

The Rural Tribune



In Washington County

While the County Grows. . . So Do Its Problems

Washington County is the richest county in the state. The mean income here is almost \$13,000 according to the 1970 census. But it is also one of the poorest counties. In 1970, the census found almost 2,000 resident families with incomes below poverty level, and there are probably many more such families here today.

Poverty hidden away. . .

But few people regard Washington County as having the problems of poverty. After all, this is a wealthy place. The poor are hidden away.

And they are scattered over a wide area, many of them in rural parts of the county, and their needs are as great as those of the poor anywhere. But in Washington County there is little in the way of low-cost housing, only limited medical and dental care, and no legal aid program at all.

Portland has many unsolved problems, but the low-income person there can get legal assistance. The urban poor have easy access to low-cost medical services, to numerous job-training programs, and to a large number of public housing units and child care programs.

If you're poor, you may need to move to Portland. . .

But the situation in Washington County is not hopeless. There are advantages, even to the poor, to living outside of an urban area. And there are a number of agencies and volunteer groups dedicated to helping low-income people in a variety of ways. Looking over the Call for Help list (on page four), one can see this — but also note that people must drive into Portland for many basic services.

For Spanish-speaking families the problems are compounded. Many have come to Oregon

by way of the migrant stream. For children, this often means that schooling has been interrupted, and that they come to school with the disadvantage of knowing little or no English. Some schools have begun only recently to deal with the problems of this education gap that leaves many Spanish-speaking children well below grade-level in basic skills.

For Spanish-speaking people, the problem of discrimination

And discrimination still exists in Washington County. The Rural Tribune has reported cases of outright discrimination — where a farmer apparently would not hire a Mexican-American family to pick his crops; where a local tavern would not serve Chicanos because they were speaking Spanish. And there are more subtle forms of discrimination as well — where county Government had hired only a handful of Spanish surnames despite the sizable number of Spanish-speaking families in the county. (The current civil service application procedure is due for reexamination — and irrelevant or biased testing may soon be eliminated.)

The County as a whole suffers because the number of poor has been masked in the statistics. The amount of general revenue sharing to each unit of government is based partly on the extent of poverty. But "poverty" is measured by average income. As a result, Washington County governments received \$5.64 per resident in general revenue sharing, compared to well over \$20 per resident for several other counties. The local share of this federal money is the lowest per resident of any of Oregon's counties.

CAP can help

Meanwhile, there has been a freeze on a number of federally-funded programs that give relief to the poor. More than ever before, coordinated community effort is needed. And Washington County's Community Action Program (CAP) will continue to work with people to bring needed programs into our community.

If It Can Move, It Must Be Alive

Community Action Moves Its Office



Community Action has moved to a new office, 546 E. Baseline in Hillsboro. In addition to Community Action, the new home also houses the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program, and Portland Community College's adult education classes. Three VISTA volunteers, working for local child care programs also have their offices there. Washington County Community Action has just been funded for six more months. Call 648-6646.

Not Enough Done to Solve County Poverty Problems

The Rural Tribune has been covering Washington County for ten months. We've been looking at problems that affect low-income people and we've found a great deal to write about. The problems of poverty are not limited to Chicanos or to those on welfare. The working poor, the elderly, and the young, — whatever their national origin — all have their special problems. This page is a brief summary of our findings.

Poor Health, Housing Hurt Migrants



As many as 6000 migrants come to work in Washington County each year. Many will leave with just enough money to get them to the next stop of their endless journey. They will live in migrant camps for eight or nine months of the year, and "camping out" becomes for them a permanent way of life.

County migrant housing does not come up to federal standards or even the latest state standards. One local farmer told us that forcing those standards here would simply close down every migrant camp in the county. Camp inspection for those

rules that do apply is handled only on a complaint basis, once the season begins. Funds for inspection have been cut back. So have funds for migrant summer school and day care programs and for migrant health programs.

More Child Care Needed



Late last year, the county's West Tuality Day Care had to cut back the number of children in its program at a time when programs should have been expanding.

