

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION NEWS

Spring, 1989

WCCAO helps launch Neighborshare-- a community coalition comes of age

February 14th has long been a day that symbolizes love. What better day to celebrate the opening of Neighborshare, a coalition of churches and civic groups in the Tigard, Tualatin and Sherwood areas that joined with WCCAO to help those in need? A better symbol of love would be difficult to find.

Neighborshare, as yet unnamed, was conceived over three years ago, in October, 1986, when the Hunger and Poverty Committee at Tigard's St. Anthony's Catholic Church concluded that there was "an urgent need to respond more effectively to the needs" in their community. They further concluded that they could not even begin to solve the problems on their own--that together with other organizations in the Tigard, Tualatin and Sherwood areas, they could hope to start making a difference.

In February, 1987, representatives from churches in Tualatin, Sherwood and Tigard responded to the challenge, met to discuss concerns and problems in meeting the needs of the poor, and reached the consensus that a coordination of services would be the most efficient and effective way of meeting those needs.

A task force was formed as a result of the February, 1987 consensus. Members met several times to establish Neighborshare's name, mission and organizational structure. Eventually, the group realized the need to align with a compatible local non-profit that could bring Neighborshare to life. Out of the three agencies considered, WCCAO was regarded as the most appropriate and was asked to join in at subsequent work sessions. The WCCAO Board took formal action in July, 1988 to adopt Neighborshare as a satellite office. Neighborshare officially opened

its doors in November 1988, staffed by a part-time coordinator, Carla Tungwenuk, and supported by a host of volunteers from member organizations.

WCCAO provides training, technical assistance, supervision and management support. Local churches and civic organizations help by providing volunteers, financial support and donations



Celebrating the launching of Neighborshare are (left to right) Durine Meurisse, Carla Tungwenuk, Karen Conner, Mayor Jerry Edwards, Jerralynn Ness, Tom Brown, Kathleen Hartshorne, Cheryl Hilbert and Donna Jarvis.

So, what makes Neighborshare so special? In the words of Molly Fowler, former Chair of the Neighborshare Task Force, Neighborshare is an "innovative approach to delivering human services. This private and voluntary sector initiative makes sense in these times of declining resources and increasing human needs.

The terms "collaboration", "cooperation" and "pooling resources" that are used to describe how Neighborshare works, make it special and unique.

of needed items. The community is provided with a service center that can respond to requests for help in a manner that builds self-sufficiency.

The skeptics said it could not be done. The skeptics have been proven wrong. It can be done. It has been done. Hopefully, it will be done again and again in communities all over the country. Neighborshare is a working model of what imagination, determination, a clear sense of priorities and a

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Board Chair's Message

Jim Sehon

WCCAO Board plans sessions to improve resources management

WCCAO Board members have cleared their calendars in preparation for a number of activities this Spring. On April 8, there will be a joint board and staff all-day planning retreat. There, participants will review and update WCCAO's five year strategic plan and set goals and objectives for the next twelve months.

At the April board meeting, members will have a follow-up session to the United Way Boardwalk Workshops, which they attended last August. United Way's Boardwalk program provides training to non-profit organizations to increase the knowledge and skills of its board members, resulting in an increase in the effectiveness of the overall management of the organization.

The August session focused on assessment of organizational needs to determine the board's needs, style, and preferences. The follow-up session will concentrate on defining the role of board members in the areas of board roles, responsibilities and legal concerns.

These two upcoming events are in-

dicative of WCCAO's trend toward better management of its resources. We continue to undergo self-examination, translating unmet expectations into goals and objectives. We continue to listen to the community, making sure that our planning responds to current needs. At no time in recent history has the challenge been greater nor the opportunities more plentiful.

You Can Help!

***Volunteer Needs:** (contact Virginia or Pam at 648-6646):

- Drivers for TVFC and the Transportation Program.
- Cooks for TVFC and its member agencies.
- Distribution of food and hot meals.
- Planning & construction of playgrounds for Head Start Centers in Cornelius and Hillsboro.

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- Scheduler for the Transportation Program.
- Clerks for the Thrift Store, "Play It Again."
- Receptionists for all sites.
- Data Entry for all sites.
- File Clerks for all sites.
- *Radio for the Weatherization van-Contact Leon at 642-3236.
- *Camera (quality 35 mm with alternate lens capabilities)-Contact Pam at 648-6646.
- *Desktop publishing software-contact Pam at 648-6646.
- *Laser or jet ink printer-contact Pam at 648-6646.
- *Printing of WCCAO's Newsletter and other communication materials-contact Pam at 648-6646.
- *Head Start sites in Beaverton and Tigard. Buildings need to meet commercial code requirements. Contact Cathy or Marilyn at 648-6646.

