

From: Lisa Brown
Sent: Thursday, April 05, 2012 1:52 PM
To: All Staff
Subject: Early Head Start Honored

I had the privilege of being on hand this morning when our Early Head Start program at Coffee Creek was honored by the Washington County Department of Health as Outstanding Organization for 2012. The award was jointly presented to Community Action Early Head Start and Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for their partnership in introducing a breast feeding program that allows mothers participating in the program to make breast milk available to their infants while incarcerated. It took a great deal of collaboration between Early Head Start, Coffee Creek, the Oregon Department of Corrections and the Washington County Department of Health to change policy and create systems that would allow new mothers to play a vital role in the healthy development of their babies. Now in its fourth year, this endeavor is one more way that Early Head Start is changing the lives of incarcerated mothers and their children, encouraging a bond that will last a lifetime.

Sharon Bolmeier, who oversees the Early Head Start program at Coffee Creek, along with Calley Wolery and Becky Wiggins, representing Coffee Creek, were presented with the award by Sue Omel, Public Health Program Supervisor for Maternal and Child Health for Washington County and a vital collaborator in this project. Kathy Zane, Program Area Supervisor for Early Head Start, also represented the program during the presentation.

This is the 10th year the Public Health Awards have been presented by the Washington County Department of Health and the second award received by Community Action. Our Opening Doors program was honored as Outstanding Organization in 2009.

I encourage you to share this great news with others in our community by directing them to <http://lisa.hopehelpchange.com/>

Congratulations to all involved!



Sue Mel, Becky Wiggins, Calley Wolery, Sharon Bolmeier & Kathy Zane