

# WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION NEWS

Fall 1991

## Humanizing hunger . . . A look at food programs in Washington County

*"People who are hungry in Oregon, often are also homeless. Both conditions are the direct result of poverty. Also, most of the individuals and families who are hungry and/or homeless are beset by additional problems, including underemployment or inability to obtain employment, lack of low-cost housing, lack of health care, alcohol and drug abuse, and mental illness. However, if the basic needs for food and shelter are not met, it is unlikely that many of the other problems can be effectively resolved."*

Community Action Directors of Oregon  
Newsletter; March 15, 1989

In the past year, 56,000 people in Washington County sought help through food programs to feed them-

"Food is the lowest priority for a person on a set income," states Jett. "They have to pay for medication, medical bills, rent and heat before they can look at buying food.

always a need for volunteers to drive for "Meals on Wheels". Even one hour a month will help.

Luke-Dorf, Inc., located in Tigard, offers "therapeutic and supportive short

*continued on page 4*



70 seniors eat daily at Hillsboro Senior Center to meet nutritional needs

themselves. In other words, they were hungry, did not have the resources to buy food, and were, at the least, at risk of malnutrition, and, at the worst, of starvation. Who are those people? Why are they hungry?

Fifty agencies belong to the county-wide food bank network - Tualatin Valley Food Center (TVFC) - a program of WCCAO's Hunger and Nutrition Department. Three of those agencies agreed to help answer the questions of "who?" and "why?".

Hillsboro Senior Center operates a "Meals on Wheels" Food Program and a Congregate Meal Program, providing 140 balanced meals each day to people who might otherwise not have enough to eat. According to Shelah Jett, Director of the Center, if their food program did not exist, especially the "Meals on Wheels" program that goes out to the homes of shut-in people, many would be forced out of their own homes and into foster care or nursing homes.

Besides the obvious nutritional benefits of the Senior Center's Food Program, there are psychological reasons for keeping it going. For many of the seniors, the congregated meal at the Center or the visit from a volunteer delivering their meal to their home, provides the only social contact they have during a day. In addition, emergency needs of the frail elderly and those recovering from surgery are identified and attended to through the contact.

The Programs, especially "Meals on Wheels" are poorly funded, according to Jett, but critical. In addition, there is



Bill Bash, Luke-Dorf Director, illustrates food bank items that help feed their clients

### Inside Action News

6th annual Mardi Gras .....	5
WCCAO receives grant to provide mortgage assistance .....	6
Stagg Foods does it again! .....	7
Holiday dance to benefit Food Bank.....	7



## Board Chair's Message

### Sherry Robinson

### Actions speak louder than words

As with other organizations, institutions and businesses, the Washington County Community Action Organization has developed a strategic plan, in which decisions are made, implemented and evaluated. The set of decisions contained in WCCAO's plan coordinate different aspects of the organization, enabling it to achieve its objectives. The Plan is a "living" document, because it is regularly reviewed, re-evaluated and modified to insure that it is accurate and responds to current needs in the community.

WCCAO's Overall Strategic Goal is "TO ASSURE IN A MANNER THAT PROMOTES SELF-SUFFICIENCY, THAT ALL LOW INCOME RESIDENTS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY HAVE ACCESS TO SERVICES TO MEET HUMAN NEEDS." Five strategic goals, each accompanied by several objectives, further define the overall goal. Each of the major goals is reasonable, achievable and focused on meeting clients' needs.

One of the major goals, Goal III, is "TO HAVE ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE AGENCY'S MISSION". Achievement

of this goal is critical to the successful completion of the other four goals, which direct provision of services, maintain supportive management and administrative systems and increase the ability

**"This effort will require your involvement and commitment, not only in words, but in actions."**

to promote self-sufficiency. Without adequate resources, achievement of the other goals will be delayed or blocked.

Although all of WCCAO's Strategic Goals welcome and encourage the involvement of the community, none requires the attention of so many and at such a high level as Goal III. In order for WCCAO to succeed at achieving Goal III each member of the community must become a partner in developing the resources needed to serve the low income residents living among us. These resources are human, physical and financial; however, this year we will be focusing on the financial resources.

