

“Times Are Tough” Forum on Housing, Hunger, & Health

Saturday September 26, 2009

Some Basic Facts

Homelessness:

- The faces of the homeless are families with children, single men and women, vets, and many who are impaired. It is estimated that in Washington County up to 56% of homelessness occurs to families.
- In Washington County more than 43,000 of our neighbors are one catastrophic illness or lost job away from becoming homeless.
- The Washington County One Night Count conducted in January counted 1243 homeless people in 2009. The actual number is much higher. Since the 2009 January count, estimates indicate those numbers have gone up at least 35% based on nationwide data.

Hunger:

- Sadly Oregon ranks as one of the top 5 states in hunger. In 2008 over 79,000 households or 198,000 people in Oregon experienced serious difficulty putting enough food on the table for everyone in the house.
- This means that around 27,720 residents of Washington County found themselves hungry at some point in time during the year;
- Hunger is highest among single mother households (10%) and poor families (15%) as well as renters, unemployed workers and minority households.

Health Care Disparities:

- Adults in Oregon without insurance represent 22.3% of the state's population compared to 19.7% of the nation.
- With 85,000 previously not insured children covered in 2010 under the newly passed legislation along with 35,000 more adults that leaves us with 521,980 Oregonians still with no health insurance!
- Translated to Washington County with over 14% of the state's population that means approximately 73,000 county residents have no health care insurance hence their most likely option facing a medical emergency is the local ER.

Stamp out Hunger in Washington County!

A call to action at the 'Times Are Tough' Forum

September 26, 2009

Ending hunger in Washington County takes all of us! There are many different ways for your church/organization to take action and end hunger for many people in our county:

→**Summer Food Program:** *Many children go hungry in the summer when school is out of session. Many schools have closed for the summer, eliminating summer school programs in order to save money. Where do kids receive meals when there isn't enough in the family pantry? Join many volunteers and feed children when school is out by logging onto: <http://www.summerfoodoregon.org/> or by contacting Annie Kirschner, 503-517-2099/annie@oregonhunger.org at Oregon Hunger Task Force or Sunny Ross, from the Washington County Commission on Children and Families: 503-756-3407 sunny_ross@co.washington.or.us.*



→**Emergency Food:** *Did you know that Washington County ranks the second highest county in Oregon for serving more food boxes than the year before? There was more than a 20% increase in emergency food boxes served to people in need this year. While many volunteers have stepped up to the plate to serve people in need, the need is rising at an alarming rate! If you are interested in hosting an emergency food pantry, please contact: Laura Slocomb at Oregon Food Bank at: (503) 282-0555 X320, lslocomb@oregonfoodbank.org.*



→**Meal Site:** *When the cupboards are bare, families struggle to put dinner on the table. As a free meal site, you can provide that complete meal for someone who rarely enjoys what we take for granted every day! To host a meal site, please contact: Laura Slocomb at Oregon Food Bank at (503) 282-0555 X320, lslocomb@oregonfoodbank.org.*

