
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION NEWS

Volume 1 Number 3

Winter, 1987

Mardi Gras Ball – Great Fun, Great Cause!

This year, you won't need to go to New Orleans to celebrate Mardi Gras -- WCCAO's bringing it here to Washington County in the form of its first gala fundraiser on February 28, 1987!

Loehmann's Plaza will be the site of the Mardi Gras Ball, where hundreds of revellers will be masked and costumed in grand Mardi Gras style. Beginning at 8 p.m., they'll be treated to a scrumptious buffet catered by the Cajun Cafe, kick up their heels to Dixieland by the Portland Rose Dixieland Jazz Band, and bid on an array of valuable items during a silent auction.

Tickets to the event are \$25 each, a portion of which is tax deductible. For ticket orders and information, please call Ticket Committee Chairman Bruce Ruminski at 643-5454.

Planning for the event is in full swing by an enthused Steering Committee, led by Honorary Chair Gary Conkling and Committee Chair Karen Jones Whittle.

A Mardi Gras Team, composed of over 30 volunteers (and two WCCAO staffers) is working to make sure the spirit of Mardi Gras -- which is colorful, fun, and festive -- is carried out in everything from the tickets to the table settings.

The concept of a major WCCAO fundraiser was endorsed by the Board several months ago. Since its inception, the idea of the Mardi Gras Ball has been a popular one, due to its unique possibilities for food, decorations, and dancing.

Several major donations of goods, services, and funds to assist with the



Mardi Gras Ball have been made, allowing more of the ticket sales proceeds to directly benefit WCCAO programs. These donations are gratefully acknowledged and all donors will be honored in the next WCCAO NEWS.

So, if you'd like to get rid of those mid-winter blues by listening to some lively Dixieland, dressing up in an outrageous costume (or black tie optional), and enjoying the best Jambalaya north of New Orleans -- join us at the Mardi Gras Ball on February 28!



Volunteer Center Seeks Recyclables

"We still need you!" The Recycling Project is alive, well and growing at the Washington County Volunteer Center. We want your glass, newspaper, cardboard and plants or plant cuttings, seeds and bulbs. All proceeds from taking recyclables to market will go to the support of the Volunteer Center. Plant and plant product revenues also benefit the Center. We also need your "fresh" ideas. If you can help by giving us your recyclables or by donating time as a volunteer, please call the Washington County Volunteer Center at 642-3236 and ask for the Recycling Project. Volunteers are needed for tasks including sorting, stacking, phone work and to serve on the Recycling Advisory Board.

"Give your Trash new life..... Recycle!"

Auction items for the Mardi Gras Ball's silent auction are being sought. If you have an item you think may be a successful auction item, call Pilar Kleier at 648-6646.

The WCCAO Administration Office needs volunteer receptionists and clerical help. Call Pilar Kleier at 648-6646.

The Tualatin Valley Food Center needs volunteers for:

- Warehouse assistance;
- Picking up donated foods (drivers);
- Helping plan March food drive events;
- Distributing USDA food commodities;
- Clerical assistance.

Call TVFC at 642-3236 if you can help.

The Emergency Shelter Home needs the following items:

- Towels;
- Blankets;
- Personal hygiene items;
- Microwave oven.

Call the Shelter Home at 648-0829 if you can provide any of these items.

WCCAO to Manage Fair Housing Grant

WCCAO recently received a grant from the County's Office of Community Development to conduct a Fair Housing Program for Washington County. The funding will enable WCCAO to conduct activities supporting non-discrimination and equal opportunity in housing through June 30, 1987. This program will be based at the Shelter and Emergency Services offices

at 210 SE 12th, Hillsboro.

Area landlords seeking information about the program or individuals who feel they have been victims of discrimination in the purchase or rental of housing are encouraged to contact the program's Fair Housing Counselor, Donna Butler, at 648-0829.

