



Community "IN" ACTION

Newsletter April 20th, 2009

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

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

Our 2009 "Celebration of Community Spirit" awards banquet drew one of our largest crowds to date. Kudos to Lisa Brown, our Development Team and all of our staff who helped make this event a great success. We were very fortunate to have Doug Stamm, CEO of Meyer Memorial Trust, as our keynote speaker. He was very engaging and helped our audience to understand the important and challenging role that Community Action plays, especially during this economic crisis. Our three award winners were extraordinary and inspired us with their acceptance remarks. Eric Canon, an artist and tireless advocate for people who are homeless or struggling with poverty, received a standing ovation after he made a call to action. Our guests seemed genuinely pleased to be a part of this event and were moved by what they learned about our work, the impact of the economy on local families and the ways that our community is supporting us. I would like to share with you some of my comments that evening:

"Because we've had so many questions about the economy and how it is impacting Community Action and those we serve, I'm breaking from tradition a little to give you a brief update and share with you what we are seeing and hearing.

Our phones are ringing. Our lobby is full. Our shelter waiting list is long. The lines are blurring as people from all walks of life find themselves facing financial challenges that just a few months ago were unimaginable. Unemployment, and under-employment, are the primary factors impacting local families.

Directors' Corner continued

This is what we all know: Businesses are closing; they are eliminating jobs or reducing the volume of available work. To keep staff employed, many businesses are reducing workers hours or giving unpaid leaves. Loss of employment also results in a loss of health care benefits and families are foregoing vital medications and putting off care until illnesses become emergencies. The ripple effect of rising unemployment can be devastating on many, many levels.

So it comes as no surprise that the number of people in Washington County seeking assistance has grown significantly. Many are seeking assistance for the first time and they are turning to Community Action for help. Our staff on the frontline are angels, but it is heartbreaking to see the magnitude of the economy's impact on local families....not to mention our local businesses.

I truly believe that if the right services are there at the right time that families will get through this economic crisis. That is why Community Action is here and we are being looked to at this time to broaden the safety net to help those who have been most impacted by the economy. We also know that we must continue to work in partnership with the community if we are to meet the growing need. It has been remarkable to me to see the amazing empathy that our community is showing. These extraordinary times are demanding much from all of us. By uniting together, we will come out of this difficult time stronger."

COMINGS & GOINGS

Welcome to:

Cassandra Gonzalez, Shelter Resident Assistant
Jack Allee, Weatherization Auditor/Inspector
Jeanine Ramirez, Head Start Teacher II Substitute
Mike Wirkkula, Weatherization Auditor/Inspector
Tony Sinclair, Head Start Transportation Mgr.

Goodbye to:

Brent Wilson

NEWS OF NOTE



Happy 45th Birthday!

National Community Action Month (NCAM) was created in May 1997 as "National Community Action Week" and became "National Community Action Month" a year later.

NCAM offers the network a specific time frame to spotlight the creative ways Community Action is helping people and changing lives, to demonstrate our strength and unity as a network, and to increase our national visibility as the country's largest anti-poverty network.



REMINDER:

Friday, May 8th is Wellness Day!



UPCOMING

IS Committee Meeting	5/5
Wellness Day	5/8
Safety Committee Meeting	5/13
Hillsboro Building Meeting	5/19
Head Start Policy Council	5/19
Board Meeting	5/21
Holiday (Memorial Day)	5/25

May 2009 BIRTHDAYS



Judy Nagy	5/2
Marlene Rodriguez	5/4
Angelica Molina-Alvarez	5/5
Bruce Horne	5/8
Carmen T-Miranda	5/8
Dolores McNee	5/9
Corrie Jensen	5/10
Veronica Rodriguez	5/10
Lori Balch	5/11
Alexis McCulley	5/13
Bonifacia Herrera	5/14
Desiree Clark	5/15
Thacher Schmid	5/15
Ashley Peterson	5/16
Alycia Costa	5/20
Angela Vargas	5/20
Ana Diaz	5/21
Juana Meraz	5/21
Dolores Rodriguez	5/21
Jimi Smith	5/21
Susana Salgado	5/22
Alicia Perez	5/24
Wenona Ford	5/26
Jenifer O'Neil	5/27
Claudia Umanzor	5/28
Lorena Jimenez	5/30

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

May 2009 ANNIVERSARIES



13 years	Augusta Lang
12 years	Heather Roberts
7 years	Natalie Horne
5 years	Brenda Larson
4 years	Heather "Sunny" Ross
3 years	Ana Franco
1 year each:	Kindra Groshong, Maria Cervantez, Joy Staten, Griselda Hernandez, and Rebecca Price

Recognitions:

The following staff will be recognized for their Community Action anniversaries at **Wellness Day on May 8th**. These are employees whose anniversaries occurred between January 1st, 2009 and June 30th, 2009. Anniversaries after June 30th will be recognized at Fall All Staff.

