

Bridging the Divide at the Celebration of Community Spirit Dinner

More than 200 guests filled the Cascade Crest Ballroom at the Oregon Zoo on April 22 to celebrate corporate philanthropy and volunteerism. Sponsored by 17 area businesses, the 7th Annual Celebration of Community Spirit dinner raised over \$44,000 for critical services supporting low-income families and stirred enthusiasm for future corporate volunteer involvement.



Jerralynn Ness, Executive Director poses with Rey Ramsey, One Economy Corporation, keynote speaker.

The evening opened with a powerful visual presentation on the economics of poverty, setting the tone for this year's theme, Bridging the Divide. The presentation highlighted what it really means to budget on a low income and illustrated the hard choices families living in poverty must make every day.

Rey Ramsey, CEO of One Economy Corporation, offered the keynote address on the digital divide to address the gap between those who can effectively use new information and communication tools, such as the internet, and those who cannot.

The highlight of the evening was



Columbia Community Bank CEO Rick Roby and staff display the 2004 Community Spirit Outstanding Business Partner Award.

Community Action's Community Spirit Award winners who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the mission of Community Action and to strengthening the Washington County community. The **Outstanding Business Leader** award was presented to **Cindy Hirst**, Hirst Consulting. From 1991-1999, she served on the Board of Directors of Community Action, and was instrumental in the success of the agency's capital campaign. Cindy continues to serve on the Resource Development Committee and shelter task force committee providing critical strategic direction.

Columbia Community Bank was named Community Action's **Outstanding Business Partner**. Since its inception in 1999, Columbia Community Bank's mission has been to be a trusted financial partner and good neighbor. Bank employees donated their time by serving on various committees and projects. Whether it is conducting a banking class, hosting a giving tree to benefit Head Start children, donating

warm coats, or making financial contributions, Columbia Community Bank values involvement. Thank you to all of our sponsors, guests and speaker, who made our 7th Annual Celebration of Community Spirit Dinner a great success.



Cindy Hirst, award winner 2004 Community Spirit Outstanding Business Leader with her husband Herb.

Thank You Sponsors!

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NW Natural
One Economy Corporation
Oregon-Canadian Forest Products
Portland General Electric
Providence St. Vincent Hospital
Sloy Dahl & Holst
Tuahly Healthcare
Washington Mutual Bank
Wells Fargo Bank

A Letter to Our Friends—

As we come to the end of our fiscal year, this is both a time of reflection on our accomplishments and great anticipation of our future. Our board of directors engaged in a strategic planning process that uncovered some key economic issues facing our community, which include:

1. The low-income population is increasing faster than the overall population growth and is diversifying.
2. Low wage jobs by themselves do not lift families out of poverty conditions; but they are an important first step. An increasing number of families experiencing conditions of poverty are working but earning less than \$30,000 annually, leaving them economically insecure.
3. People living in conditions of poverty are unable to meet their basic needs such as food, shelter, heat, utilities, clothing, transportation, health, and child care. Many residents living at levels above the poverty rate are economically insecure and are making choices between these basic needs. One ordinary, unexpected expense can be catastrophic.
4. Public Assistance for families is not a long-term economic solution because it keeps them in poverty; a family of three would receive \$6,036 annually, living at 40% of the poverty level.
5. The job market requires greater skills than ever before to earn a family wage. Lack of education, and lack of family-wage jobs, limits earning potential.
6. Lack of access to affordable and adequate housing and health care has reached a crisis in Washington County.

Community Action is positioned to have a greater impact on these issues of poverty. Our board has established key strategic directions for the organization for the next three years, which are:

1. Bridge the Gap Between Poverty and Economic Self-Determination
2. Increase our Capacity to Address Issues of Poverty
3. Lead Efforts to Strengthen Community's Response to Poverty

In partnership with our community, we will move forward with greater conviction than ever to assure that every low-income person and family will find hope, help and opportunities needed to achieve their dreams of greater economic security. We will provide education, advocacy and services to bring about real change in our community and in the lives of low-income people.

Thank you for being there for us; for your caring concern and dedication to a healthy community for all.

Jerralynn Ness

For the Cost of a Candy Bar You Can Help Community Action

Over 10,000 individuals, businesses and organizations receive our Community Connections newsletter three times each year. The newsletter is an important way to educate the public about poverty, celebrate our local heroes and communicate our accomplishments. The newsletter brings our work to the attention of community leaders, donors and corporate partners who are important in helping us to meet our mission.