Two other Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C) programs were eliminated last year, because they had just begun and funds for new programs were cut off by the

state. Other changes made many students ineligible and would have upped the cost of child care to families.

Child care helps working people and people who are training for jobs; and it's clear that Washington County doesn't have enough child care to serve the people who want and need it.

Looking for Legal Aid

Unlike Multnomah County, we have no Legal Aid Service to help low-income people with non-criminal court cases and with applying for help from social service agencies, such as welfare. Efforts to bring legal aid to Washington County have been frustrated. The Office of Economic Opportunity has not been funding new legal programs. A plan to bring limited legal aid for welfare recipients was rejected by the State Emergency Board (and would probably have failed to get federal funding).

Without legal aid, there are few lawyers who will help low-income clients in cases that produce no fees. The new Public Defender system should benefit the poor in criminal cases, but some sort of legal aid service is needed in all the other areas where a lawyer is necessary.

A pilot legal aid program, funded by UGN, closed when hopes dimmed for federal funding. A volunteer legal aid office operated by the County Bar Association was closed a year ago.

Some Disputes With Welfare

Most requests for welfare present no problems for a needy applicant. But in a dispute, applying for welfare can become very complicated. Welfare rules take up several volumes, and many of them can be interpreted in more than one way. The Rural Tribune has followed several welfare cases, and has reported on difficulties within the local welfare office. In some cases, even the welfare assistance workers feel unable to help deserving clients. Jerralynn Ness is a VISTA volunteer, who helps advise people of their welfare rights. She can be reached at 648-6646.

County Hiring Controversy



Mary Perlman

When County juvenile counselor Mary Perlman resigned from her position she recommended that a Chicano be hired to fill her place. She accused the County Government of "institutionalized insensitivity" to the needs of the Mexican-American community. Of 669 people working for the County at the

time, only six were Spanish-surname individuals.

The County denied unfair hiring practices, but promised to make a greater effort to recruit minorities, once a full-time personnel director was hired under the new budget. A Chicano was not hired to fill the vacancy left by Miss Perlman.

Task Force Work Graded 'Incomplete'

A forty percent drop-out rate among Spanish-surname high school students, prompted a special task force in the Forest Grove Schools. Our reporter found that there were few Chicano-related books in the library, and that counselors only spoke to students about minority programs for college when asked directly by the eligible student.

Students from Spanish-speaking homes, begin school with a disadvantage, and in many cases they never recover. The task force, however, failed to agree on a recommendation for bilingual education in the primary grades. Only a few of the task force recommendations were finally approved by the school board.



Housing Crisis Continues



The first issue of The Rural Tribune, explored a housing crisis for low-income county families. The crisis still exists, and it is likely that some low-income families will be forced to live in migrant camps again this winter.

The Housing Authority of Washington County will have a total of 208 units that it

can provide under its special leasing program. But the Housing Authority has continued to have a waiting list of 600 individuals and families, and cannot hope to help more than a fraction of them. A freeze on federal housing programs has dampened prospects for the future.

Police-Community Relations Probed



A Rural Tribune reporter experienced first-hand what he felt was illegal treatment from officers of the Forest Grove police department. He was writing a story about community complaints against local police at the time, and he took notes while being detained and forced into a line-up. He was not arrested and was never informed of his rights.

Since that article, several local police departments have begun to look for Chicano recruits, and have offered to let Chicanos and young people ride with their police patrols. The officer who detained our reporter was dismissed from the force. And the County has become involved in setting up a Human Relations Committee.

But A Start Is Made, With Programs Offering Help

Centro Starts With Classes

In its first year, Centro Cultural of Washington County has already begun to serve as a "bridge between the Anglo and Chicano communities." It offers classes in skills and cultural matters, and has a job-training program. A County revenue sharing grant will allow expansion of its educational programs. Community dinners have raised money to begin buying land in Gaston and a house in Cornelius. CAP and PCC have helped Centro to begin its classes. Call 357-8836 for information.