35 years: Judy Schilling

15 years: Carol Bump

10 years: Vilma Banek, Debra Palmer, Alejandra Lopez, and Cathy Meyer

5 years: Francis Nichols, Martha Guel de Luna, and Joy Larson

(If your name should be on this list and isn't, please contact Nancy Peters asap, x 428).

MAY IS

Community Action Month
(Happy 45th Birthday!)

Mental Health Awareness Month
Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month
Better Hearing & Speech Month
Military Appreciation Month
Older Americans Month
Head Start graduation Month



5/1 is May Day
5/5 is Cinco de Mayo & National Teacher Day
5/10 is Mother's Day
5/13 is Tulip Day
5/16 is National Armed Forces Day
5/18 Mt. St. Helen erupted in 1980
5/21 American Red Cross Founded
5/25 is Memorial Day
5/31 is National No Tobacco Day



Please help the Community Action Family Shelter by bringing a non-perishable item to Wellness Day on Friday, May 8th.



Not only does this help support the families at the shelter, but they also supply emergency food boxes to the community.

Listed below are suggestions of needed items:

Soup/Crackers	Canned Fruit
Chili/Stew	Canned Vegetables
Bread	Canned Juice
Macaroni and Cheese	Tuna
Rice Mixes/Pasta	Sugar
Coffee	Hamburger Helper
Diapers	Paper towels
Dish soap/Laundry Detergent/Sponges	

Please do not bring any items that have been opened or expired as they will be tossed.

There will be a designated area at Sunset Presbyterian for you to put your donation. *Thank you.*

... because no one should be hungry.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Home Visits

The Head Start teachers have just completed their second round of home visits. The purpose of the home visit is to help parents improve their parenting skills and to assist them in the use of the home as the child's primary learning environment. The home visitor will assist the parent in providing learning opportunities to enhance their child's growth and development.

Through home visits and parent-teacher conferences, strong links between home, school and child care providers are established. Head Start staff assists families as they face the challenge of raising young children on a limited income. Family advocates and teachers help parents locate health care, dental services, housing and utilities assistance, and mental health services.

Though the young child is Head Start's primary focus, the goals of the program do not end there. The mission of the Head Start program is to break the cycle of poverty and help families become and stay self-supporting. Parents, children, and the community all benefit when the family is stable and self-sufficient.

Head Start recognizes that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher, as well as a valuable resource to the community. Our program encourages parents to become involved in their child's education by participating in home visits or volunteering in the Head Start classroom.

Head Start is dedicated to strengthening families. Many times, lacking the basics such as food, shelter, or clothing makes it hard to be a nurturing family unit. While in Head Start, families learn to manage their own resources, accessing available community programs.

SAFETY

The Safety Committee has been meeting on a regular basis and are committed to maintaining a safe working environment for all staff as well as comply with OSHA policies. Safety Committee meeting minutes are posted in the common areas of each Community Action location as well as sent to all staff.

We also will be sharing safety issues and concerns that we would like to remind staff to be aware of. For instance:

- No extension cords are to be used, unless authorized by the Safety Committee (i.e.: receptionist area)
- No space heaters

This is because Community Action's Hillsboro main building does not have the capacity to support any extra electrical equipment.

Thanks for your understanding!



CHECKS & BALANCES

Fiscal – Please note some new phone numbers for fiscal:

Department	Contact	Ext.	Direct Line
Accounts Payable:	Phyllis	847	503-726-0847
Accounts Receivable:	Kurt	848	503-726-0848
Payroll:	Javier (Francisco)	285	503-693-3285
	or Kim	846	503-726-0846
Program Assistant:	Cindy	849	503-726-0849
Manager:	Keith	247	503-693-3247
Fax Number:			503-357-6057



When requesting a purchase order, be sure it's for an amount sufficient to cover your purchase. Many vendors will honor purchase orders up to **but not over** the amount stated, and per policy, Community Action does not reimburse employees for out of pocket expenses.

WHAT'S DEVELOPING?



Many thanks to the Community Action staff whose excellent assistance helped make the April 1, 2009, Celebration of Community Spirit dinner, one of the best ever.