WCCAO welcomes new employees

The Weatherization Program welcomes Jose Guillen, an OHDC sponsored trainee working with the Weatherization crews and self-help clients.

TVFC welcomes Barbara Freeman, a work study placement through PCC, who is setting up computer programs.

Transportation Program welcomes Esther Garner, a placement through PIC who will be working 20 hours a week.



ACTION NEWS is the quarterly newsletter of the Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO), published by the WCCAO Administration, 245 SE Second, Hillsboro, OR 97123. ACTION NEWS is coordinated by WCCAO staff member Pam Brousseau and is edited and designed by volunteer Stephen W. Smith. (Please inform WCCAO of any address corrections.)

... People Helping People

The Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO) is a private, non-profit corporation providing a wide variety of services to the needy in Washington County, Oregon. Information on WCCAO programs is available from the following individuals:

- WCCAO Administration (Jerralynn Ness, Executive Director) 648-6646
- Client Services Dept. - Intake, Information & Referral 648-0829
- Ceryl Hilbert, Director 648-6646
- Heating Assistance (December - March) 640-8951
- Neighborshare (Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood) 639-0495
- Children and Youth Department (Cathy Wise, Director) 648-6646
- Housing & Energy Conservation Dept. (Leon Laptook, Director) 642-3236
- Hunger & Nutrition Dept. (Val Donley, Director) 642-3236
- Resource Development Dept. (Pam Brousseau, Director) 648-6646
- "Play It Again" Thrift Store 644-8956
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program 648-6646



Executive Director's Message Jerralynn Ness

Thanks for community effort to house homeless migrant workers

I always feel a sense of relief when Spring arrives, bringing with it the beauty of a new season..... the hope of new life. But this year I am especially relieved as we pass through a winter that caught many migrant farmworkers, waiting to obtain legal status, stranded and homeless.

Through the support of Washington County, particularly Charlie Cameron, Alyce McCartor and Marietta Sorenson, WCCAO was able to obtain the resources required to feed, shelter and provide job location assistance to nearly

400 homeless farmworkers and their families. This would not have been possible without the quick and generous responses by the County, the State, United Way and FEMA.

On behalf of the WCCAO Board and staff, I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to our generous donors and to the numerous agencies and volunteers that worked with us to have an effective, coordinated response. As a community, we are indeed much stronger and better prepared for future challenges!

It's Happening!

*The WCCAO Board of Directors meets the third Wednesday of each month at 5:30. Call Pilar (648-6646) for meeting location and confirmation.

*WCCAO will hold it's 1989-90 Planning Retreat on April 8th to establish agency goals and objectives.

*Volunteer Recognition to be held May 25. Keynote speaker, time and place to be announced.

*Fair Housing Workshop, May 23, Cades Restaurant in Hillsboro. A panel of guest speakers will be featured to discuss federal and state laws which prohibit housing discrimination. To register call Donna at 642-3236.

*April 7-Fair Housing Statewide Conference in Portland. WCCAO is a sponsoring agency. Call Donna at 642-3236 for information.

*Brown Bag Distributions:
Beaverton, Tigard, Tualatin-April 14, May 12, June 9.

Hillsboro-April 21, May 19, June 16.
Forest Grove, Cornelius-April 28, May 26, June 30.

*May 8-19: "Let's Bag Hunger" Project; watch for brown bag insert in your local newspaper and donate a bag of canned food; collection at First Interstate Banks.

*Head Start Policy Council meets the second Tuesday of each month. Call Susan (648-6646) for time and place.

*Parenting Classes are held at no charge every Wednesday evening from 7-9 p.m. and every Friday morning from 9-11 a.m. at the Aloha Park Apartments. Child Care is provided. Call 648-0829 for information.

*Head Start is now taking applications for the 1989-90 school year. Children must be 4 years old by September 1. Call 648-0829 to apply, or 639-0495 in Tigard.