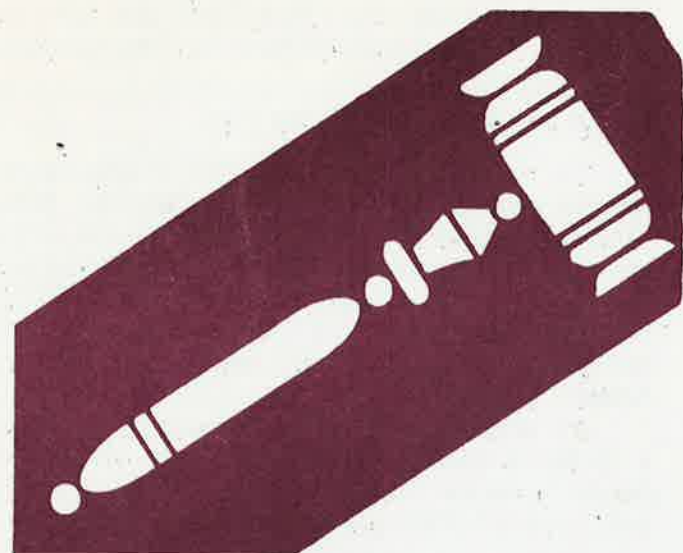


The Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO) is a private, non-profit corporation, providing a wide variety of services to the needy in Washington County, Oregon. Information on WCCAO programs is available from the following individuals:

- WCCAO Administration (Jerralynn Ness, Exec. Dir.)...648-6646
- Energy Program (Pam Banks, Director).....640-8811
- Heating Assistance (December through March).....640-8951
- Youth Employment Program (Saul Shapiro, Director)...648-6646
- Head Start Program (Cathy Wise, Director).....648-6646
- Volunteer Center (Linda Davis, Director).....642-3236
- Shelter & Housing Services (Cheryl Hilbert, Dir.)...648-0820
- Paralegal Assistance.....648-0513

Annual Meeting Honors Volunteers, Board

Representative Al Young passed the gavel to Ms. Shirley Harper in November as he stepped down as the Chair of the WCCAO Board of Directors. He will re-



main on the Board, serving as Treasurer and Chair to the Finance Committee.

Other officers elected to the Board at the WCCAO's Annual Meeting include Jim Sehon, Vice Chair; Nancy Monroe, Secretary; and Joan Johnson and Jerry Arnold, At Large.

Mr. Young presided over the November Annual meeting, which included a dinner program at the new Tuality Health Education Facility. The Anson Wright Jazz Ensemble provided music during the event. Executive Director Jerralynn

Ness presented WCCAO's Annual Report, highlighting the accomplishments of the Head Start, Youth Employment, Energy, Housing, and Volunteer Programs.

Outgoing Board members, Denzil Scheller, contractor; Gib Paterson, former Forest Grove Mayor; and Bill Buskirk, former President of the Washington County Public Affairs Forum, were thanked for their contributions and support. Mr. Buskirk has been instrumental in building the Tualatin Valley Food Center into an effective and successful food bank. Denzil Scheller has actively participated on the Board, serving as Chair for two years, and Treasurer.

Special tributes were made to a handful of volunteers, including Meg Kenagy and Nancy Phillips for producing WCCAO's Annual Report; Nancy Wilcox and Stephen Smith for producing WCCAO's quarterly newsletter; Jerry Arnold and Lynda Danielson for their numerous personal contributions as well as gaining corporate support from PGE; and "Grandma" Ethel Birney, who, at age 94, volunteers at Head Start. She was accompanied by two Head Start children, Amy and Melissa Atkins.

New members welcomed by Mr. Young to the WCCAO Board included Mayor Luanne Thielke of Tualatin, Kong Chhit, and Yolanda Alonzo.

Food Donations Crucial After Holiday Rush

The holiday rush is over, and things are quieting down at Tualatin Valley Food Center. However, just because Christmas has passed, it doesn't mean the Food Center's job is finished!

The winter months at the start of each new year are a time of critical need for low-income families. After Thanksgiving and Christmas, our canned food supplies are completely diminished. Member agencies which receive food from us depend on canned food as a primary item for their emergency food box programs.