Despite the wind and rain, 180 guests attended. Donations and sponsorships raised \$45,665 for Community Action programs and services. Nike generously sponsored the event. Meyer Memorial Trust CEO Doug Stamm, a Washington County native and former Nike executive, added his well-informed local philanthropic perspective. Christy Barker, who serves as Community Representative on our board, told her personal story which illustrates the need for our programs and services. News Seasons Market (Brian Rohter), Wendy Watson (Kaiser Permanente), and Eric Canon (Interfaith Committee on Homelessness), gratefully accepted their Community Spirit Awards, acknowledging the support they receive from others who share our concern for low-income people. As Wendy received her Outstanding Business Leader award, Kaiser surprised us with a donation of \$20,000 to our Opening Doors prenatal health care outreach program. We are amazed and grateful for the corporate support we receive, especially with current economic constraints.

This support and community recognition helps sustain us as we go forward through increasingly challenging times.

HR – from Nicole



The HR team will relocate to a new facility in the May to June timeframe and I want to take a few minutes to explain where we will be and why we are moving. Our new site will be at the Carnation Building, 669 South 1st Avenue, Hillsboro.

There are several "pros" to this decision, but the primary factor influencing it is that this move will enable an increased ability for the Fiscal, Admin. and HR teams to collaborate for the good of the Agency. Between the three teams, many of our systems have direct and daily interactions, including payroll, benefits and compensation. We exchange countless pieces of paper related to employee changes on a daily basis. We are confident that this decision will result in greater efficiencies for all of our teams, and to a larger extent, the entire Community Action staff.

We also weighed the impact that this might have on the managers and employees who work at Hillsboro Main. While we will not be "right down the hall" or "upstairs" anymore, we are making plans to streamline information sharing and mail distribution that must continue to occur between Hillsboro Main and our new location. One example of streamlining is that we will soon begin using customized mail distribution envelopes that will be specifically designated for "HR purposes only." These envelopes will be a bright blue color and should not be used for non-HR purposes. This change is intended to indicate to whoever is expecting a communication related to an HR function to prioritize the delivery and opening of the contents.

The HR team will continue the practice of attending the Community Action building meeting and visiting on a regular basis. I'm at Hillsboro Main weekly for the Director's meeting and Tina and Katie visit with employees and managers at Main on at least a monthly basis and usually much more often than that. Nancy will have a designated meeting space at the new site for individual and group meetings regarding benefits and may occasionally visit Main as appropriate. The new site also creates a more private location for employees to meet with an HR team member, should they have that need.

If the first few months of our move, it will be more important than ever to pick up the phone and call if you have a question.

We greatly appreciate your support and encouragement during this time of transition.

~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



Each year Community Action's Housing and Homeless Services organizes and conducts the annual "One Night Street & Shelter/Homeless Count" during the last week in January.

Collecting unduplicated information on the number, characteristics, and service needs of people, who are experiencing homelessness, is a critical component of local homeless planning and program development.

Community Action and our partners use the information to:

- Justify requests for additional resources.
- Plan future services that will be relevant to unsheltered homeless people.
- Allocate resources to service providers or programs for different subgroups of homeless people.
- Understand changes in trends among homeless populations.

The following numbers reflect the results of the 2009 One Night Street & Shelter/Homeless Count. The 2009 numbers reflect what I consider to be Washington County's most reliable and accurate information in our history of attempts to collect data pertaining to homelessness.

Total Individuals (regardless of household composition)	1,243
Total Households	714
Families with Children (Household)	239

Contributed by Pat Rogers, Housing & Homeless Services Manager

Community Action's Opening Doors program received the 2009 Washington County Public Health Recognition Award for our commitment to improving healthy birth outcomes in Washington County. Joan Brown, Opening Doors Program Manager accepted the award on April 9th at the Award Ceremony.

Opening Doors is a prenatal outreach program that links low-income pregnant women with the resources they need for healthy births. Through enhanced outreach, education and public awareness, the program seeks to increase participation in maternal child health programs and improves healthy birth outcomes.

Opening Doors succeeded in equipping 608 low-income pregnant women for healthy births during fiscal year 2007-2008. In addition, 52 at-risk pregnant women received comprehensive services to enable healthy births. All gave birth to healthy babies.



Accepting the 2009 Washington County Public Health Recognition Award with Joan Brown are Renée Bruce, Jerralynn Ness, Sabrina Hernandez, Joan, Diana Lu and Beth Dasher.

Photo courtesy of Scott Schlegel