WCCAO ends thirteen years of RSVP program sponsorship

WCCAO has operated the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for the past 13 years. It was with careful consideration and some regret that the WCCAO Board of Directors made the decision at their February meeting to relinquish sponsorship of the program. The decision to do so was guided by WCCAO's Strategic Plan, that defines the agency's direction for the next five years.

In January, a site visit to WCCAO's RSVP was made by Tom Joyce and Doug Cameron of ACTION, the federal agency that funds RSVP nationally. Both gentlemen were pleased with the program operations. Mr. Joyce stated that Washington County should easily have 800 active RSVP volunteers. Currently WCCAO has 335 active volunteers.

The WCCAO Board of Directors considered the comments of Mr. Joyce, reviewed the guidelines given by the Strategic Plan and determined that the plan does not support allocation of the funds required to expand RSVP to 800 active volunteers. Therefore, the Board took the action of relinquishing sponsorship of the program.

Until a new sponsor can be identified and equipped to take over RSVP, WCCAO staff will work cooperatively with ACTION to assure as smooth a transition as possible. WCCAO's primary concern is that seniors in Washington County have volunteer opportunities, and that agencies in Washington County have access to the widest range possible of volunteers needed to deliver services.

WCCAO has thoroughly enjoyed working with the hundreds of senior volunteers who have given of their time and talents. We will continue to operate as an RSVP station and offer seniors numerous volunteer opportunities with WCCAO. This change will allow WCCAO to focus its finite funds on delivering services to the poor.

Mardi Gras Ball 1989--an evening to remember!



Neither snow, nor ice nor wintery wind could keep WCCAO supporters and serious partiers home on the night of the Third Annual Mardi Gras Ball. Following a week of record low temperatures, the thermometer rose to a balmy 25 degrees on February 4th, with a chill factor of only -5 degrees.

Donning coats, hats, gloves and, in some cases, long underwear, over 350 people attended the event. The weather outside was soon forgotten, with the help of a delicious Southern cuisine buffet and dancing to the Woody Hite Band. This year's silent auction had better items than ever and a new element, an oral auction, took place before

the band started up. Mardi Gras programs waved frantically in the air as bidders competed for lodging at Mt. Bachelor Village, a pair of 7 x 20 mm



binoculars and a four bird pheasant hunting trip in Eastern Oregon, to name a few.

Once again, this year's Mardi Gras Ball was a tremendous success, largely because of the efforts of a dedicated group of people known as the Mardi Gras Team. This team was directed by Steering Committee Co-Chairs, Nancy Wilcox and Lynda Tatum, and Honorary Chair, Bob Woodell. The team worked long hours to ensure that the event was well organized, enjoyable and earned money to support WCCAO programs. The results of their efforts went beyond all expectations.

Besides the auction item donors, other



donors helped to underwrite the costs of the event, some through purchase of a corporate table, others through discounts on items needed at the event and still others with generous cash donations. To all of you donors, volunteers and the Mardi Gras Team, we say "Thanks for making Mardi Gras 1989 an evening to remember and a major contribution to WCCAO's efforts!!"