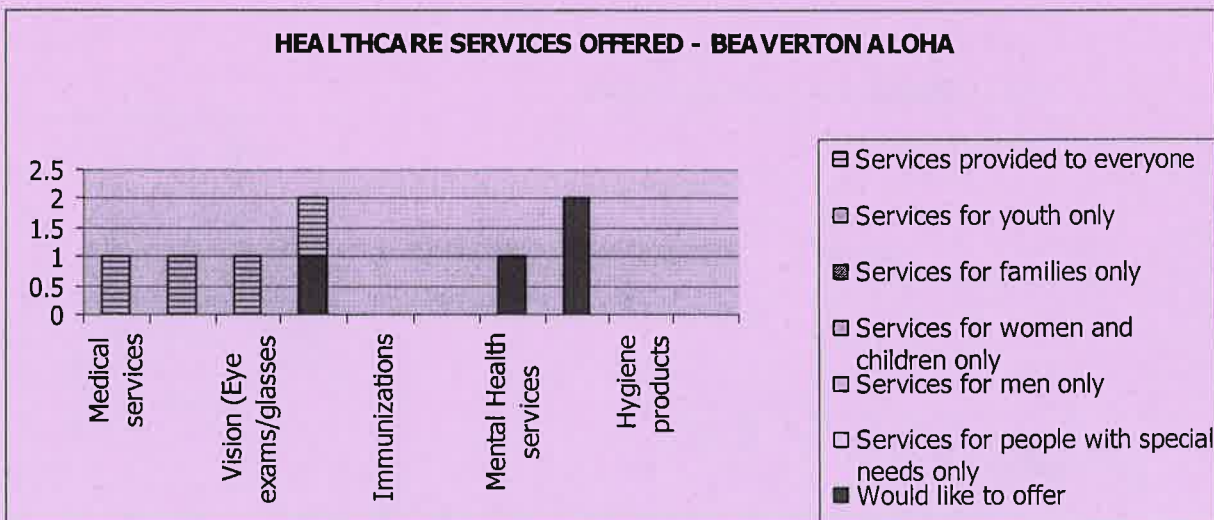
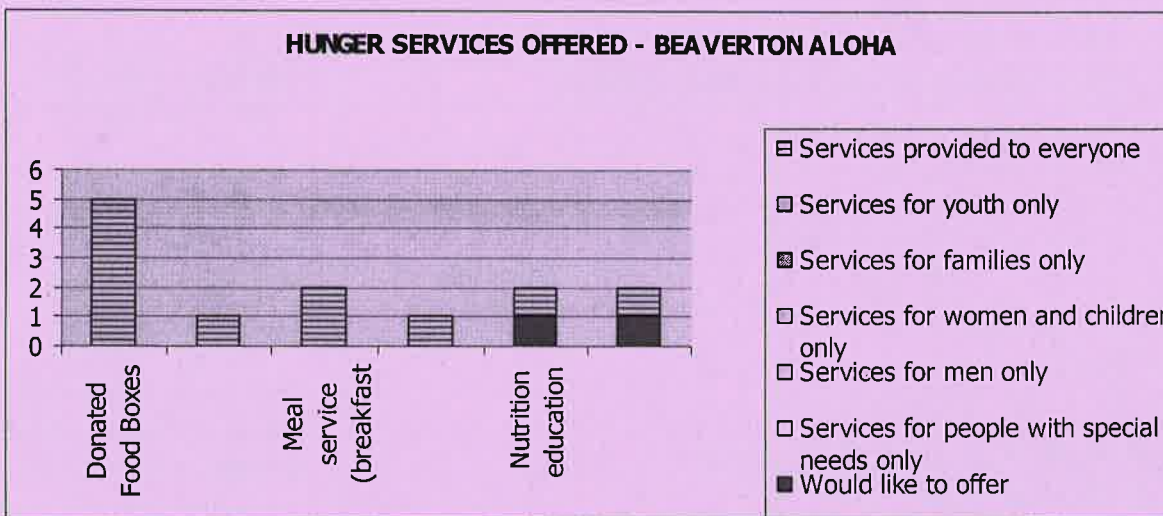
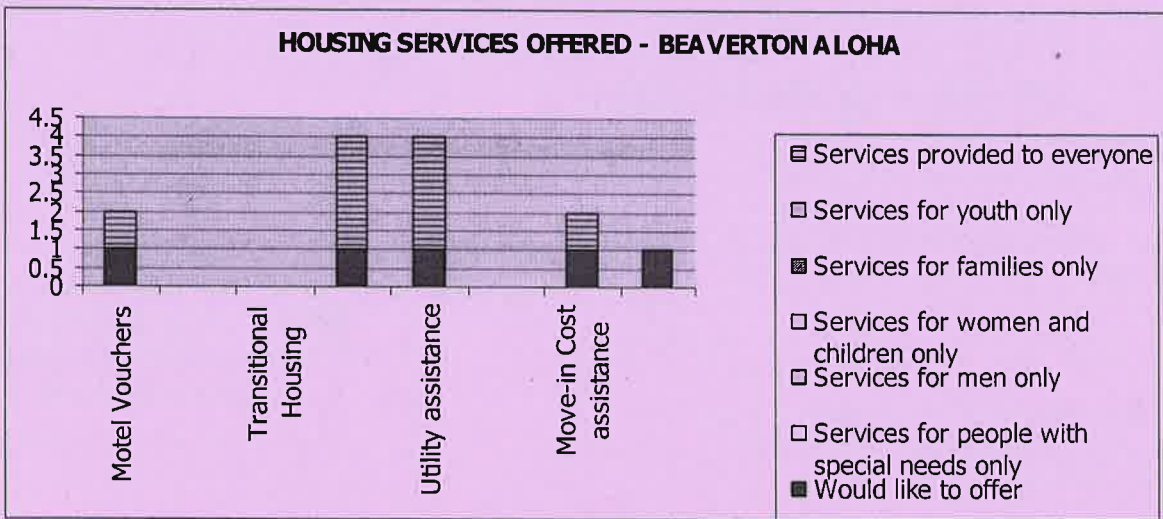
→**Volunteer, Donate, Advocate!** *You can take action and make a change! Consider taking these actions to end hunger:*

- **Volunteer:** Give some of your time and volunteer at a Summer Food Program site, Emergency Food Pantry or Meal Site. *You can make the difference and lend a hand to end hunger!*
- **Donate:** Donate funds to hosting churches and organizations that open their doors to serve people in need. **Fundraise:** coordinate groups to conduct fundraising efforts-**Foodraise:** ask your church or civic organization to participate in regular food drives to support a pantry in need.
- **Advocate:** Write your legislator, urge your local leaders to do more to end hunger! Join the anti-poverty groups in Salem and at home by advocating for better resources for low-income families! Contact the staff at the Oregon Hunger Task Force at: (503) 595-5501, <http://oregonhunger.org/take-action.html> or Oregon Food Bank at: (503) 282-0555, http://www.oregonfoodbank.org/research_and_action/legislative_update/.



BEAVERTON—ALOHA

Registration Survey Data



TIMES ARE TOUGH

Become Equipped to Respond

A Faith Forum on Hunger, Homelessness, and Health



In these difficult economic times faith communities are being increasingly visited by people who are hungry, sick, and without a place to call home. This forum will equip us to respond and work together in offering help to those in need. Assessing our resources and combining them with county services, nonprofits, shelters, food banks and health care providers, **will help us bring hope to the hurting.**

Saturday, September 26, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Sonrise Church (near Cornell Rd and NW 231st Ave)

6701 NE Campus Way | Hillsboro, Oregon 97124

www.isonrise.com

This forum is brought to you by the Washington County Interfaith Committee on Homelessness and other community partners.

For more information contact:

Eric Canon (Chair), Interfaith Committee on Homelessness at 503.357.3282

Reserve your place TODAY at www.ahomeoftheirown.com