



Shelter Provides Hope for a Brighter Tomorrow

Although it may seem unthinkable to have children without a place to call home, it happens everyday, right here in Washington County. Linda Moore*, a Hillsboro resident, knows this all too well because last year she and her three children became homeless. Linda never thought that she would end up homeless, but when the domestic violence in her home escalated, she knew that she had to leave. Because Linda was new to the neighborhood, she had no friends or safe relatives to turn to for help. Linda was at a loss. To complicate matters even further, Linda was diagnosed with Lupus, an autoimmune disorder that causes intense pain and affects various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood, and kidneys. Linda felt that she had hit rock bottom until she discovered that Community Action could help.

“It was like a big burden was lifted. We felt warm, safe, and happier than we had felt in a long time.”

Community Action understands that everybody needs help from time to time and welcomed Linda with open arms. “It was amazing the sense of relief that the children and I felt once we arrived at Community Action’s Hillsboro family shelter. It was like a big burden was lifted. We felt warm, safe, and happier than we had felt in a long time,” remembers Linda. By accessing resources made available by Community Action, Linda was able to apply for jobs, start looking for apartments, and receive encouragement and guidance from shelter staff. She was

also able to apply to HopeSpring, a partnership program of Community Action for single women and their children who have been affected by domestic violence or substance abuse. HopeSpring provided Linda with extensive support services and various educational classes to help her get back on her feet.

Today, Linda has her own apartment, works two part time jobs adding up to over 40 hours a week, and cares for her children. “Community Action really helped my family. I don’t know where we would be without them. The staff at the shelter encouraged me to apply for jobs, helped build my confidence, and showed me hope for a better tomorrow.” Looking back, Linda feels pride as she thinks about how hard she has worked to get where she is today. “I’m glad that I took that step to leave a bad situation in order to find something better for my family,” she says.

Community Action’s shelter was established in 1975 in response to the growing number of homeless children and their parents. Of the 300 people the shelter serves annually, 59% of them are children. According to Becky Smith, manager of homeless services at Community Action, one of the primary causes of homelessness is lack of social support; many families have no one to turn to in a financial crisis. “We all have times in our lives when we need support systems. Unfortunately, the people we see at our shelter don’t have that support. They have no one to turn to in hard times. This is particularly true of women who have



Community Action’s Hillsboro Family Shelter.

experienced domestic violence and have limited resources.”

Every year in the United States, between 2.5 and 3.5 million people experience homelessness. About half of that homeless population are families with children. In Washington County, 162 families a night are without a home. Nevertheless, most families do not stay homeless for very long, thanks to support programs such as Community Action’s Family Shelter.

** Name changed to protect confidentiality.*



Save the Date!

Community Action’s
6th Annual
“Celebration of Community
Spirit Dinner”

Thursday, May 1, 2003

The Greenwood Inn

& kicking off our

8th Annual Wine Raffle

For more information, call
503.693.3255

Please mark your calendar.



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director



Dick Stenson
Board Chair

A Letter to Our Friends—

Fiscal year 2001-2002 was a year to remember. A global recession was felt strongly by those of us living and working in the Pacific Northwest. Oregon led the nation in unemployment and ranked number one in “food insecurity,” a measurement indicating that far too many children here were going to bed hungry. And the tragedy of those lost in the terrorist attack in New York shook Americans from coast to coast.

“What good could come from these series of events?” many of us asked ourselves. As if to answer our own question, members of the Washington County community gathered at our places of worship, with our civic groups, at our work, and within our extended families to do what we do best in trying times: help people and change lives.

Community Action, in partnership with the community, has been helping people and changing lives for nearly 40 years. During this difficult year, our community responded to the needs of our local, low-income families (many facing financial crisis for the first time in their lives) with unprecedented support and compassion.

The significantly increased community support we received last year was not entirely unexpected: many of our friends and donors have been with us from our start in the mid-60s and have worked with us through four decades of prosperous and trying economic times.

This support made the year a success. Major accomplishments include:

- Community Action’s energy assistance program prevented 7,674 households from losing their heat, nearly four times as many families as in previous years.
- \$202,000 in gifts and pledges was contributed to Community Action from caring donors during two new fundraising events. A total of \$913,741 in private support was donated to compliment public grants and provide more financial flexibility to Community Action.
- The newly remodeled Hillsboro Child Development Center opened to accommodate Early Head Start. The program welcomed children birth through 5 years of age.

Compassion, community and civic pride could not have been expressed any better. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Community Action Opens in King City



Ribbon cutting ceremony at Community Action East in King City.

Community Action opened an East County office in King City. Services include maternity outreach and pregnancy support as well as energy assistance and housing stabilization.