We keep costs of production to a minimum by designing the newsletter ourselves and using volunteers to assemble the mailing. For this mailing, we chose a lightweight paper to reduce costs even further.

At Community Action we constantly strive to do our work in the most cost-effective manner possible and now you can help us in this effort!

Each copy of our newsletter costs roughly fifty-five cents to produce and mail. We invite you to consider making the choice to receive our newsletter electronically. You'll get all the same great news and announcements while helping us to save paper and mailing costs. If one out of every three of you switch to e-News, we could save as much as \$5,000 per year.

To receive Community Action e-News, send an email to info@caowash.org and include "e-News" in the subject line of your email.



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director



Dan Aberg
Board Chair

Coming this fall...

**Community Action's
"People You Should Know"
Fundraising Breakfast**

**November 19, 2004
Location to be announced
7:30 – 8:30 am**

For more information, please contact
Jeri Alcock, 503.693.3255

Partnering With Local Heroes

While poverty in our community remains a reality, the increasing synergy between Community Action and our corporate partners demonstrates that we are on the right path to building a stronger community. Through good times and bad, our friends in business and industry continue to support our mission. **J. D. Fulwiler** accompanied children enrolled in A Kid's Domain on a field trip to the Children's Museum. After hours of exploration and creative play, both kids and volunteers went home happy.



A Kid's Domain offers fashion advice to volunteers from J.D. Fulwiler.

Young athletes from Community Action's after school program participated in "Sports Day" when a group of volunteers from **Nike** taught the children about the importance of exercise and sportsmanship.

Jerry Luna of **Alpha Building Maintenance** donated landscaping to Community Action sites around Washington County, resulting in a savings of over \$2,000. **Integrated Management Resources, Inc.** offered consulting services valued at \$900. **Epson Portland Inc.** donated a printer and printing materials to our pregnancy support program, Opening Doors. **Reliable Transmission, Kelso Electric, Keith Green Roofing, Gary Miller** and **Advanced Lighting** teamed up to provide Community Action with a new sign to improve our visibility from the road.

Oregon Public Broadcasting held a Mr. Roger's Sweater Drive where hundreds of



Sam Widmer consults with Josh Schmidtkofer from Integrated Management Resources about Community Action's technology.

donors contributed sweaters for families living in poverty. **Synopsys** and **Intel Corporation** also held clothing drives for our Head Start program. **Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse** donated child-sized work aprons for painting and various craft projects. **Nike** donated 46 pairs of footwear, representing a donation of \$2,335.95. **MarComm Promotions, Inc.** provided over 200 large jackets to Community Action that were distributed to clothing closets and homeless shelters in Washington County.



Doug Kaltenberg, (center) president of MarComm Promotions, helps unload his donation of coats for local area shelters.

Community Action's annual employee recognition day, fondly called "Wellness Day", revived and reenergized Community Action's staff. The day focused on healthy work environments, stress reduction, and relationship building. **TJ Helm** from **Galileo Life Support** offered the keynote address on the importance of balance in life and at work. The following businesses helped make this day successful:

- **Big O Tires - Hillsboro**
- **Edward Jones**
- **Identity Safeguard**
- **Lincoln Financial**
- **Lucille's Tool Store**
- **Master Touch**
- **Party Depot**
- **Pizza in Paradise**
- **Portland General Electric**
- **Reedville Catering**
- **Sunset Yoga**
- **West Coast Coffee**

Thank you **Henningsen Cold Storage** for your gift of \$1,000.00.



Nike Volunteer, Vibol, is swarmed by admirers from A Kid's Domain.

Beautiful flower centerpieces brightened the room at the Celebration of Community Spirit Dinner, thanks to a donation from **Hines Nurseries**. **Pizza in Paradise** provided pizza for Community Action's hard working Board of Directors at their annual Board Retreat. **Desserts of Distinction, Mud Puddles Toys & Books, Juan Colorado Restaurant, McDonalds Restaurant, and Round Table Pizza** all donated items to Community Action's Head Start program. Thank you to all our friends in the business community!





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Community Connections

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Community Action is a private, non-profit corporation. In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low-income people to achieve self-determination.

For further information contact Resource Development, 503.693.3255, or see our website: www.communityaction4u.org

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Come and See Us!

Would you like to see our work firsthand? Community Action is helping to create hope, help and change for low-income families.

Contact Jeri Alcock to arrange a tour or request a speaker, 503.693.3255 or e-mail jalcock@caowash.org.