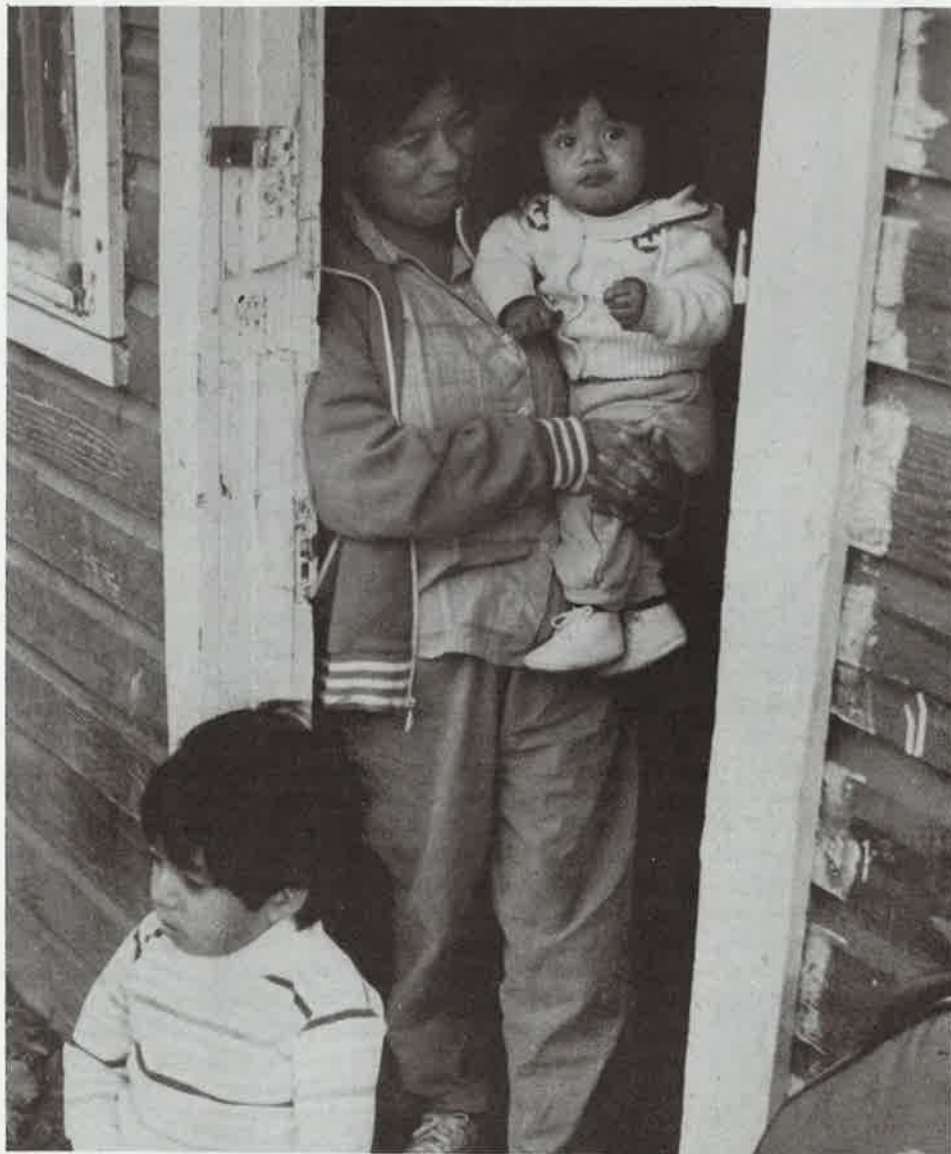
One family's struggle ends in success

- By Albert Quesada -

Eleuterio Salvador, his wife Rosa and their one year old daughter arrived in Hillsboro from Mexico in November, 1988. Unable to find housing, the family stayed with friends and acquaintances. Eleuterio was only able to get a temporary job making wreaths until December 10th. Unable to continue staying at others' homes and unemployed, the Salvador family came to WCCAO for assistance on December 19. Since they were a migrant farm worker family and homeless, the Salvadors were eligible for housing at the Elm Park Apartments, a project of the Housing Development Corporation. WCCAO made the arrangements and Eleuterio and his family moved on the same day. WCCAO also assisted them in acquiring food and clothing provided by local agencies.

Mr. Salvador continued to only find temporary jobs in nursery work that were not adequate to meet his family's basic needs. Lack of experience and lack of English skills made it difficult for him to get a permanent job.

Through WCCAO's case management efforts Mr. Salvador was referred to a job in St. Helens at a Deer Island stock ranch. Along with a monthly salary, the Salvador family now receives housing, utilities and meat through Mr. Salvador's employer as part of his employment. Eleuterio is now learning to care for sheep and is able to provide shelter and other necessities for his family.



Homeless farmworkers are provided shelter

In early November, WCCAO worked closely with a number of individuals and organizations to formulate a positive response to the impending homelessness of many farmworkers who found themselves without resources and stranded. Many had used up all of their money to file for legal status. Others were waiting for their appointments with Immigration and Naturalization Services. Some did not have enough money to return home with their families and were forced to settle here for the winter. And others simply were

afraid to move on as their hopes for a better life rested with the employment they sought in Washington County.

