

## COMMUNITY ACTION WORKS, IN WASHINGTON COUNTY AND ACROSS THE NATION

Join us in a special celebration!

Community Action is sometimes referred to as “America’s best kept secret.” The National Association of Community Action Agencies is hoping to change that by declaring May 4-10 this year National Community Action Week. CAO is one of nearly 1,000 Community Action Agencies (CAAs) serving communities nationwide. CAAs were established through federal legislation in 1964 and have a proud history of service. We continue to thrive and have reason to celebrate!

Just ask:

- the elderly woman who finally feels warm in her home since it was weatherized,
- the single mother struggling to live on a small, fixed income whose life was made a little easier because of an energy assistance payment,
- the family who turned to our shelter after a medical crisis caused them to lose their housing,
- the four-year-old who will enter kindergarten in the fall ready to learn because of his experiences in Head Start.

These people’s stories provide proof of the theme of the week: “Community Action works!”

While every CAA is different, we share some very special characteristics. All CAAs are dedicated to meeting the needs of low income people. We serve 98% of the nation’s cities and counties and are a primary source of support for more than 38 million people living in poverty. Like CAO, all Community Action Agencies have a uniquely structured Boards of Directors: one-third are representatives of the low income community, one-third are from the private sector, and one-third are publicly elected officials.

To celebrate National Community Action Week, we are inviting the public to tour two of our facilities. On Wednesday, May 7 between 1 and 4 p.m., you are welcome to drop by our new Multi-Service and Child Development Center (1001 SW Baseline) or the Family Shelter Home (210 SE 12th), both in Hillsboro. Staff will be available to give you a tour, and light refreshments will be provided.

Come by and see how Community Action works in Washington County!