

# Paycheck News

May 5, 2000

Staff is encouraged to use the Paycheck News for communicating events, relevant information or personal items to employees of CAO. Deadlines for submitting announcements is Tuesday noon prior to payday. Contact Carol Hadley at 693-3252, or save your item to I:\Common\Paycknws. Please note the origin of any reprinted material. All items must be accompanied by the author's name.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Judy Nagy	HS Program Area Coordinator, Hillsboro	May 2
Carol Stewart	HS Program Area Coordinator, Westview	May 2
Bruce Horne	HS Teacher, Sherwood	May 8
Dolores McNee	HS Disabilities Coordinator, Hillsboro	May 9
Corissa Jensen	Lead Shelter Resident Assistant, Hillsboro Shelter	May 10
Lori Balch	HS Teacher, Wm. Walker	May 11
Gail Hildemann	HS Driver	May 12
Judy Clifford	HS Family Advocate, Hillsboro	May 21
Jimi Smith	Network Administration Manager	May 21

## “CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT DINNER”

*Submitted by Sharon Bosserman-Benson*

Our corporate-sponsored dinner a few weeks ago raised more than \$35,000 for CAO programs. Congratulations to our own Hillsboro family shelter home that was recognized by NACAA (National Association of Community Action Agencies) for providing “25 years of dignity and shelter to homeless families” and to Dick Stenson of Tuality Healthcare (and a CAO board member) and Henningsen Cold Storage who received community spirit awards for their leadership in the community. Special thanks to Jerralynn and Ralph Brown who emceed the event; to Tammy Mace of our Opening Doors program who shared her story before 188 guests; to Sharon Bolmeier, John Russell, Lowell Greathouse, Rachael Criswell, Carol Surrency and staff, and Catherine Fleischman who staffed the event; and to Carol Hadley and Melissa Kuran who put in many, many hours of preparation.

Wondering what exactly happens at the dinner? This year's dinner was videotaped by TVCA and we will let you know when they plan on airing it. Also, our keynote speaker, Juan Williams, was interviewed for KPTV Fox 49's News Extra that will air this weekend on Sunday, May 7, at 10:30 p.m. If you would like to help staff next year's dinner, please let Sharon BB know.

## MONTHLY STAFF MEETING

Our next monthly staff meeting, with buffet breakfast, will be Wednesday, May 10th at 8:30 in the Hillsboro conference room.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH VAN CLINIC

*Submitted by Pam Otton*

May 9, 2000, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm, Community Action Organization, Hillsboro  
There will be free medical care for illnesses and minor injuries for persons of any age that either do not have medical insurance or are eligible for the Oregon Health Plan, but do not have a family doctor.

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

*Submitted by Jerralynn Ness*

I want to update you on recent program changes. As I mentioned at Wellness Day, I will continue to provide updates in this column, and encourage you to direct any question you might have to your manager or director. We are all committed to open communication and I have been especially encouraged by the open exchange of ideas from staff regarding our restructuring.

As a result of inadequate funding or grants not being renewed, the following changes have already been made:

- CAO no longer provides Tenant Education. Please refer tenant calls to Legal Aid Services of Oregon. They accept tenant calls on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon (648-7723). For emergencies such as evictions, clients can phone the direct line (648-7163).
- CAO will not be the lead agency for the IDA program. We are working with the Enterprise Foundation and our partners to find a new lead agency for the IDA project. CAO will make referrals once the program is operational.

As a result of staff work to create a first draft of a balanced budget, the following program changes are being made:

- As of May 1, CAO no longer offers I & R 24 hours a day. Clients can call the 648-0829 number and receive assistance Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. We are discussing I & R with Community Partners to determine how I & R will be provided after July 1.
- CAO will not renew its ABC Soup contract and is working hard to find a new home for this program.
- Camp Eco (A Kid's Domain summer program) will not be offered this summer.
- CAO programs for homeless and housing services are being combined into one program. The Hillsboro shelter home staff has recommended a new staffing model that will result in restructuring current positions. In addition, the shelter home will be closed from May 20<sup>th</sup> through June 4<sup>th</sup>. Arrangements are being made for security checks and volunteer maintenance projects to occur at the shelter during the closure.
- Because of an influx of funding for energy assistance, CAO is shifting its emergency needs focus to energy assistance. Staff is still determining how food box referrals and rent assistance will be provided.
- As planned, CAO will hand over leadership of the Good Neighbor Center to the East Washington County Partnership Council on July 1.

In addition, the planning team (Jerralynn, Leon, Lowell, Marilyn, Renee, John and Sharon) is exploring various management models to support our organization's changes while reducing costs. This discussion will continue over the next week as we cost out these models to determine what is doable and affordable.

That's the latest. I'll keep you informed as we implement these changes. Again, please direct any questions to your manager.

## WELLNESS DAY

*Submitted by Jerralynn Ness*

Congratulations to our Wellness Committee for putting together a great day for our staff. The committee included Beth Dasher, Elaine Burrell, Pam Otton, Sandy Kitchen, Joan Brown and Judy Clifford. Thanks to all who helped out to make the day a lot of fun and a great success. Special thanks to staff who led workshops, helped with cooking, hauling and cleaning; and to Vicki Ware for her great help with our food effort. I enjoyed listening to all of the comments but one in particular stood out: "This was wonderful. It was like a homemade gift rather than a store bought one."

