

Economic Stimulus Funds Helping Local Families

In response to the most devastating economic crisis experienced since the Great Depression, President Barack Obama signed into law the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) on February 17, 2009. The Act is a strategic investment in America's future, laying the foundation for a robust and sustainable 21st century economy.

To increase economic activity in Oregon, ARRA funding is supporting initiatives aimed at saving and creating jobs, modernizing health care, improving schools, modernizing infrastructure, and investing in clean energy technologies.

In Washington County, Community Action has received funds to increase the delivery of essential services at a time of unprecedented need. According to Executive Director Jerralynn Ness, low-income families will benefit from several programs receiving ARRA funds.

Weatherization: It is expected that 600 additional families will be provided with home energy assessments and energy education. Half of these families will also receive comprehensive services to increase the health, safety and energy efficiency of their homes. This will generate significant business activity as local contractors are hired and materials are purchased to complete these home improvement and efficiency initiatives.



Families and businesses will benefit as Community Action's Weatherization Program gets a boost from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing and Emergency Food & Shelter Program: Community Action will help an additional 293 families at risk of homelessness or housing instability by providing emergency and extended rent assistance, along with other supportive services.

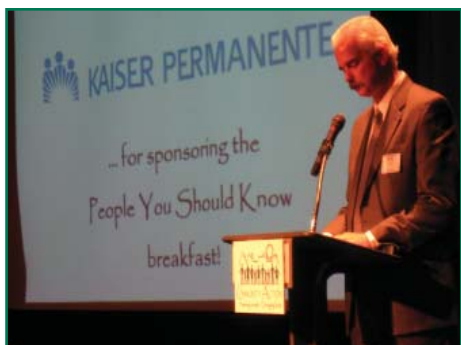
Community Action Head Start: Funds have been received for quality improvements. A competitive grant is pending that could add 24 infants and toddlers to the Early Head Start program.

Community Collaborations: Eighty-five unemployed or underemployed adults

will receive employment and supportive services in a partnership with Portland Community College/WorkSource and Lifeworks, Inc. 300 children will benefit from a summer meals partnership with Washington County Commission on Children and Families.

It is anticipated that ARRA funds will ultimately allow Community Action to create as many as 56 new jobs (including subcontractors) and retain full-time equivalency for 12 to 14 positions.

An estimated **2,066 Washington County families** will be positively impacted by Community Action services provided as a result of ARRA funding.



Kaiser Permanente Vice President, Mike Grant, welcomed guests to last year's event.

New Location for "People You Should Know"

Community Action will hold its annual fundraising breakfast on **Wednesday, November 18th at the Embassy Suites, Washington Square from 7:30 am to 8:30 am.** "This event is not only one of our most important fundraising events, it is also a valuable opportunity to update the community about critical issues impacting families and the ways in which Community Action is helping those who are struggling to make ends meet," said Director of Development and Community Relations Lisa Brown. For the second consecutive year, Kaiser Permanente will serve as the event's presenting sponsor. Seats are still available and can be reserved by calling **503-693-3230**. There is no cost to attend and a complimentary breakfast will be provided.

Community Connections



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson stood before Congress and said: *“This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America. I urge this Congress and all Americans to join with me in that effort.”*

Through this call to action our own Community Action agency was formed in 1965 to address issues of poverty at the local level. Forty-five years later, Community Action has been called upon by President Obama and Congress to play a fundamental role in national efforts to minimize the effects of the recession on children and families.

As stewards of economic stimulus funding, Community Action has responded to the increased demand for assistance from struggling families, while positively impacting the growth of the community safety net and the revitalization of the local economy.

While there are encouraging signs that we have seen the bottom of the recession,

we know that it will be some time before this translates into stability for economically vulnerable families. Until family-wage jobs return and more affordable housing and health care options are available, Community Action must continue to assist families in achieving and sustaining self-sufficiency.

As challenging as these times may be, Community Action has never been more relevant to our community and to those working to respond to the effects of this economy. Government, business and civic leaders have turned to Community Action to gain a clearer understanding of how families are being impacted and to become better informed about what is needed to stabilize at risk populations.

In recent months, Community Action leadership staff have been called upon to participate in strategy forums, emergency funding initiatives, and to testify before government leaders.

Our community partners are also reaching out to Community Action at this time. They are asking that we play a leadership role in developing collaborative solutions to address the escalating demand for supportive services as families impacted by the recession turn to the community safety net - many for the first time.

Now, more than ever, Community Action is seen as a respected and reliable source for information and expertise

related to issues of poverty; just the role that President Johnson envisioned for us more than four decades ago.

And you can be assured that, in the days, weeks and months to come, Community Action will continue to provide the right mix of services at the right time for those experiencing conditions of poverty. By offering this vital support, we can stabilize families as they strive to once again contribute productively to the local economy and their communities.

As we prepare for this season of thanks and celebration, I would like to thank you for your support. Without your commitment, the work of Community Action would not be possible. We are truly grateful for all those who have taken President Johnson’s call to action to heart and joined us in this important effort.

This is also the time when many of us look ahead to what we hope to accomplish in the new year. I encourage you to consider the ways in which you can become even more involved in your community. So many opportunities exist to make a difference and there is no better time to step forward.

On behalf of Community Action’s Board of Directors and staff, I wish you a bountiful holiday season and a new year that is filled with possibilities!