WCCAO is undertaking its first capital campaign this year. We are looking for a permanent home for the agency in order to solidify our finances and consolidate our services to better serve our friends and neighbors. This effort will require your involvement and commitment, not only in words, but in actions. There is much to be done if we truly want to reach our goal - many areas to address and seeds to plant. We do not expect to reach that goal in a month or even a year, but I do know that IT WILL HAPPEN.

How can I be so certain? Because of folks like the members of the SUNRISE ROTARY in Hillsboro. In September, the Rotary sponsored a scrambler golf tournament, with proceeds to benefit WCCAO's Shelter Home. The tournament was a smashing success!! The results of this event were over \$9,000 and lots of new friends for the Shelter Home. There are no words to express the pleasure, the gratitude, the pride and the satisfaction I felt when I accepted the check for the Shelter from The Rotary.

This is what I mean by ACTION. The Rotary golf tournament is an example of one way to become involved, either by sponsoring an event or just taking part in it. There are many other ways to become a partner in our commitment to the community. I personally invite each one of you to contact me for ideas and suggestions of ways to become involved.

To achieve financial stability is a lofty goal. TOGETHER, through our actions, I know that we can accomplish it, not only for the residents of Washington County, but also for our own satisfaction at completing a critical task. ❖

## WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

ACTION NEWS is the quarterly publication of the Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO), published by the WCCAO Administration, 700, Hillsboro, OR 97123. It is coordinated by WCCAO Executive Director Sherry Robinson Brousseau and is edited and published by volunteer Alisa Corstorphine. For a WCCAO of any address or

## ... People Helping People

The Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO) is a private, non-profit organization that provides services to the needy in Washington County, Oregon. The following individuals are available from the following individuals:

Executive Director	648-6646
Referral	648-0829
	648-6646
	640-8951
	639-0495
	648-6646
John Laptook, Director	642-3236
	642-3236
	648-6646
	644-8956
	648-8355



## Executive Director's Message Jerralynn Ness

inclusiveness, of our community is an essential part of this equation. And for that reason, WCCAO remains committed to serve as a partner with local government, business and education to develop our community's capacity to support its residents' housing, education, health, employment, child care and transportation needs. Together, we can rekindle the hope and inspire families with the belief that they can once again achieve a decent quality of life - the "American Dream". ❖

### Rekindling of "The American Dream"

The phrase, "The American Dream", was first coined in The Depression to describe the national ideal of an open society with equal opportunity, shared sacrifice and shared reward. The belief that every person had the opportunity to reach his or her full potential inspired an entire nation of people and gave hope.

full potential, I also realize that the economic and social health, as well as the

**"Today WCCAO sees many young families who are working hard to support themselves but can barely feed, clothe and shelter their children."**

As the years passed, "The American Dream" became the ability to achieve financial success and acquire material goods. And as the disparity between the wealthy and the poor grew, along with the erosion of the middle class, "The American Dream" began to fade.

Today, WCCAO sees many young families who are working hard to support themselves but can barely feed, clothe and shelter their children. For them, there is no "American Dream" to achieve. The income they make does not support their families. They cannot find decent, affordable housing. Health care and child care costs are way beyond their means. And they do not see that they have access to the educational, employment and training opportunities needed to earn a family wage.

I have often thought of WCCAO's work as the challenge to bring back the original "American Dream" to our community's most disadvantaged and disenfranchised residents. And while I believe that our work does give families hope and encourages them to reach their



AN

## AMERICAN CHRISTMAS

*a fun-filled variety show presented by  
The Billings Dance and Performing Arts Center*

**Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>  
Aloha High School Auditorium  
performances at 2:00<sup>pm</sup> and 7:00<sup>pm</sup>**

**Tickets: Adults \$7.50 Children \$3.50**

*Sponsorship tickets available for low-income children and their families*

**Tickets available at:**

**Billings Dance and Performing Arts Center 12570 SW Farmington Rd.  
Beaverton, OR 644-6116**

**Tualatin Valley Food Center 20515 SW Blanton Beaverton, OR 642-3236**

*proceeds to benefit the*

**Tualatin  
Valley  
Food  
Center**

*in a campaign to end childhood hunger*

## Humanizing Hunger (continued from page 1)

term and long term residences for adults with severe and persistent mental illness". Luke-Dorf staff work with the chronically mentally ill residents of their group home and those living in satellite apartments to help them make progress toward a more independent life style.