Lionel Lucero, President of Centro Cultural,

The problems of low-income people here are depressing. But The Rural Tribune has found promising signs that things are beginning to happen to improve the quality of life for low-income and minority citizens. The fine programs on this page are just a beginning. Many of them depend on volunteers and voluntary contributions. Others will need assistance from government and from foundations. Community Action will continue to identify needs and help bring about solutions.

Seniors Lunch Programs



Hot lunches are prepared at the Forest Grove Seniors Center and delivered to elderly people, confined to their homes.

Helped with Community Action self-help grants and now revenue sharing money from the County Government, Senior Centers in Forest Grove and Hillsboro are expanding their activities. Both centers have meals-on-wheels programs to deliver hot food to home-bound elderly people, as well as

social programs and lunch programs in the center itself. The North Plains Senior Center has also been helped by CAP.

For information on the seniors center nearest you, contact 357-4115 in Forest Grove, 648-3823 in Hillsboro, or 647-5666 in North Plains.

Co-ops Cut Food Costs

Two food cooperatives began with the help of an emergency food grant obtained by Community Action. Both are now on their feet financially and provide food savings to members and to the public. The V.S.I. Co-op is in Tualatin; and the Hope Co-op is now in Buxton. Both have crafts stores and welcome new members. (See Call for Help under "food.")



Community Action Serves Needs

Six Months More for CAP

The Office of Economic Opportunity has announced the continued funding of the county's Community Action Program (CAP). This will allow CAP to keep opening its doors until February 28, 1974 and possibly longer.

According to acting director Carla Johnson, the grant will allow CAP to continue its

traditional role of offering help to low-income people. This includes information and referral services. Where needed services do not exist, CAP will work with community people to find ways to start those services.

As part of that effort, CAP will work in social services planning and related community organization. This in-

cludes finding money for needed programs.

This page shows some of the programs that serve the needs of low-income people in the county. Many of them have been helped or funded, by Community Action. CAP has brought other programs into the county as well. Some of these are Headstart (still administered by CAP), Health Start, the Housing Authority and a drug program.

Kids Programs Launched

Self-help grants from Community Action helped to launch two youth-related projects in Beaverton, both of which are funded now by the County. Kids for Hire places high school age kids in

part-time jobs. "Access" is a hotline crisis and referral service. Both programs need volunteers and serve the entire county. Call 357-7012 or 644-0141.

Cash for Social Services



The Washington County Commissioners have granted federal revenue sharing funds to social programs in the county. The projects funded by the County include \$15,000 to help West Tuality Day Care; \$14,970 to Centro Cultural for its educational program; \$5,200 for Edwards Activity Center for mentally

retarded adults, to purchase a van; \$6,000 to the Council on Aging to start a transportation program for seniors; and \$500 to assist in writing a federal grant proposal for the Beaverton Schools. These direct grants to local agencies represent a new direction for County government.

RSVP Begins

Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) has finally begun operation in Washington County under its newly appointed director Gerry Nutt. Mrs. Nutt helped to write the grant proposal along with Barbara Barrett, both of Community Action.

Originally CAP was to be



Gerry Nutt, RSVP director

the grantee, but the program was transferred to Portland Community College, which hired Mrs. Nutt as director. Federal funds come from ACTION, the agency that includes VISTA and the Peace Corps.

RSVP is helping to bring retired seniors back into the community as a resource for a number of different programs. Interested volunteers, 60 or older, should call 648-2175.



Arturo Cortez unloads newly purchased equipment for Community Action's migrant recreation bus, financed with a self-help grant.

Rural Awareness Sought

The Rural Awareness Project has been funded as a part of the new Community Action grant from OEO. Rural Awareness works with and for low-income people to communicate their needs. The Rural Tribune is funded as a part of this grant.

The Tribune has been controversial. One state official recommended that it be stopped immediately. Several other government people, along with journalists and educators, have been strong supporters of this publication.

Rural Awareness has also produced news releases and called press conferences for low-income organizations. We have plans for producing a

television documentary and for beginning a radio series in the fall. The Project has worked primarily with people who have no previous experience in the media. And its chief purpose is to train people to use the media and to seek careers in journalism.

