



Community IN ACTION

Newsletter September 17, 2007

Deadline is the second Friday of the month; Contacts for articles are: Child Dev. - Farzana Siddiqui, F&CR – Barb Dame , Morale & Wellness -Phyllis Johnpoll, Development – Scott Schlegel, All others – Nancy Peters. Editor: Winnie Althizer

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

At the end of August, I attended the 2007 Community Action Partnership Convention in San Diego. The energy level was very high and there seemed to be a buzz of excitement the whole week. We were introduced to the new national President, Don Mathis, who said that the mood of the country has become very sympathetic to issues of poverty. He stated that "In a recent poll, 80% of Americans agreed that people are poor because of reasons outside of them." Don went on to say that "The focus has shifted from blaming the poor to understanding that we all have responsibility." And he closed by saying that "Our best days are ahead of us."

Jodie Levin Epstein, the Center for Law and Social Policy, talked about how we need a national agreement on how to build an economy that works for us. She believes that it is important to craft a shared, common vision that can carry on over time, over changes in administrations. A vision that is silo busting; that brings people together, such as "Cut Poverty in Half in a Decade." People may differ in how to get there but they never back away from the vision. She stressed that our messages are as important as our goals. She reminded us of a famous quote by President Reagan, "We fought the war with poverty and poverty won", and said that while that was a very catchy message, it was a myth.

During the period of time that the President was referring to, the rate of poverty was cut in half, from 22% to 11% of the population (1959-1973).

One highlight for me was listening to Dr. Donna Beegle, who happens to live in Tigard! She is an engaging, inspirational presenter who speaks from her own life experiences with poverty and homelessness. She stated that "poverty is constant crisis and we have a culture embedded in blame." Donna described how she had never been exposed to middle class culture and yet "We keep asking people in poverty to get middle class and when they don't, we punish them." She went on to say, "I grew up believing that no one cares and then I realized that they don't know! This is our window of opportunity. We have to let everyone in and be part of the discussion." I'm pleased to announce that Donna Beegle is going to join us at our Fall All Staff, Friday December 7th, to share her insights and wisdom. I know that you won't be disappointed.



NEWS OF NOTE

THE FALL ALL STAFF (AGENCY WIDE) DATE HAS BEEN MOVED TO DECEMBER 7, 2007. PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CALENDARS ACCORDINGLY.

Check out this web site:

<http://www.welcometousa.gov>. This site is specifically for refugees and immigrants and has a wealth of information from how to find a job to finding an agency to assist with questions. It even has links to the USCIS website information. It is designed to:

- Improve Access to Information and Resources for New Immigrants ;
- Encourage Volunteerism among U.S. Citizens and Newcomers;
- Provide Training and Technical Resources to Organizations that Serve Immigrants;
- Gathers Input on Successful Integration Practice



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Building Meeting	10-16
Head Start	
Policy Council	10-16
Board Meeting	10-18

Fall All Staff (new date) 12/07/07

October 2007 BIRTHDAYS



Michele Allen	1
Nancy Miller	1
Antonieta Narcio	1
Ann Hering	3
Kathy Nelson	4
Lorena Alvarez	6
Carrie Claeys	6
Susana Castaneda	8
Eva Gallardo	10
Mary Louise Brennan	11
Betty Chung	11
Ana Hernandez-Franco	11
Kelsie Dilley	13
Rosalva Reyes	14
Val Laws	19
David Lindell	19
Willy Silva-Cruz	19
Brent Wilson	21
Donna Bennington	23
Melissa Carrick	26
Farzana Siddiqui	
Terry Andersen	29
Tracy Robison	31

October 2007 ANNIVERSARIES



These dates are unavailable due to a computer glitch.

October is:

Breast Cancer Awareness Month
 World Blindness Awareness Month
 Dental Hygiene Month
 National Book Month
 Pickled Pepper Month (Tell Peter Piper to pick them!)
 Computer Learning Month
 Pizza and Pasta Month (Woo Hoo!)



The most major holiday in October (besides Mole Day on the 23rd and Boss' Day on the 16th) is Halloween on the 31st. In preparation, here's a way to spice up cider for the trick-or-treaters in your life.



Put 1 teaspoon allspice, 16 whole cloves, 4 sticks of cinnamon, and 1/3 cup of brown sugar in a gallon of cider. Heat through and simmer 20 minutes.

RUM RAISIN CAKE

Ingredients

3/4 cup water
 1/4 cup rum (or water w/1
 tablespoon rum extract)
 2/3 cup raisins
 3/4 cup butter
 1 egg
 1 1/4 cups white sugar
 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa
 powder

September 19 is International Talk Like A Pirate Day. In honor of this, here is a rum cake to warm even the hardest hearted scallywag.