The thirteen residents of the group home eat communally. The thirty residents in satellite apartments have food distributed to them. Both types of residents are receiving public assistance that ranges from \$250 to \$428 a month. "Without food from Tualatin Valley Food Center," Luke-Dorf's Director, Bill Bash, reflects, "the quality of nutrition would go down dramatically for those living on their own. They would probably eat only one meal a day. The increased stress they would experience from the lack of nutrition could send them back to the State Hospital or get them back to using drugs or alcohol. Or they could get really depressed and tend toward self-destruction."

Joan Schneidwind, a Volunteer with Living Hope Fellowship, works twenty hours a week serving a wide-range of people who need food. "Many were previously well-off. They're temporarily out of work. Or they're homeless. Last week we gave a food basket to a family of five living in their car. Some don't qualify for food stamps, because they have some possessions, like a decent car, that they don't want to get rid of. They know they'll need a good car once they find employment."

The Emergency Food Program through Living Hope Fellowship is part of their ministry "to help everyone that needs it", in response to the Book of

Acts. Twenty other volunteers from the Fellowship work with Joan in the Food Program, distributing 70 food baskets a month and about 100 baskets at Christ-



Monica Stutzman works 3 hours a week to help get food baskets ready at Living Hope Fellowship Food Program

mas time. Their food baskets are different from most around the County, according to Joan. "We give an abundance of food - enough to last them for a while. That way they don't have to worry about food and can concentrate on solving other problems they have. One bag doesn't do any good. The next day they have to find another place to get more."

The Fellowship's philosophy on food distribution is to give enough food and the right kind of food

to enable people to be independent and strive for self-sufficiency.

.....  
 Many people don't know what it feels like to be really hungry, unless they have voluntarily gone on a low calorie diet. But if you have experienced hunger, you know how difficult it is to pay attention to anything else until the hunger is at least temporarily satisfied. Imagine what it might really be like to be hungry by participating in "Fast for the Hungry" on Thursday, November 21. If you skip a meal or all three meals that day, donate the cost of that food to Tualatin Valley Food Center. It's nice to know that the food is there just in case you or someone you love needs it.

"By the time a child reaches the age of four, 98% of its brain weight has been achieved. If he or she has not received proper nutrition, up to 50 points of I.Q. can be lost, never to be recovered. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation in the world where children make up the largest segment of the poverty population."

Bobby L. Moore, Executive Director of the San Antonio Food Bank

NOTE: According to the most recent Oregon Hunger Fact Assessment, 44% of the hungry people in Oregon are children under the age of 18. ♦



Ray Byers, volunteer for "Meals on Wheels" helps seniors that are shut in to stay in th homes



Luke-Dorf, Inc. in Tigard depends on Food Bank to help mentally ill.

## You can help

### Volunteers Needed:

- Clerical work, word processing, data entry, reception; call Pilar, 648-6646
- Typesetting, printing, graphics design & lay-out; call Pam, 648-6646
- Drivers, truck loaders for the Tualatin Valley Food Center; call Vicki, 642-3236
- Client reception, information, referral and intake workers; call Judy, 648-6646
- Sales Clerk at WCCAO's thrift store; call Thelma, 644-8956
- Outreach Workers to Spanish and Southeast Asian speaking families; call Diane, 642-3236
- Human Resources Specialist; call Jerralynn, 648-6646
- Mentor for "Next Steps" Self-sufficiency Project clients; call Connie, 648-8355
- Hispanic translator for the Great Start Program; call Renee, 648-6646
- Proposal Writer/Researcher; call

