

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL INPUT SOUGHT FOR DIALOGUE ON POVERTY

Poverty in Washington County? We may not like to admit it, but for over 62,000 men, women and children who live here, poverty is all too familiar. Basic needs which are taken for granted by the rest of Washington County - affordable housing, safe and healthy children, employment close to home - are big problems for 20% of county residents.

Added to the fact that local poverty is frequently unseen is the outdated perception of what living in poverty means. More and more, the chronically poor have been joined by people whose situations have suddenly thrust them into difficult circumstances. There has been a definite increase in the number of working poor families as well.

Community Action Organization invites the public to discuss these issues in its local Dialogue on Poverty forums. Open to all, these dialogues are an opportunity for residents of the county to share their experiences and to exchange ideas and information.

MORE

Page 2, Local Input Sought for Dialogue on Poverty

A dialogue in Spanish will be held June 12th from 5:30-8:30PM at Centro Cultural in Cornelius. Other dialogues are June 18 at Community Action Organization in Hillsboro from 9:00AM -Noon or 5:30-8:30PM, and on June 25th at Tigard United Methodist Church from 5:30-8:30PM. Childcare and a light meal will be provided at each session. To attend, please RSVP by calling 648-6646.

Ideas and information gathered from these dialogues will be used by Community Action groups both locally and nationally in developing strategies to combat the causes and conditions of poverty. Community Action Organization is a private, nonprofit, community-based agency which serves the economically disadvantaged in Washington County by providing for basic needs and promoting long-term self-sufficiency.

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