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease one 9 or 10 inch tube pan.
2. Boil water; add rum and raisins. Melt butter and beat egg. Add to the raisin mixture.
3. Sift flour, baking soda, cocoa, and sugar together. Stir into raisin mixture. Add chopped pecans and stir until just combined. If batter is too thick add a little more water or more flour is too thin. Pour batter into prepared pan.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F for 40 to 50 minutes. Let cake cool in the pan for 10 minutes then turn out onto a serving dish. Serve warm or top cooled cake with whipped cream.

WHAT'S DEVELOPING?

All staff are invited to attend the 2007 Washington County Walk for Unity at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 30, beginning at Beaverton City Park, 4950 SW Watson Ave. The 3-mile walk and festival will celebrate community diversity.

We are looking forward to welcoming new Director of Development & Community Relations, Lisa A. Brown, on November 5. Lisa is returning to metro-Portland from Tacoma, where she has been working with the Tacoma Symphony.

Our Annual "People You Should Know" fall fundraising breakfast will be held Wednesday, November 14, at the Kingstad Center in Beaverton. The event runs from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. The event is free, but RSVP is required. This year's program will debut a new film about Community Action currently in production.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

No news this month!

LOOKIN' FER WORKIN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

Job Openings may be viewed at
Common/Agency Info/HR Resources/Job Postings

*NOTE: Please check this address 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.



CHECKS & BALANCES

Fiscal --

There have been a few job changes at the Fiscal Office.

Phyllis Johnpoll is now the lead person for Accounts Payable. To contact her, please call 503-693-3256 ext 256.

Cilicia Burrell is now the lead person for Payroll. To contact her, please call 503-693-3283 ext 283.

Ann Hering is now the lead person for Accounts Receivable. To contact her call 503-693-3243.



HR - Ask Winnie



September is Open Enrollment month! This is the time you can change plans (HMO Choice), add dependents, etc. All changes are effective 10-1-07.

If you are coming up on your 1st or 2nd anniversary you may want to add dependents. To do this ask HR for an enrollment form, complete it and turn it in to HR. Remember if you are adding dependents at the 1st or 2nd anniversary the coverage is effective on the 1st of the month 60 days after the anniversary date.

Coverage for dependents added on during September 2007 Open Enrollment will be effective 10-1-07. The changes in co-pays and premiums are also effective on 10-1-07.

This is also a good time to refresh your beneficiaries in case you've had changes in your family (life, 403(b), other personal insurance, etc.).

If you are interested in enrolling in the 403(b) plan, please call Nancy Peters (202) and ask her to send you a package. If you wish to update the amount of salary you are having withheld, all you have to do is call HR and ask for a new reduction agreement form, complete it and return it to HR.

Remember, you can receive the Agency contribution to your 403(b) account even if you are not making a salary contribution. To be eligible for the Agency contribution, you must be over age 18, and have worked at least 2 years where you were paid for 1,000 hours or more. If you are not making a salary contribution, and want the Agency contribution, you need to complete an enrollment application with Lincoln (our vendor).

If you need other help with benefits, please give us a call (Nancy, Brooke, Tina or Winnie).

FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Weatherization:

Community Action's 2007 Energy Fair is right around the corner! The Fair is being held Saturday, October 6th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Beaverton Community Center at 12350 SW 5th St. in Beaverton. The Fair is located right across the street from the Beaverton Library and a block down the street from the Beaverton Farmers Market. We will have a lot of great vendors, the free NW Natural hot dog wagon from 11:00 am-1:00 pm and many exciting workshops. There will be activities for kids and hourly door prize drawings. For additional information, contact Margaret Rodriguez Springer at (503) 693-3269 or mspringer@caowash.org. If you would like some flyers to give to your clients, give Margaret a call. See you at the Fair!

CCR&R:

The 2007 Legislature made a significant investment in the DHS Child Care Program. Effective October 1, 2007 nearly \$40 million in Child Care Improvements will give low income families access to better care.

Improvements include restoring the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) income limit to 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) where it was prior to February 2003, and reducing parent co-payments by an average of 20%.

Child care reimbursement rates will increase to the 75th percentile of the 2006 Child Care Market Rate Study. Also, there will be an increase to 88% of the 75th percentile for license-exempt (family, friend and neighbor - FFN) providers, and an increase to 95% of the 75th percentile for license-exempt providers who are eligible for the DHS enhanced rate. Providers will be paid the new rates for child care provided October, 2007 forward.

SAFETY: As the Child Development program enters their new year, the safety committee is also ramping up for the coming year. Last year they initiated site safety inspections reporting back to the Directors. For the past 2 years, their work has helped our Worker's Comp. premium drop to a lower premium amount. The Directors continue to value the work the committee is doing to keep staff safe on the job, and totally support the member's time to participate. Don't forget what an MSDS is.