After exploring numerous options, WCCAO, in partnership with Washington County, and in coordination with Centro Cultural, Rural Worker's Association, the Housing Development Corporation, CASA, Legal Services and Oregon Human Development Corporation, developed a plan that would provide temporary housing to single men and families, along with a range of support services to promote self-suffi-

ciency. The State FEMA Board approved \$19,470 for Washington County; the County set aside a reserve of \$10,000; the Community Development Block Grant program committed \$9,995 and, finally, on November 30th, when the State approved \$100,000 for Washington County, the project was set in motion. This project included:

1. Establishing heat sources in four bunk house units owned as farm labor housing by a local farmer. These units were set up to temporarily shelter 16

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Corinne Barrett



Lee and Etta Hale (with daughter Beverly)



Carl George

Volunteers--lifeblood to WCCAO

On May 25, 1989, WCCAO will hold a Volunteer Recognition event (time and place to-be-announced), but once a year is not nearly often enough to say "thank you" to WCCAO's many dedicated volunteers. Starting with this edition of ACTION News and continuing as a regular feature article, we will recognize two or three key volunteers with WCCAO, as space allows. We can't do enough to let all of our volunteers know how much they are appreciated! This edition's featured volunteers are Corinne Barrett, Etta and Lee Hale and Carl George. Their stories follow:

Corinne Barrett

On December 28, 1988, Corinne Barrett was sitting in her living room watching T. V. Her attention was caught by a public service announcement that promoted heating assistance for the elderly. With a long winter ahead of her, Corinne made up her mind to get involved helping to reach the elderly that needed this service. She well knew how tight funds can get when someone is on a fixed income with costs rising all around them.

Several phone calls later, Corinne reached Judy Schilling of Washington County Community Action, and when she asked if she could volunteer to help with the heating assistance program, Judy's response was, "Is tomorrow too

soon to begin?" Short staffed due to funding cutbacks, the program was engulfed with requests for help, many involving emergencies. Volunteer help was sorely needed, if only someone could free up enough time to go out and recruit the volunteers. Now here was Corinne--the answer to a prayer!

Corinne spent the first two months with the program working up to six hours a day, five days a week. She spent most of the time telephoning elderly people, confirming their eligibility for the program and telling them what they needed to do with the application that would be mailed to them. Of course, that was not all she did. Some of the people she reached were shut in and terribly lonely. They needed to talk. She responded to their needs by lending a willing ear and giving them information when appropriate.

Besides the telephoning, Corinne did some office clerical work, answered phones and greeted clients. She is still volunteering and has a new project to update the housing resources book, which involves contacting landlords throughout the county. Her time has cut back to two or three days a week, as compared to the five she put in during January and February, and she intends to continue volunteering throughout the year in the Client Services Department of WCCAO.

When asked why she volunteers for

WCCAO, Corinne responded that she feels good that she can "help people in the office keep their sanity and get in touch with lonely people who need to talk."

Etta and Lee Hale

Etta and Lee Hale first heard about WCCAO eight years ago when their daughter started with the Head Start Program. Etta volunteered first in the office of the Tualatin Valley Food Center (TVFC). Lee got involved later with the Brown Bag Program, when it began in January, 1987. Etta joined her husband working for Brown Bag in the Fall of 1988.

Both Etta and Lee volunteer almost every day, putting in at least four hours per day. The office work Etta does consists primarily of typing and answering phones. For the Brown Bag Program, the couple pick up and deliver food and other items for the monthly distributions. They also pick up and deliver bread for food distribution through the regular member agencies.

Etta speaks for both herself and Lee when she says, "We both do this because it's a worthwhile thing to do. The program greatly benefits the community. We feel good about helping people and also not seeing food go to waste when there are people that need it." Etta confessed that she and Lee tell

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Volunteers--lifeblood to WCCAO (cont'd.)

everyone in the community that this service is available.

Carl George

Retiring six years ago from the Social Security Administration, Carl George decided that being a volunteer was part of the way he wanted to spend his well-earned "time off." He had already been serving on the Board of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) for several years, because he believed strongly in the benefits of volunteerism for his clients receiving Social Security. He also saw the benefit for himself. His first volunteer assignment was to deliver food to shut-ins, a program offered by WCCAO's Tualatin Valley Food Center. He later got involved with

transporting seniors to medical appointments and disabled people to their jobs. He continued serving on the RSVP Advisory Board and actually helped draft the proposal for the Special Transportation Program operated by WCCAO. As a result, he also currently serves on Tri-Met's Committee for Accessible Transportation.

Carl is not volunteering with any WCCAO programs at this time but is still actively involved in serving seniors--this time through the Aging Council Conservatorship Committee, where he is responsible for providing complete financial management for needy seniors. Will he ever quit? We hope not!

