



1001 SW Baseline St. • Hillsboro, OR • 97123 • Main (503) 648-6646 • Client Assistance (503) 648-0829 • Fax (503) 648-4175

November 12, 1998

Dear Friends:

I hope that this letter finds you well as Thanksgiving and the holiday season approaches.

I am writing to invite you to be a part of a county-wide forum designed to address issues related to low-income persons who live in our community and to develop a stronger sense of partnership among faith-based communities concerning these matters. I have enclosed some materials that outline in more detail the needs of low-income people within our area.

As you may be aware, the Community Action Organization is a non-profit social service agency dedicated to serving low-income families in Washington County. Our mission is to work in partnership with others in the community to assist low-income people achieve self-determination.

In order to do this, we provide a variety of services and programs such as Headstart, rent assistance, a shelter for homeless families, after school care for low-income children, information and referral services, tenant education classes, transitional housing, weatherization services and a variety of other resources. I have enclosed a brochure that tells a bit more about our programs and services.

Over the years, we have developed a history of working with churches throughout the area through Neighborshare, the WESTCO Emergency Fund and the Sheltering the Homeless Coalition. However, I believe that there are many other possibilities that could be a part of our common effort to help address the issues of poverty in our county. I want to invite you to be a part of such an effort.

In this spirit, you are invited to be a part of a gathering of concerned members of the community from throughout Washington County on **Thursday, December 3rd from 3:00 to 4:30PM at the Community Action Organization office in Hillsboro (1001 SW Baseline). I have enclosed a map for your convenience.**

At this meeting, I'd like you to consider several possible ways in which we could collaborate with one another in the future. I also want to hear from you about how the Community Action Organization could be more helpful to you and your congregation in addressing your needs.

Some of the concepts that we might look at together include the following:

Creating an on-going partnership/network between CAO and religious communities throughout Washington County in order to:

- Coordinate information and referral efforts
- Communicate information and develop a deeper consciousness about issues of poverty, homelessness, housing and social service resources available in Washington County
- Create the capacity to raise issues, develop volunteer and educational opportunities, and coordinate program/service efforts throughout the community related to low-income concerns and community partnerships.

I am eager to work with you regarding this county-wide effort to serve the needs of those living in poverty, and I will be calling you soon to see about your interest in this community effort. I look forward to seeing you on December 3rd. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 693-3220.

Warmly,



Lowell R. Greathouse  
Community Resource Manager