Pam, 648-6646

- Christmas Coordinator; call Denise, 642-3236
- Fundraising events helper; call Denise, 642-3236
- Child Care Volunteer at the Shelter; call Michael or Melonie, 640-3263
- Clothing bank volunteer to help sort clothes and assist clients; call Thelma, 644-8956
- Night/Day Supervisors at the Shelter; call Michael, 640-3263
- Interpreter for American Sign; call Judy, 591-1647
- Handyperson for Head Start Centers; call Cathy, 648-6646
- Sign Maker for Head Start Centers; call Cathy, 648-6646
- Child Care Assistant for Parenting Classes; call Renee, 648-6646
- Follow up calls and mailing to weatherization clients; call Joan, 642-3236

### Equipment Needed:

**Equipment and Supplies:** Computers, printers, color TV, phone message machine, table for the conference room, high quality 35mm camera with lenses for macro, zoom and/or wide-angle; call Pilar, 648-6646.

**For Head Start Centers:** large capacity food processor, 35mm camera, film and film developing, portable tape/CD players, TV with VCR built in, camcorder, wooden signs, old uniforms for dress-up corners, electric meat slicer, blenders, computers, printers; call Cathy, 648-6646.

**Furniture:** Adopt a transitional house or a room in the house and furnish it; call Norma, 648-0829.

**Food:** Tualatin Valley Food Center is in need of high protein and staple food items, such as tuna, rice, pasta, canned fruits and vegetables; call Denise, 642-3236. ♦

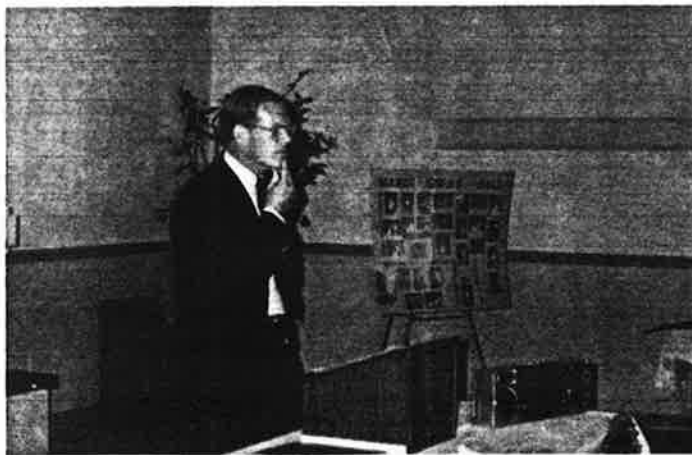
## 6th annual Mardi Gras - Walsh, Tatum and Miller lead the team

WCCAO's 6th Annual Mardi Gras, scheduled for Saturday, February 22, will feature a New Orleans flavor, not only in food, but in fun. Costumes,

Lynda Tatum and Sandra Miller, serving as Steering Committee Co-Chairs. They are joined by committee chairs Jennifer Chance, Gwen Brake, Cheryl

yet. And it will be, if early results are any indication.

Tickets are limited to 250 this year, so don't wait until the last minute to reserve yours. To make a ticket reservation, send check, VISA # plus expiration date, or money order, to WCCAO Mardi Gras, 451 S. First, #700, Hillsboro, OR 97123. Tickets sell for \$40 each or buy a Patron Table (seats 10) for \$500. ♦



Tom Walsh, General Manager for Tri-Met, inspires Team at the Mardi Gras Kick Off

balloons, sparkle, glitter and glitz will brighten up everyone's mid-Winter mood. The fabulous Stumptown Jazz Band will lift your spirits and exciting auction items will tickle your fancy.

This year's Mardi Gras Team leaders are Tom Walsh, Honorary Chair, and



Sandy Miller, Personnel Director at the City of Beaverton, shares Mardi Gras Chair role with Lynda Tatum of PGE

## WCCAO receives grant to provide mortgage assistance

A three year grant of \$300,000 was recently awarded to WCCAO from the Northwest Area Foundation to fund a demonstration program scheduled to begin in December 1991. The program will test the effectiveness of mortgage default counseling in the prevention of foreclosure, displacement and homelessness among low income homeowners.

According to Leon Laptook, Director of WCCAO's Housing and Energy Conservation Department, "The premise of the study is that mortgage counseling is more cost effective for both the public and private sectors, than the costs associated with dealing with displaced and/or homeless families, and dealing with

abandoned buildings and associated neighborhood effects."