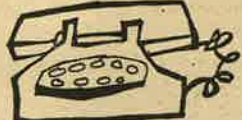


With the help of Community Action, the town of Timber acquired a fire truck

This edition of The Rural Tribune is a special supplement. It is a brief review of problems and programs that affect the low-income people of Washington County and was written by the editor, with the help of his staff. Photographs are by Clyde Keller. Letters may be addressed to The Rural Tribune, Washington County Community Action, 546 E. Baseline, Hillsboro, Oregon 97123.

Paul S. Jacobs, Editor

CALL FOR HELP



• Medical Services

Abortion Information and Referral Service 227-5404
2315 N.W. Irving Street
Portland

Offers information and referral to appropriate places. Also some financial resources. Counseling service offered. Usually transportation to doctors available.

Birthright 221-0598

Mayor Building, 11th and Morrison
Portland

Services are offered to unmarried girls who need assistance with pregnancy. Free counseling, medical services, legal services, home service, foster care, indirect financial aid and moral support.

Health Department 648-8881.
Courthouse
Hillsboro

Family Planning Clinic

Free service. Check-ups and birth control offered by appointment.

Medical Clinic

Hours: 8:30-5:00. By appointment.

VD Clinic

Monday and Thursday mornings, by appointment.

Immunization

Monday — Friday, 1:30-4:00, \$1.00 fee, if you can afford it.

Hearing tests

By appointment.

Home nursing

Available in the home.

Welfare 648-0711

Health Start 640-3429

Free check-ups for pre-school children who are in a low-income family.

Medical follow-up for children in Washington County who are in low-income families. Call for an appointment.

Washington County Children's Services Division 648-8951
Family planning, including some medical services offered.

American Legion Loan Center 648-3397
256 N. Bailey
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Lends hospital equipment. No deposit. Emergency use only. Time limited to six months.

Pacific University Optometry Department 357-6151 or 648-5630
Forest Grove
Reduced rates offered for eye care. \$11.20 for examination, slightly more for special test. Glasses offered at cost price.

University of Oregon Medical Outpatient Clinic 228-9181

Fee charged according to income. Pay only what you can afford. Any medical or surgical service offered to all Oregon residents. No transportation available.

Tualatin Valley Guidance Clinic 645-3581
14600 N.W. Cornell Rd.
Portland, Oregon 97229
Gives mental health care; charges people according to their income.

Drug Treatment Training, 229-5129
309 S.W. 4th
Portland, Oregon 97204

This is a program for people who are having problems with drugs.

• Dental Services

University of Oregon Dental School 222-9781

Fees are set at 1/2 to 2/3 less than private dentists.

Portland Community College 244-6111
All dental work done at \$1.00 per visit charge. X-ray charge \$2.00 extra. Ask for Carol Schrock.

Welfare 648-0711

Limited service for people on public assistance.

Dental Aid For Children, 648-7595

233 E. Baseline
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Helps children from low-income people who aren't receiving any kind of public assistance other than food stamps.

• Food & Clothing

Food Stamps 648-8846
1012 S.E. Maple
Hillsboro

Fish

Hillsboro 648-4128
Beaverton 646-1141

Offers transportation in the Hillsboro area, but not into Portland.

Offers food, clothes, and furniture as available. Helps whenever able.

Valley Migrant League 357-6169

Food vouchers given when available. Also aid in finding housing and in finding a job. Interpreters offered and aid in filling out forms. Transportation in emergencies only.

Expanded Food & Nutrition Program 648-8656

Teaches families about good nutrition. A nutrition aide will visit the home. No cost involved.

Community Care Association, Inc. 288-8321

2022 N.E. Alberta
Portland

Monday-Friday, 8:00-3:00 No charge. Food boxes prepared, and some baby goods available. Hot meals also prepared; however, no delivery service.

V.S.I. Co-op 638-6227

18930 S.W. Boones Ferry Road,
Tualatin

Sells food at reduced prices. To join, you have to volunteer four hours a month.

North Plains Food Buying Club 647-2860

Next to post office in North Plains.