Donations of canned food are always gratefully accepted by TVFC, but the need has never been as great as it is

now. We need canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats such as tuna fish and Spam, and items like peanut butter and pasta. These staples provide an excellent source of protein for emergency food boxes.

If you are interested in either holding a canned food drive or having a barrel for food donations placed at your place of business or church, please call TVFC at 642-3236. We also welcome any individual donations that are dropped off at the Food Center.

Your help in collecting canned food can make a significant difference for hungry people in Washington County this winter.

1985-86 in Review:

Annual Report Shows Thousands H

WCCAO has published its 1985-86 Annual Report, outlining accomplishments in all program areas. The Report was produced by two volunteers, Meg Kenagy and Nancy Phillips.

Following is a brief recap of some of the highlights of the Report:

During the past year, WCCAO programs utilized over 68,500 volunteer hours and employed 140 staff members at eight locations, to provide a variety of human services to disadvantaged residents of Washington County.

Educating Young Children

Head Start, a program for low-income and handicapped children and their families, provided 167 children (age 4) with pre-school education, health care, and social services. Speech therapy was provided to 40 of these children, 157 received dental exams, and 160 received physical exams.

Providing Energy Assistance

The Energy Program weatherized 120 homes, taught 116 low-income families self-help weatherization measures, provided energy conservation information to 4,380 families, and provided heating assistance to 4,144 eligible households.

Helping Youth Gain Experience

In its Youth Employment Program, WCCAO was responsible, through contracts with the Multnomah-Washington Private Industry Council, for coordinating the provision of employment, training, and alternative education services to disadvantaged youth, ages 14 through 21. Throughout this cooperative effort, 818 youth gained valuable experience and education opportunities that will help them develop into productive, skilled young adults, able to obtain and maintain gainful employment.

Keeping Retired Citizens Productive

At the Volunteer Center in Aloha, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program provided meaningful job opportunities to 310 retired people to prevent their isolation and the waste of their valuable

talents. These volunteers, in turn, gave nearly 44,000 hours of service to 65 community organizations in Washington County.

Food Distributed to 57,000

Last year, 15% of all Oregonians needed emergency food, according to findings released by Oregon Food Share. In Washington County, the Tualatin Valley Food Center helped feed over 57,000 hungry residents by distributing 1.5 million pounds of salvagable food to member agencies.

In addition, the TVFC made Christmas a more joyous season for nearly 8,000 needy people through coordinating the delivery of food and gift boxes.

Volunteering in the Community

WCCAO coordinated the placement of 12 VISTA volunteers, who signed up for a

Shelter Helps Family M

This family represents hundreds of homeless sheltered by WCCAO in 1986:

"After losing our home, my wife and children and I had no place to go. Things had seemed bad enough when I was laid off from my job. I worked for that company for 10 years, but that didn't seem to count for anything. All we had left were our belongings and our old car. We slept and lived in that car for nearly three weeks.

"We mostly ate peanut butter and bread as we could afford no more and didn't have use of a refrigerator or stove anyway.

"Each day I looked for work, but with my appearance, no one would hire me. How could I explain to the employers that I couldn't shower or shave or even wash and iron my clothes, as my family and I were living in a car?

"Employers have to be able to contact you. They need an address. We were at our wits end.

"At night, it would get so cold and my little one-year-old, Jenny, would keep crying and crying. Sometimes the

Helped by WCCAO

year of service to work on community projects addressing human services needs while experiencing poverty first-hand.

Sheltering, Relocating the Homeless

The Housing and Emergency Services program provided shelter, emergency services, and assistance in obtaining permanent housing and employment to homeless families (representing 647 individuals) at the family shelter home. Over 5,300 other individuals received a range of services to prevent homelessness and help with basic emergency needs. The program also sub-contracts with six other community organizations to provide a range of housing services in an efficient, coordinated manner, thus avoiding duplication and increasing the variety of services available.

