



When They Fell on Hard Times, Community Action Was There

Occasionally, people served by Community Action tell us the story of why they contacted us, and how much we helped. In the story that follows, names have been changed to protect privacy.

A few years ago, Jane and Bob both lost their jobs within a week. Jane knew that funds for her position were running out and she was looking for work. As concern about her future set in, her husband developed health issues. A week before Jane's lay-off, Bob became unable to work and went on medical leave.

With two young children, and on-going medical care needs, it was

essential for the family to maintain healthcare insurance through Cobra. Unemployment benefits were not sufficient to cover the \$850 monthly cost, a \$1300 per month mortgage, and other essential household bills.

During the months that followed, Bob and Jane fell deep into debt. They faced bankruptcy, the death of two close family members, on-going stress from Bob's health issues, and a painful separation. "Our family was dealing with massive and severe grief," Jane explained. Paying bills became a matter of "triage," Jane said.

Financial help that extended family could provide went toward

maintaining Cobra. After Bob moved out Jane's limited resources forced her to put-off paying utility bills. Faced with a shut-off notice, she turned to Community Action for help.

"You cannot fool yourself about the possibility that things can change for the worse. It can happen just like that! During this period of my

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Support Community Action by Giving On-line

This fall, as part of Community Action's "People You Should Know" event, Community Action is offering two ways to donate safely and easily on-line, using I Give Where I Live-dot-net, or JustGive-dot-org.

To get started, please visit the home page of our website: www.communityaction4u.org. To donate to Community Action at: www.igivewhereilive.net, click on the I Give Where I Live logo. On the



I Give Where I Live homepage, click the "Donate" button and choose Community Action from the list of "Donor Profiles." On the Community Action page, click on "Donate to Community Action." Enter information in the appropriate fields. When you're prompted for your credit card information, you may enter it safely at our secure webpage.

To donate to Community Action at: www.justgive.org, click on



Save the Date!

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

**Thursday, November 16th
7:30-8:30 am
Kingstad Center, Beaverton**

**For more information
please contact
Jeri Alcock 503.693.3255**

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A Letter to Our Friends—

It's summertime, and Community Action is busy! Exciting changes are taking place. The Board of Directors approved a three-month sabbatical for Executive Director Jerralynn Ness. After thirty-one years of dedicated service, we believe she has earned it and then some. Jerralynn will be away from July 31 through October 31, 2006. Her plans include travel and spending time with family. The Board approved a comprehensive plan for ongoing leadership in her absence.



Renée Bruce



Leslea S. Smith

Renée Bruce has been appointed as Acting Executive Director. Renée is uniquely qualified to provide executive leadership. She has served as Director of Family and Community Resources for six years. In her sixteen-year tenure with the agency, Renée has overseen every client service program except Head Start. She has a background in early childhood development, as well as experience managing energy assistance, maternity outreach, child care, and housing services.

"I have a real vested interest in Community Action. I'm so pleased to have the opportunity to demonstrate my leadership skills during this time. It will be a great experience."
Renée Bruce

Renée has plenty of support while Jerralynn is away. The entire leadership team is working together even more closely. The team includes: Jeri Alcock, Director of Development and Community Relations; Winnie Althizer, Director of Human Resources; Marilyn Harrison, Director of Early Childhood Development, and John Russell, Director of Finance and Administration. These directors have a combined total of more than 40 years of service with Community Action. The board is confident that with such a strong team in place, Community Action staff and volunteers will continue to do what they do best: provide the hope and help needed for families to achieve better lives.

Leslea S. Smith

Community Action Board Chair

Levy Vote Will Decide Future of Family Shelter Network

Washington County's proposed four-year Public Safety Levy would maintain essential funding for important services that keep us safe in Washington County. It would allow the jail and work release center to operate at full capacity, minimizing early release of offenders. The levy would pay for special enforcement teams focusing on fraud and identity theft, and help fight methamphetamine trafficking.