WCCAO's program will consist of two basic levels of assistance.

Level I: To provide information, referral, screening and needs assessment to 125 homeowners each year.

Level II: To provide intensive case management, evaluation and follow up on a personalized basis with 25-30 homeowners each year.

To assist, as required, with emergency funds for mortgage payments, to resolve other credit problems, and to make essential home repairs.

The Mortgage Default Counseling Program will be operated in partnership with Housing Services of Oregon.

Similar studies will be conducted concurrently in an inner city neighborhood in Minneapolis, on a city-wide basis in Portland and St. Paul, and in a multi-county rural area in Idaho. An independent evaluation of all five programs will be conducted by the Wilder Research Center of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Northwest Area Foundation was established in 1934 by Louis W. Hill, son of James J. Hill, pioneer builder of the Great Northern Railway. The Foundation makes grants to organizations in Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. ♦

## Sunrise invitational benefit earns over \$9,000 for the shelter

Friday, September 13th, Forest Hills Golf Course . . . were you there? If not, you missed a great scrambler golf tournament, featuring celebrities from the



Trail Blazer Alumni Association, a delicious luncheon buffet, beautiful trophies and prizes, and a chance to bid on several exciting auction items, not to mention an exhilarating 18 holes of golf. But don't get too depressed. You'll have another chance next year when the Second Annual Sunrise Invitational Benefit is held. Plans are already underway to make it an even better tournament. If you want to make sure you're on the mailing list to get an invitation, write to the Hillsboro Sunrise Rotary, P.O. Box 1265, Hillsboro, OR 97123, or call Scott Aldrich, 297-8791.

WCCAO would like to take this opportunity

to give our heartfelt thanks to all the members of the Hillsboro Sunrise Rotary for sponsoring this fundraising event for the Shelter, but, in particular, members of the committee responsible for organizing and putting on the tournament. They are: Scott Aldrich-Committee Chair, Brook Boden, Mike Parich, Kevin Perko, and Dennis Putzler

THANK YOU ALL! ♦



Dennis Putzler, Rotary Committee Member, and Blazer Alumni, Lloyd Neal, at Sunrise Rotary Golf Tournament

## PLAY IT AGAIN

*New & Quality Resale  
Clothing & Accessories*



*Women's, Men's & Children's  
Apparel, Shoes, Purses, Belts &  
Jewelry*

Open Mon. - Sat. 10:00-4:00

4955 SW Hall Blvd

Beaverton, OR • 644-8956

**Bring in this ad for 10%  
off all merchandise!**

Sponsored by and benefiting Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO). Volunteers needed, call for information.

## Stagg Foods does it again!

For the third time in two years, Stagg Foods, manufacturer of high protein canned foods, makes a major donation to the Tualatin Valley Food Center. This time the donation will be approximately



Stagg Foods Hillsboro facility employs 80 people

the communities where their plants are located. "Stagg is very happy to make



20,000 pounds of chili, baked beans and corned beef hash, both in institutional and retail size containers. Stagg Foods spokesperson, Cameron Mummery, states that Stagg Foods likes to support

this donation - to be of assistance in this way - to help out the community."

The Hillsboro plant of Stagg Foods opened in December 1989, employing 80 people from the area. Stagg personnel are proud of their products, both because most of the ingredients come from the Oregon/Washington area, and because they make a conscious attempt to produce very healthy food. In Cameron's words, "We try not to use anything in our products that you can't pronounce, including MSG."

Thanks, again, Stagg, from all the people in Washington County who will not go hungry because of your generosity. Your partnership in making this community better for all residents is greatly appreciated. ❖

## Holiday dance performance to benefit Food Bank

Every year the Billings Dance and Performing Arts Center, located in Beaverton, has a Holiday Project. In 1991, that project is "The Campaign to End Childhood Hunger". The entire studio is busy donating canned food and practicing for a benefit performance, entitled "An American Christmas", to

guaranteed to put you in the holiday spirit", promises Mary Louise Billings, who owns and operates the studio with her sister, Pat Heath.