Our Wellness Committee understands the tremendous change we are going through and its impact on staff. Instead of recommending that we don't have a wellness day this year, the committee recognized that giving ourselves this day was an important way to show support to staff and to say that we care about you. From the response to the day, it appears that our staff greatly appreciated the committee's commitment! And they did it all at almost no cost.....many thanks!

For those of you unable to attend this year's Wellness Day, I would like to share with you some of the comments I made at the opening session:

With the changes we are going through we are experiencing endings and new beginnings; we are losing people who are dear to us and programs that we feel passionate about; and many positions and services that are continuing are changing as well. And with this kind of change it is only natural that we experience many emotions: loss, grief, sadness, anger, fear and depression. Every one of us is affected because we are committed to our work and we care about our fellow employees. And when the change affects us directly or our program, we often feel devalued.... this wouldn't be happening if we were valued and appreciated.

I want you all to know that I hold you in the highest regard; that I am deeply moved by your contributions and your acts of kindness and support to one another; and I am humbled by those of you who have voluntarily made personal sacrifices to assure that we successfully get through the tough times.

## LOANS MADE EASIER, APRIL 2000

*Submitted by Kristin Ludwig*

Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) recently announced that it has increased the acquisition cost (purchase price) limits for its Residential Loan Program and can now help more first-time homebuyers purchase a home utilizing OHCS's below-market interest rate program.

The Residential Loan Program is designed to help eligible homebuyers increase their purchasing power by providing them access to below-market interest rates when financing their first home. The below-market rates are made possible through the sale of tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds. To qualify for the program, a property's purchase price must be below the program's applicable limits. In Washington County, the new limit is \$152,125, as compared to an old limit of \$142,836, for an increase of \$9,289.

To be eligible for the program, a household's total annual income must not exceed \$45,100 statewide and \$52,400 for Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington or Yamhill counties. Interested homebuyers should contact one of OHCS's participating lenders to see if they qualify. To receive a program brochure and a list of lenders, call (503) 986-2015 or visit [www.hcs.state.or.us](http://www.hcs.state.or.us).

## THANK YOU!

*Submitted by Lu Lamping*

I would personally like to thank all people involved in Wellness Day, it was great-t-t! I enjoyed the workshops I attended very much. Thank you! Lu

## 5th ANNUAL WINE RAFFLE!

*Submitted by Sharon Bolmeier*

We kicked off CAO's 5th Annual Wine Raffle on April 14th at the "Celebration of Community Spirit Dinner." Last year we raised \$10,000 and this year we are hoping to raise \$12,000. The Wine Raffle will last through the summer and conclude with the drawing on September 21st.

Over the last five years I've had a lot of fun selling wine raffle tickets and at times have been in competition with other staff. Wine is a "sellable" product and CAO is a worthy cause. The wine is donated so all proceeds minus publicity expenses go directly to CAO. Would you be willing to sell tickets? Have some tickets with you when you're out and about and "sell!" Last year I had a Memorial Weekend party and got my friends to buy them.

Another way is to volunteer to work at a winery on Memorial Day Weekend or at the Hillsboro Farmers Market. If we had each program volunteer time to staff a booth, we could sell a lot of tickets! The program that brings in the most raffle money will receive a case of wine and a case of sake! Remember, it's all for a good cause! Contact Melissa Kuran at 693-3230 for tickets and more information.

## SO LONG...

*Submitted by Connie Sherrard*

It's been a pretty amazing ten years since I came to Community Action as a student intern with a desk in the Transportation (we had a transportation program?) office. The desk was usually crammed full of stale baked goods from Costco, and I still can't face a grocery store croissant, after seeing that package with the live fly sealed inside.

To those I supervised, those who tried to supervise me, and all my wonderful coworkers, thanks for helping me grow during this decade. I've learned so much from you all, and I'll miss you. Keep in touch. Connie

## HEY STAFF!

*Submitted by Kristin Ludwig*

I'm looking for the card for Todd that was circulating around CAO last week, sending him our well wishes. Anyone have the card? Please let me know—I want to send it along his way. Thanks. Kristin 693-3222.

## WELLNESS DAY SUCCESS

*Submitted by the Wellness Day Committee*

The Wellness Day Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was appointed to volunteer for Wellness Day 2000. Without the help from each and everyone of you we couldn't have managed a successful no/low cost event. A very sincere acknowledgment to the kitchen staff: Vicki, Terry, Cindy along with Rose Tripp, who worked non-stop for at least three hours for food preparation, serving and clean-up.

## POSITION TITLE

Family Advocate  
Front Desk Receptionist (bilingual)

## DEPT.

Head Start  
Admin.

## SALARY

\$10.10-\$12.62/hr.  
\$8.00-\$9.00/hr.

## CLOSING DATE

Until filled  
Until filled

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Lu Lamping, 429-7633