The levy also supports the Family Shelter Network. Washington County has only one safe and



Community Action Family Shelter

confidential shelter for victims of domestic abuse which depends on funding from the levy. Community Action's Hillsboro Family Shelter, and two other shelters for homeless families, also rely heavily on Public

Safety Levy support. Loss of levy funds would destabilize the shelter network.

A county-wide census of homeless people in January conservatively estimated there were 1,162 men, women and children without shelter. There are no recognized shelters for homeless individuals in Washington County.

Maintaining this part of the social safety net is critical to helping people overcome issues of poverty. Voters will be given the option of continuing the Public Safety Levy on the November 8 ballot.

Faith-based Groups, Businesses, Give Hope, Help, Change

Poverty doesn't take a Summer vacation. Faith-based groups continue to be essential sources of help and hope for low-income Washington County residents, especially during Summer months.

Aloha Christian Church, Evergreen Christian Center, Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County support the Hillsboro Emergency Fund.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, St. Vincent DePaul Conference of St. Anthony's Church of Forest Grove and Forest Grove United Church of Christ support the Westco fund.

St. Vincent DePaul St. Anthony's Church of Tigard, Tigard Community Friends Church, and Tigard Church of God support the Neighborshare fund. All 3 funds help low-income families avoid homelessness.

Community Action Was There for Them

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life, when I really needed help, Community Action was there for me," Jane told us.

Community Action's Energy Assistance program helped Jane keep the heat on in her home. A Community Action Energy Audit determined that by adding insulation in Jane's basement and attic, her utility bills would drop, making it easier for her to afford future utility costs.

Jane was unaccustomed to asking for help. Her parents died when she was a child, yet Jane put herself



The Streets of Tanasbourne donates coins tossed in their fountain to help children's programs at Community Action.

Beaverton Christian Church Women's Ministry and Northwest Quilters make beautiful crafts for young families reached through Early Head Start, as well as Opening Doors.

A growing number of **New Seasons Market** customers at Orenco Station donate as they check-out, to help families at our Hillsboro Shelter. Thanks to New Seasons and New Seasons customers!

through four years of college and built a solid career while raising two children. Her strong sense of personal responsibility helped her "bounce back" from adversity.

Jane has found a good job. Her family situation also stabilized, bringing a close to what she calls "the most challenging series of unfortunate events" in her life. Jane recalls the difficulty she had "developing the ability to ask for help." "The assistance Community Action gave me helped me to rebuild my life, and to get ahead," she said.

Gifts from these businesses help where the need is greatest: **Davis, Wright, Tremaine, Buena Vista Custom Homes, Henningsen Cold Storage, Nike, and Safeco Insurance** - employee donation match.



Support Us, Give On-line

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the JustGive logo. At JustGive's Community Action page, enter information in the appropriate fields. JustGive will charge your credit card and send Community Action a check. While at the JustGive page, if you would like to find out more about what we do from a funder's perspective, click on our name.

If you have questions about the safety of donating to Community Action on-line, contact Scott Schlegel, Community Relations Specialist, at: 503-693-3254, or: sschlegel@caowash.org.

Foundation Grants

Grant support from the **Juan Young Trust**, and the **Spirit Mountain Fund**, helps our Opening Doors prenatal outreach program.

Grants from **Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory** fund Head Start's ExCel program.

PGE Foundation's "Community 101" grant awarded by Forest Grove High School students helps to fund Hillsboro Family Shelter programs.



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Community Connections

Community Connections is a publication of
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1001 SW Baseline Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123

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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The Beehive Buzzes into Hillsboro



www.beehiveHillsboro.org

Intel Community Affairs Manager Perry Gruber helped launch The Beehive website at a ceremony in Hillsboro. The Beehive lists community resources related to health, transportation, housing, insurance, health and government. The site is funded by One Economy, a nonprofit organization promoting the use of technology to improve the lives of low-income people.