Sells food at reduced prices. Membership fee is \$1.00 per month.

Economy Center 648-5800

Corner of 11th and Adair, Cornelius, Oregon 97113

Sells everything that people donate. Low prices.

St. Vincent de Paul Society 235-8431

2740 S.E. Powell Blvd.
Free food, clothing, used furniture, and appliances available. Needed items are delivered free of charge.

Resale Shop 644-6364

Corner of 1st and Watson Beaver-ton, Oregon 97005

Tues. to Fri. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Closed Mon.)

Sells clothes and other things for lower prices.

Hope Co-op

Buxton Mercantile Store
Buxton

Take Sunset Highway to Rocket Station at Vernonia Junction. Turn right and go down 1/2 mile.

Membership fee of \$10 payable over a year's time. Requirement of membership is putting in four hours of work every month. Non-members welcome. Members pay 10% above wholesale costs and non-members pay 20%.

Store hours are Thursday, 4-8 p.m.; Friday, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dorcus Society 648-3922

367 N.E. Grant
Hillsboro

Tues. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Give clothes and other items for free.

• Discrimination

Civil Rights Division, Bureau of Labor 229-5741

State Office Building,
Room 466

1400 S.W. 5th, Portland

If you have been discriminated against, call for help, and file your complaint.

• Jobs

Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Division 648-7114
232 N.E. Lincoln
Hillsboro

Helps people with language difficulties as well as those with physical handicaps. Provides whatever services necessary to make a person employable.

Washington County Office 648-8911

Earn as you learn a skilled trade. Should be at least 18 years of age, and should be a high school graduate or equivalent. Portland center will assist you in selection of a trade in which you are interested, and will help you enter your chosen trade.

Washington County Employment Office 648-8911

229 S. First Avenue
Hillsboro

Offer assistance in finding a job. Don't have to be on welfare. Fill out an application. Testing to determine work you are best suited for. Training is available.

Washington County Children's Services Division 648-8951

560 S. 3rd
Hillsboro

Job training services for poor families offered.

Neighborhood Youth Corps, 246-3366

6526 S.W. Capitol Hill Road

Employs young people who are school drop-outs from the ages sixteen through seventeen. They will be in a skill training, work experience, remedial education and they will have supportive services. The people are non-residents, unlike other programs.

Kids For Hire, 644-0141 or 357-7012

Kids For Hire is a youth employment program for youths from the ages of fourteen through High School. For more information call Deke Olmsted at these two numbers.

• Education

Washington County Literacy Council (Laubach Method) 648-6040, 644-3758, 357-3073 or 639-7113

912 E. Main
Hillsboro, Oregon

Learn to read. Individual tutoring, no charge.

Adult Tutoring Service 224-2135 or 648-6646

Individual tutoring in student's or tutor's home or in public building. One-to-one. Basic education, GED, or English as a second language. No tuition. Day or evening meetings.

Portland Community College Adult Basic Education-GED Class 224-2135 or 648-6646

330 N.E. Lincoln, CAP office
Hillsboro

Learn to read, write and do math; English as a second language; GED preparation. Individualized or group learning. Materials furnished. No tuition. Classes are 9-2:30, Monday through Friday.

Apprenticeship Information Center 229-6080

1030 N.E. Couch Street
Portland

Centro Cultural 357-8836

Now has free classes in art, sewing and provides some job training in assemblyline work.

• Housing

Housing Authority of Washington County 648-8511

245 S.E. 2nd
Hillsboro

Valley Migrant League 357-6169

2604 Pacific Avenue
Forest Grove

Aid in finding housing.

• Home & Family

Washington County Extension Service 648-8755
Courthouse
Hillsboro

Homemaker services and anything relating to home and family living. Home study groups meet once a month.

Oregon Divorce Council 235-2511 or 222-9478

3823 S.E. Belmont
Portland

Help in filling out divorce documents and papers without the help of an attorney. Persons who want to get a divorce must be in the no-fault category, meaning that problems concerning children and property are settled.