Sincerely,
Jerralynn Ness

Meet Our Board Chair



Ron Sarazin

Every now and then an opportunity comes along that cannot be passed up. Several years ago I had such an opportunity when the Mayor of Tualatin asked me to consider representing him on the board of Community Action. As a City Councilor for Tualatin, I knew about the organization and was impressed, but when Lou Ogden asked me to consider applying to sit on the Community Action Board, I studied the organization deeper and became motivated. This is a unique organization that makes a difference for people when they need it the most. Community Action is there when there is no one else. And Community Action’s programs are not only a safety net, they are effective at helping people get back on their feet because they are strategically designed to lead to self-sufficiency.

After sitting as a board member for several years, I no longer represent the Mayor of Tualatin, but rather have moved to represent myself. Recently I became the Board Chair and I am delighted to be able to continue giving my support and my heart to such a wonderful program. I encourage you to learn more about Community Action by attending our no cost “People You Should Know” breakfast on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 from 7:30 to 8:30 am at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Tigard. I suspect you will be impressed with the breadth and depth of what Community Action does, as well as the difference it makes in people’s lives. You might not be motivated to join the board as I was, but I know you will be inspired by the stories you will hear. You will leave the breakfast with a fresh perspective of hope and enthusiasm, as well as a full stomach!

Volunteers Provide Hands On Help & Make A Difference



Intel employee Kathy Cina and Homeless Student Advocate Kristin Ludwig unload school supplies donated by Intel staff. The supplies are distributed to homeless students in Hillsboro.



Intel and United Way employees show their satisfaction after three hours of work sprucing up the Hillsboro Family Shelter. ***Thank you volunteers!*** Your contributions help enormously!

GIVING DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

The desire to make the holidays brighter for local families impacted by poverty motivates individuals, businesses and community organizations to respond with extraordinary generosity each year. Community Action is proud to work in partnership with donors to help fulfill the holiday wishes of children and families served by the agency's various programs.

Through the "Adopt a Class" program, groups or individuals can "adopt" a Head Start classroom and provide much needed essentials for each of the approximately 20 children in the class. Desired items include warm coats, hats, gloves and underwear, as well as books and educational activities or toys.

For families residing at Community Action's Hillsboro Family Shelter, the holidays can be an especially challenging time. The crisis of homelessness, along with a lack of resources, makes it difficult for parents to provide their children with the traditions of the season. Donors can help by providing food baskets, as well as gifts. Because these families are in transition, warm socks, toiletries and gift cards are much needed. Books, DVDs and other easy to transport items are treasured by children.

Many groups also opt to conduct drives to secure essentials items for families. Food drives, diaper drives and toiletry drives are all important at this time of year. By providing these items, donors can help families meet their basic needs.

Financial donations to Community Action support the delivery of programs and services throughout the year.

To "Adopt a Class," help a shelter family, conduct a drive, or make a financial donation to Community Action, contact Resource Development at 503-693-3230.

Families seeking assistance during the holidays are encouraged to call 211.

Community Action Programs

Donations to Community Action make it possible for these vital programs to bring hope, help and change to low-income families throughout Washington County.

Housing & Homeless Services provides shelter and housing for homeless families, advocates for children to ensure school success and assists families in achieving housing stability.

Energy & Emergency Rent Assistance prevents homelessness and assures that families can remain safe and warm in their homes by providing financial assistance for those facing eviction or termination of heat and electricity services.

Weatherization helps families reduce energy bills by assessing home energy use, recommending cost saving measures and identifying available resources to improve energy efficiency.

Head Start prepares low-income preschool and special needs children for educational success.

Child Care Resource & Referral provides access to quality, affordable child care for working families and strengthens the local child care network by providing training for providers and businesses.

Opening Doors provides prenatal and parenting support that connects low-income women with the resources for a healthy birth and successful parenting.

Information & Referral Community Action is the Washington County partner for **211 Info**, a four county collaboration providing information and referral to critical health and human services.

Save the Date!

Celebration of Community Spirit Banquet

April 7, 2010
Oregon Zoo Ballroom

For more information
503.693.3230 or lbrown@caowash.org



1001 SW Baseline St. • Hillsboro, OR 97123

Conserve Resources!

If you are receiving this newsletter by postal mail, we would be happy to send it to you by e-mail.

Please e-mail your request to:
contact@caowash.org.

Please be assured, our list is confidential.

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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.

Additional information is available at our website:

www.communityaction4u.org

or by contacting Resource Development: 503.693.3230

Executive Director

Jerralynn Ness

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PARENTING CLASSES OFFERED IN 2010

Parenting is the most important and challenging job there is because a parent is a child's first and most important teacher. For some parents, help in developing positive parenting skills can make a big difference in the health and well-being of their child. Community Action's *Make Parenting a Pleasure* is a program that helps parents learn about child development, positive guidance, discipline, and communication. Classes stress for parents the importance of taking care of themselves so they can better care for their children.

Parents learn:

Practical stress management and communication skills
Effective parenting skills and positive approaches to discipline

Parents gain:

Greater understanding of their children
A social support network that can continue after the class ends

Classes are offered in English and Spanish. Each session is twelve weeks and available at no cost to participants.

2010 classes are forming now. For more information or to enroll call 503-517-3198.