Fresh Start

Rain beating down would lull her to sleep. Her cold kept worsening, but we couldn't afford to take her to a doctor. My wife would hold her and rock her, telling her to hush, and that it would be okay . . . All I could think of was when? -- And, how?

"At the Employment Office, I met someone who told me about the WCCAO Family Shelter Home. I got the phone number and called. A counselor told us to come over, and I thank God they had the room to take us in that day.

"The staff provided us with food, blankets, and a warm, safe room to sleep in. We were also given referrals for employment, housing, and medical needs. The family atmosphere, the staff, and the other residents made us feel welcome.

"I was able to get a job and with my first paycheck we were able to move into a small apartment and finally begin living normal lives again.

"We are very grateful for having found a place like the shelter that is there to help those that are really in need."



Head Start

Policy Council Elected

The Head Start Policy Council elected officers for the 1986-87 school year at the November Council Meeting. John Vazquez, a parent of a child enrolled in the Sunset Center, was elected Chair. John had a child in the program two years ago, as well, and he is committed to strengthening the role of the Policy Council and increasing the understanding of individual members' responsibilities.

Melinda Sanfilippo was elected Vice-Chair. Melinda was involved in the program last year and has her second child enrolled this year at the Hillsboro Center. She shares John's commitment and enthusiasm.

Karla Glover and Cindy Schmelzer will represent Washington County Head Start Parent's Association meetings, which are held quarterly. Beth Jennings and John Vazquez will serve as alternates.



Washington County Community Action Organization extends a heartfelt thanks to the following individuals for their caring and generous support between July and November, 1986:

PATRONS

Presbytery of the Cascades
Christ United Methodist Church
Valley Community Presbyterian Church
Women's Service Guild
Tualatin Plains Presbyterian Church

(continued on page 6)



Board Chair's Message

Shirley Harper

Streamlining May Allow Better Service Delivery

Dear Friends:

Sometimes, in our efforts to create change and improve our services, we neglect some things that are very close to home. The things I have in mind relate to our internal practices and policies -- the ones that should keep us on track organizationally and, when properly structured, allow us to concentrate most of our efforts on improving services to the community.

This year, I would like to see the WCCAO Board of Directors review the internal policies and practices, with the effort oriented to streamlining and simplifying the way we run our organization.

Another of the high-priority items is to have an in-depth evaluation of the services that we are providing. There is no question that we're doing a lot of good things, but we can probably do more once we clearly understand whom we are reaching -- and whom we are not reaching.

The third major item on the agenda is to continue the long-range planning process.

I look forward to working with the WCCAO Board in the next year on these major tasks.

Shirley Harper, Chair
WCCAO Board of Directors

WCCAO gives thanks

(continued from page 5)

SPONSORS

Anonymous
E.M.M. Northwest Harvest
G.T.E. Employees

SUPPORTERS

Mr. & Mrs. V.D. Young
Anne Laerman
Marsha Green
Dan J. & Shirley Harper
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Ann E. Davis
Rex & Re Fairburn
Mrs. J.R. Kenyon
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Community Church/Cedar Hills
United Church of Christ
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Orenco United Presbyterian Church
United Methodist Women
David & Sylvia Kan
Lyle & Lucille Cobb
David Pindell
Bethany Presbyterian Church
Shirley Harper

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Evergreen Christian Center
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Oliviene Serensen
Larry Cole
Nancy Wilcox
Luanne Thielke
Susan Buckles
Jerry Arnold
Joan Johnson
Everett Anderson

Mardi Gras Ball!

Loehmann's Plaza, February 28, 1987

8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

Dixieland Jazz, Cajun Buffet Featured





Executive Director's Message

Jerralynn Ness

Volunteers, Fundraising Increase in '85-'86

"Fairness in motion" was one way WCCAO was described during the celebration of its 20 years of service to our community.

On the springboard of these words, and these years, WCCAO has renewed its commitment to our community and endeavored to reach still further.

During the past year, we have made an effort to communicate to the people of Washington County who we are, what we do, and why we do it. Government resources for human services have become scarcer and we have sought increased local support to assure our disadvantaged neighbors a life of dignity and self-worth.