Homeless (cont'd.)

single men in each or 64 total. WCCAO contracted with the Rural Workers Association who managed this housing and provided case management services to help the men locate work and permanent housing. On December 13th, 1988, the first residents moved into the camp. A total of 72 individuals were served with a total of 2,532 bed nights.

2. Establishing a contract with the Housing Development Corporation to utilize 14 apartment units at Elm Park, in Forest Grove, to temporarily shelter homeless farmworker families. WCCAO provided case management services to help these families become self-sufficient. The first family moved in December 12. Fourteen families were served by the project. This included 66 individuals and a total of 4,500 bed nights.

3. Identifying additional housing needs and appropriate resources to avoid homelessness. This included placing people in motels, apartments and resident homes to help them transition to housing they could afford. 97 individuals were placed in motels for a total of 999 bed nights.

4. Meeting the emergency hunger needs by purchasing bulk quantities of food and distributing it to programs serving farm workers. This is being coordinated by the Tualatin Valley Food Center with the involvement of St. Alexander's Church, Centro Cultural, Housing Services, and the Salvation Army.

This Spring a forum will be held (time and place to be announced) to review this year's project. Participants in the forum will have a chance to voice opinions about what worked well and what improvements could be made. This information will guide us in our planning for the coming season.

This project would not be possible without the support of the community in terms of volunteers and numerous donations, as well as the special efforts of Mayor Clifford Clark and Senator Jeanette Hamby. WCCAO is very grateful to be a part of a collaborative effort with the local community, the County and the state to bring about real solutions to the plight of our homeless farmworkers. Many thanks to all!

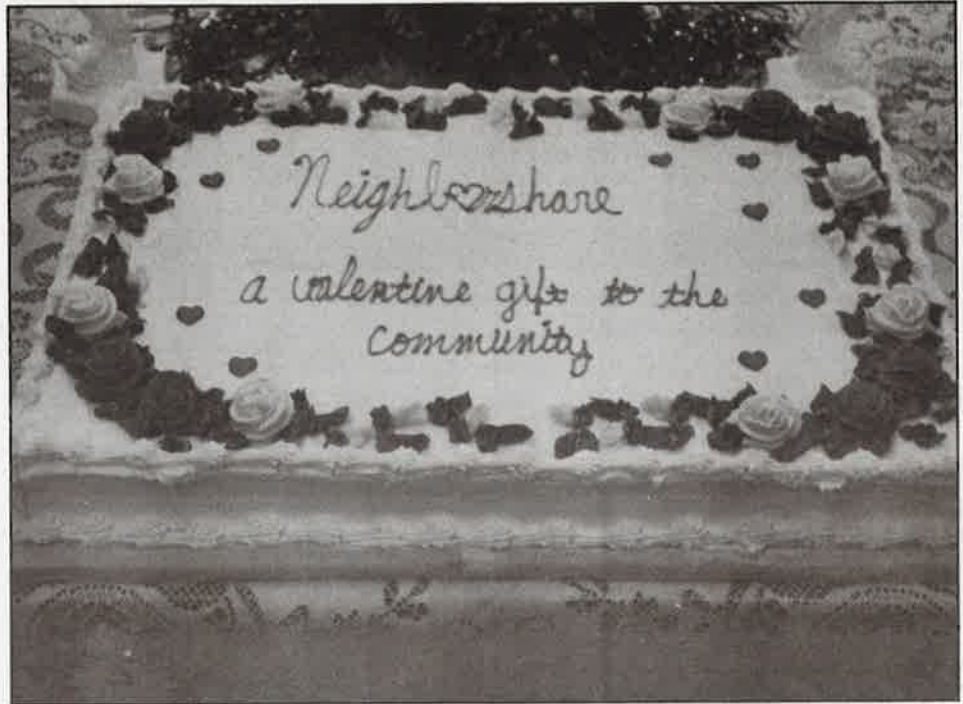
Neighborshare-- coalition comes of age (cont'd.)

sincere love for mankind can create.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous contributions that made Neighborshare a reality. Besides the task force members that joined together representing the many churches in the Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood and Wilsonville areas, the following list names other major contributors:

Tigard Christian Ministry
 Sherwood, Tualatin & Wilsonville S.T.W.
 Christian Action Coalition
 The City of Tigard
 Conrad Pearson & Associates
 St. Vincent de Paul
 Tigard Fish
 Graphic Expressions
 Connie Cho
 Graphic Designs
 Wilsonville Caring & Sharing

Thanks to all of you!



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