There is a \$40 fee for the help with the documents and a \$13.50 fee for a court reporter. Also there is a divorce filing fee which is different in each county. In Washington County, the filing fee is \$58.80.

American Red Cross 648-2622

168 N.E. 3rd Street
Hillsboro

Home nursing and first aid classes given.

• Elderly

Aloha Over 50 Club, 648-4682

15 S.E. 12th, Hillsboro

They are a social group and meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. They gather Christmas toys and food for the Fire Dept. to help needy families.

American Association of Retired Persons 648-6892

S.E. 5th, Hillsboro

Refers people to other organizations or programs.

Council on Aging, 640-3489

150 N. 1st.
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Forest Grove Seniors Center 357-4115

Friendly Neighbors 644-4240

14205 S.W. Jenkins Rd.

They are a social group and have meetings for senior citizens.

Hillsboro Senior Citizens Center 648-3823

N.E. 4th and Lincoln
All Saints Episcopal Church

A Senior Citizens Center is a place to meet friends, enjoy nutritious food, ask questions that may be of concern to you, share hobbies and interests, and discover hidden talents. The Hillsboro Center will serve a hot noon meal three days a week and offer a meals on wheels service to the home-bound person unable to participate at the Center.

North Plains Seniors Center 647-5666

Social Security Office 643-6633
S.W. B-H Hwy., Beaverton

Help on medical expenses. Sign up for Medicare here. Must be 65 or older to qualify. But people are also eligible for Medicare if they are drawing disability benefits or undergoing renal dialysis or kidney transplant.

• Child Day Care

West Tuality Day Care 357-7121
Forest Grove

Charge is according to income. Center is open from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Children taken from infant to age 14. Medical test required.

Washington County Children's Services Division 648-8951

560 S. 3rd
Hillsboro

Day care centers provided.

Migrant Child Care 647-2291 (School Age)

647-2297 (Pre-school)
Community Hall/Grade School
North Plains 97133

Provides child care for Migrant Families from ages two to fourteen. Three meals a day, recreation, and education.

• Counseling

Tualatin Valley Guidance Clinic 645-3581

14600 N.W. Cornell Rd.
Portland, Oregon 97229

Gives marriage counseling, and charges people according to their income.

American Red Cross 648-2622

168 N.E. 3rd Street
Hillsboro

Family counseling and personal problems.

Washington County Children's Services Division 648-8951

560 S. 3rd
Hillsboro

Family, marriage, and pregnancy counseling offered.

Family Counseling Service 648-5717 or 228-7238

168 N. 3rd
Hillsboro

Offers family, marital and personal counseling. In Hillsboro, Wednesday and Thursday, 9-4:30. Charge according to income.

Veterans Assistance, 648-6646

Washington County Community Action

330 N.E. Lincoln
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

Help Spanish-speaking and low-income Vietnam-era veterans in counseling and helping them with expenses that are necessary to enter a higher educational institution.

• Voter Information

Voter Registration, 648-8856

Washington County Courthouse
in Hillsboro

They will tell you how and where to register and what district you're in.

League of Women Voters, 645-1407 or 639-4029

The League of Women Voters is a national, non-partisan organization devoted to promoting informed citizen participation in government.

• Government Numbers

Beaverton City Hall, 644-2191

4950 S.W. Hall Blvd.

Cornelius City Hall, 357-8024

120 N. 13th Ave.

Forest Grove City Hall, 357-7151

1924 Council

Hillsboro City Hall, 648-3522

205 S. 2nd

Tigard City Hall, 639-4171

12420 S.W. Main Street

Washington County Government, 648-8611

County Courthouse in Hillsboro

• Crisis

Access, 644-0141 or 357-7012

Access is a hotline crisis service for use in an emergency.

• General

Consumer Complaints, 648-8671

District Attorney's Office
in the Courthouse,
Hillsboro, Oregon.

Number where people can call when they have consumer problems.

Washington County Community Action, 648-6646.

Hillsboro

Senior Citizens . . . Gerry Nutt

General Problems Arturo Cortez

Welfare Aid . . . Jerralynn Ness