We recognize that broad support and involvement are essential to our work and, for that reason, have increased our volunteer recruitment and placement efforts. As a result, over 68,000 volunteer hours were contributed last year. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program alone grew from 118 to 310 active volunteers. Our volunteers also produce this quarterly newsletter, which reaches 5,000 residents of Washington County.

Fundraising is an ongoing project and the WCCAO Board this year made two decisions to insure our future success. We began a direct mail appeals project and have plans on the drawing board for an annual gala fundraiser (see cover story). This event -- a Mardi Gras Ball -- will be held February 28, 1987.

For the success of the programs we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the members of the WCCAO Board, employees of WCCAO, and our numerous, but individually unique, volunteers.

Thank you! Together, we will realize our collective vision of something better.

It's Happening

Project Second Wind Slated for March

A lot is happening at WCCAO -- here are some brief notes about things that may be of interest during January, February, and March, 1987:

USDA Food Commodities Distribution, January 15 and March 19, Tualatin Valley Food Center. Homebound deliveries: January 19 and March 23.

Project Second Wind Food Drive with Washington County students and church youth groups, first week in March. Also in March, "Let's Bag Hunger" and "Hunger Awareness Month."

Mardi Gras Ball, February 28. Gala event to raise funds for WCCAO programs. Cajun Buffet, dancing to Dixieland Jazz and a silent auction. See cover story.

WCCAO Board Meetings, January 14 and February 11, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Call Pilar Kleier, 648-6646, to confirm location.

Head Start Policy Council Meetings, second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Call Head Start at 648-6646 to confirm location.

The Washington County Community Action Organization Newsletter is published quarterly by the WCCAO Administration, 245 SW Second, Hillsboro, OR 97123.

Newsletter Coordinators: Pilar Kleier (Staff), Nancy Wilcox and Stephen Smith (Volunteers). Printing Donated.

Suggestions and comments are welcomed and can be directed to Pilar Kleier at the above address.

Workshops Show Energy- Saving Skills

A mobile home in the fields north of Banks seemed the perfect retreat from the growing suburbs for Melvin and Betty Letteer, perfect until winter rains and cold left them shivering and paying high fuel bills. Like many other moderate income families, the Letteers' basic needs and medical bills, coupled with high fuel bills, left no money for savings or home improvements.

This fall, Betty Letteer read a notice in the newspaper for a Self-Help Energy Conservation Workshop sponsored by WCCAO's Energy Program. The workshop offered both materials and know-how for weatherization.

The Letteers attended a two hour workshop in Forest Grove and learned the basics of home weatherization. They discovered that they were eligible for up to fifty dollars worth of basic materials such as caulk, weatherstripping, window glass, and furnace air filters. Hands-on instruction in the use of basic materials and an information packet pre-

pared the Letteers to tackle their own home weatherization program.

The Self-Help Energy Conservation Workshop should enable the Letteers to save ten percent in energy costs this winter while making their home much more comfortable during the rains and cold. These workshops are held weekly throughout Washington County, in the evenings or on weekends, until March. The program includes energy audits and inspections to ensure proper installations.

Any low to moderate income homeowner or renter in Washington County is eligible to participate in these workshops. Low income families may qualify for more extensive weatherization under the WCCAO Comprehensive Weatherization Program.

For more information, or to sign up for a workshop, call 591-5425. Volunteer to host one of the workshops and receive basic weatherization services in return for providing a workshop location.

**Washington County
Community Action Organization**
245 S.E. Second
Hillsboro, OR 97123
(503) 648-6646

WCCAO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Shirley Harper, Chair
Jim Sehon, Vice Chair
Nancy Monroe, Secretary
Joan Johnson, At Large
Jerry Arnold, At Large

Jerralynn Ness, Executive Director

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Inside ACTION NEWS:

Fundraiser Set for February 28

1985-86 in Review

Holidays Deplete Food Bank -

Donations Sought

Self-Help Weatherization