to purchase books so that each classroom can have a well stocked lending library. Research shows that the single most important thing parents can do with their children to ensure success in school is to read to them at home. Books will be purchased in multiple languages to meet the needs of our families. We will also use the funds to purchase multi



cultural clothing, food, and dolls to be used in our dramatic play areas, musical instruments and CDs for music and movement activities, and flannel board stories for literacy rich language extension and scaffolding.

It is a very exciting time for our Head Start and we appreciate the opportunity to strengthen our program.

Safety

Now that children are starting back to school, and more children will be dropped off at the CDC at the Hillsboro office, please remember that the speed limit at Community Action's Hillsboro main parking lot is **5 mph**.



Please remember to drive slowly - and "Please Watch - Kid's Don't". If you notice someone is driving too fast, take a moment and point out the posted speed limit.

Thanks for helping keep our kids (and staff) safe!



CHECKS & BALANCES

Fiscal -

TIME SHEET ALERT

Because the Labor Day holiday falls on September 7th, a payroll week, timesheets will be due to Fiscal by Thursday, September 3rd.

Facilities - When using the front doors at Hillsboro main offices before 8:30 and after 5, *please* make sure they are closed securely. There have been issues where people are in the lobby prior to the office being open and no one is available to help them. *Thank you.*

FISCAL CONTACT INFO

Accounts Payable: Cindy 503-726-0847

Accounts Receivable: Kurt 503-726-0848

Payroll: Javier 503-693-3285 or Kim 503-726-0846

Fiscal Manager: Keith 503-693-3247

WHAT'S DEVELOPING?



Mark your calendars for this year's *People You Should Know* breakfast, which will take place on **November 18th**.

With the closing of the Kingstad Center (and the wonderful growth of this event) we will be at a new location this year. We decided to give the **Embassy Suites at Washington Square** a try because they have a large ballroom and they are centrally located with plenty of parking. With a bigger space to fill, we want to work even harder to expand attendance at this important fundraising and community education event. We are in the process of recruiting table hosts and building our invitation list. If you are interested in hosting a table, inviting guests, or suggesting names for the invitation list, please contact **Lisa** at **503-693-3230** or **lbrown@caowash.org**. We will also be recruiting for event volunteers, so if this is of interest to you, let us know and we'll be sure to add you to our list of prospective volunteers.

The breakfast is an opportunity to tell the community just how much impact our work can have on the lives of families who are struggling. If you have a client willing to tell their story or if you've had meaningful moments in helping people overcome tough times, we hope you will share these stories with us so that we can inspire the public to join in our work through their support.

HR – from Nicole



I was very pleased to see that Oregon recently joined a handful of other states who are leading the way to ensure that all children have adequate health insurance. I think that most of us would agree that healthy children tend to become healthy adults and often influence their parents and/or guardians to adopt healthier ways of living.

According to the Healthy Kids website, this program provides:

- Free or affordable health care for children 18 and younger.
- Coverage, even for children with a medical condition.
- Medical, dental and vision care; regular checkups; preventive care; prescription drugs; mental health and chemical dependency services; and medical equipment and supplies.

Below are a few tips for checking to see if your family qualifies for this benefit in case you want to seek supplementation to the benefits already offered through your employment with Community Action.

As of today, children in families with income up to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) (\$40,792.50 for a family of four) can enroll and beginning in October 2009, coverage will extend to children in families up to 200% FPL (\$44,100 for a family of four).

The online application is located at this website: <http://www.oregonhealthykids.gov/>. Another option is to call 1-877-314-5678 to have an application mailed to you or to ask for information.

Community Action will contribute to the overall state fund that will enable this coverage and we will contribute whether any of our employees use the benefit or not. In fact, we won't even know if anyone uses it because it's completely unrelated to our own benefit programs. I strongly encourage you to check it out and apply if it's a fit for your family because we want your children to be as healthy as they can possibly be!

~Nicole

LOOKIN' FER WORK IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

Job Opportunities may be viewed online at:
www.communityaction4u.org/employment.php

*NOTE: Please check this web site weekly for current information and details. We have many jobs in development that will be posted before the next publication and we will take applications as each job is posted.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Child Care Resource & Referral:

Did you know that non-licensed (exempt) child care providers who are being paid by DHS to take care of children **may** qualify for free training?

The DHS Enhanced Rate Program is a program that pays providers a higher reimbursement rate because they have met the requirement for Step 1 of the Oregon Registry: Pathways to Professional Recognition in Childhood Care and Education.

The Oregon Registry is a voluntary, statewide program to document and recognize the professional achievements of people who work in the childhood care and education profession.

In order to receive the Enhanced DHS Rate, a provider needs the following:

- Current Infant & Child CPR certification
- Current First Aid certification
- A current Food Handler's Card
- Attended a 2-hour class on Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect

A non-licensed (exempt) child care provider can call **971-223-6100** or **800-624-9516** for more information on this program.

Opening Doors:

Parenting Classes starting in September! At the heart of this class is the belief that parenting is the most important job there is and that parents are their children's most important guides and teachers. You will experience a warm and safe environment where you can feel comfortable sharing experiences and learning about parenting.

Community Action Opening Doors
9340 SW Barnes Road - Suite 100A, Portland
Thursdays (Sept 3 – Dec 3, 2009)
Time: 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Child care is provided. For more information, call:
Opening Doors at 503-517-5798.

Weatherization:

Weatherization presents Energy Education workshops for income-qualified residents throughout Washington County. Workshops are held at the Hillsboro Main Office, at the Beaverton Library, and at the Tigard Library. They are presented in either English or Spanish. Workshops run October through May. Each household attending the workshop receives a \$25.00 credit on their electric bill and a kit of energy-saving items, including compact fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and faucet aerators.

We are changing our sign-up system this year to assure that people qualify and have not attended a workshop before. Energy Assistance will have the workshop schedule, but their clients will need to call **503-906-6550** to register.

To find out more, call Margaret Rodriguez Springer at 503-693-3269 or email her at mspringer@caowash.org.