Community Action Wine Raffle News

Gunawan Murhadi of Gaston was the grand prize winner of Community Action’s 7th Annual Wine Raffle. Gunawan received six cases of premium wine courtesy of the Wineries of Washington County. Others who received three cases of wine each are Janet Young of Portland, Nancy Kraft of Vancouver, and Sheryl O’Neil-Nobles of Hillsboro.

The Wineries of Washington County have sponsored Community Action’s wine raffle for 7 years. In 2002 the raffle raised over \$6,000 for programs that serve low-income people living in Washington County. Over \$90,000 has been raised since the first raffle drawing was held in 1995.

Wineries that participate in the annual event are Beran Vineyards, Ponzi Vineyards, Cooper Mountain Vineyards, Helvetia Winery, Montinore Winery, Oak Knoll Winery,



Wine Raffle 2002 winner, Gunawan Murhadi

Tualatin Estates Vineyards, and David Hill Winery. Many of these wineries sold raffle tickets for Community Action in their tasting rooms.

The 8th annual Wine Raffle will kick off on May 1, 2003 at the Celebration of Community Spirit Dinner.



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Local Heroes Support Community Action Programs



Head Start children enjoyed the holidays.

Year after year, Community Action has the opportunity to partner with businesses, community groups, and individuals to help make the holiday season brighter for the children and families participating in our programs. From October through early January, holiday giving was at an all time high.

A group of employees from **Intel** exceeded all expectations, and hand-made the most beautiful matching glove and hat sets helping to keep 80 low-income children warm during the cold winter months. **Merix Corporation**, a long time partner and supporter of A Kid's Domain, adopted a Community Action program in Gaston to support the children enrolled in the full day/full year program. Employees from **Synopsis** were very generous this year, adopting every family staying at the Hillsboro Family Homeless Shelter during the holidays. They provided gifts of toys, clothing, and food for each family member. **Nike Consumer Affairs** group adopted two Community Action Head Start classrooms for the holidays. **Columbia Community Bank** hosted a giving tree to benefit the Beaver Acres Head Start classrooms. The bank has supported the children of Community Action for several years in a variety of ways. **Landmark Ford** and **Dick's McKenzie Ford** provided low-income children with gifts

for the holidays. The **Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce** donated \$5,000 from their Community Airshow Fund to help Hillsboro families heat their homes. **Providence St. Vincent Hospital** collected supplies for our Hillsboro Family Homeless Shelter donating clothing, toys, and personal care items. Two wonderful community volunteers, **Linda Herbert** and **Terrie Service, of Home Depot**, showed real leadership when they single handedly organized businesses and individuals to help build playhouses for children. The project coined "Project Reading Room" was a success and now several Head Start and A



A Head Start student proudly displays his new hat and mittens hand made by Intel employees.

Kid's Domain classrooms are enjoying a playhouse. **Kaiser**, a first time holiday donor, collected toys and classroom supplies for a Head Start classroom in Aloha while employees from the **Idea Factory** purchased school and art supplies for the children enrolled in the Head Start class at Metzger. **South Mist Pipeline**, a project of **NW Natural**, adopted two Head Start classes for the holidays donating school and art supplies. Community Action worked in partnership with **Reliable Transmission** to collect food, clothing, and cash donations for Community Action's family homeless shelter. The **Transportation Association of Portland** gave a cash donation of \$500.00. Employees from **First**

Consumer's National Bank organized a large toy drive collecting gifts for low-income children enrolled in Community Action Head Start classrooms.

Other groups that helped to spread holiday cheer include:

- Haven Montessori School
- Kiwanis Club of Cedar Hills
- La De Sorrell Day Spa
- Oregon Episcopal School
- Real Life Christian Church
- Star Fish Mariners
- TIC Industrial Companies
- The Oregon Employment Dept.
- The Westlake Branch of the LDS church

Thank you to all of our holiday donors and best wishes for the upcoming year!



Community Action Receives \$117,000 from Intel

Community Action was highlighted as Intel's charity of choice for this year's 2002 Employee Giving Campaign which resulted in a \$117,000 gift. For every dollar pledged by an Intel employee, the Intel Foundation matched it dollar for dollar. Community Action wasn't the only one who benefited: the match had a positive impact on Hillsboro, Washington County schools, and several local nonprofit organizations.

Cindi MacDonald, who helped coordinate the effort at Intel, hopes that other businesses will follow Intel's policy decision and implement an employee-gift-matching program that will benefit the community.

The donation will be used to support the programs and services of Community Action. Thank you Intel and Intel employees!



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Community Action
Wishes to thank all our sponsors
for contributing to the success of
the 2002
*Celebration of
Community Spirit Dinner*



**CONGRATULATIONS TO
COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

Portland General Electric - Outstanding Business Partner
(Peggy Fowler, CEO, pictured left)
Steve Clark - Outstanding Business Leader
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