"Three classes are putting on the program - 55 kids altogether," adds Billings. "The Holiday Project is not just to benefit a charity, but to benefit the dance students as well. They get really involved and have a first-hand experience with helping others."

The canned food drive at the studio started October 28 and will continue until the performance, with food collection barrels available at the door. Expenses of the performance are being kept at a minimum. So far,

the only known expense will be \$100 for use of the auditorium at Aloha High School. They have already received help from Intel in printing brochures



Part of Holiday Project for dance students is to make their own donations.

and flyers, as well as Lazer Quick Printing. Several other corporations are considering involvement. Pietro Pizza has donated a pizza party after the show for the performers and Channel 2 has promised a spot on their news program.

Tickets, \$7.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children, are available at Billings Dance and Performing Arts Center, 12570 SW Farmington, or Tualatin Valley Food Center, 20515 SW Blanton. Tickets will also be sold at the door. Sponsorship tickets are available for low income children and their families to attend. For more information, call Mary Louise Billings at the studio (644-6116) or Denise Harkness at the Food Center (642-3236).



be held at 2:00 and 7:00 PM on Saturday, December 21st, at Aloha High School Auditorium. "The show is a fun-filled hour and a half of family entertainment,

## "What's happening"

- WCCAO Board of Directors meets the third Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM, Hillsboro Conference Room, 451 S. First, Suite 600; call Pilar, 648-6646, to confirm date, time and place.

- Head Start Policy Council meets thesecond Tuesday of each month (Sept. - June); contact Susan, 648-6646, for time and place.

- Washington County Human Services Coalition meets the second Friday of each month from 9:00 - 11:00 AM, WCCAO Hillsboro Conference Room, 451 S. First, Suite 600. Call Ron Dowd, 648-8881 to confirm date, time and place.

- Housing Development Corporation, Board of Directors Meeting, Thursday, January 16, 1992, WCCAO Hillsboro Conference Room, 451 S. First, Suite 600; contact Diane Hess, 642-3236, to confirm date, time and place and for additional information.

- Oregon Housing Now Coalition Workshop on Tenant Rights & Responsibilities; Thursday, January 23, 1992; 7:00 PM Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Portland; call 288-0317 for details.

- 6th Annual Mardi Gras to benefit WCCAO; featuring auctions, dinner, Stumptown Jazz Band; Valley Conference Center, Saturday, February 22, 1992; attendance limited to 250; call 648-6646 for tickets and additional information.

- Head Start Expands Services to serve Gaston - Beginning in January, a new Head Start Center will begin serving 18 three and four year old children and their families; funded by the State Department of Education and made possible through cooperation of WCCAO and the Gaston School District. ❖

## Give a gift and save

As we approach the Holidays, traditions help create a desire in us to make a special gift. It's no accident that our federal government has chosen to encourage those traditions by rewarding charitable giving through a tax deduction allowance for any gifts made to a qualifying organization before December 31st. Those gifts can significantly impact WCCAO's work in the coming months but can also result in a gift for you when it's time to pay your taxes.

Your gift may take one or more forms. Cash is the most common way to make a gift, and, for example, if you are in the 28% marginal tax bracket, your gift of \$2,000 could save you \$560 in taxes. You may also want to consider a donation of appreciated securities, stock, or real estate, life insurance, personal property, an annuity trust or a unitrust.

Each one of the alternatives to cash as a gift have varying tax advantages. Contact your financial advisor for more information or call WCCAO's Resource Development Director at 648-6646. ❖

### Washington County Community Action Organization

451 S. First, Suite 700  
Hillsboro, OR 97123  
(503) 648-6646

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HILLSBORO, OR  
PERMIT NO. 129

### WCCAO Executive Committee:

Sherry Robinson, Chair  
Mayor Shirley Huffman, Vice Chair  
Jose Jaimé, Secretary  
Russ Wilkinson, Treasurer  
Mayor Clifford Clark At Large  
Gale Patterson, At Large

Please return this section of ACTION NEWS (including label) if you:

- have moved (please indicate new address on label)
- are receiving more copies than you need (indicate preferred name and mailing address on label)
- would like to have your name removed from mailing list