



WASHINGTON COUNTY OREGON

March 13, 2009

Lisa Brown
Director of Development and Community Relations
Community Action Organization
1001 SW Baseline St.
Hillsboro, OR 97123

Dear Lisa,

Please join Washington County in celebrating National Public Health Week April 6-10!

Let me congratulate you personally on Community Action Opening Doors program's nomination and the 2009 Washington County Public Health Recognition Award for your agency's commitment to improving healthy birth outcomes in Washington County.

This letter is to confirm Opening Doors attendance at the award ceremony, which is on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 9:00 AM in the auditorium of the Charles D. Cameron Public Services Building at 155 N. First Ave. Hillsboro. There will be a short program along with the presentation of a plaque. After that we will enjoy refreshments and some photo opportunities.

Enclosed please find ceremony invitations, map and parking passes for the day. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Kelly Jurman at 503.846.4965.

Congratulations, Lisa to you and your team at Community Action Organization Opening Doors program.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Leary
Public Health Division Manager
Washington County Department of
Health and Human Services
155 N. First Ave. MS-4
Hillsboro, OR 97124



**Washington County
Department of Health & Human Services
2009 Public Health Recognition Award
Nomination Form**

Public Health promotes healthy lifestyles, safe environments and thriving communities

In conjunction with a celebration of National Public Health Week, the Department of Health and Human Services presents an award to an individual and an organization that has made a significant contribution to public health in the county.

Winners will be chosen by a group of WCHHS staff and managers with an awards presentation to be held on Thursday April 9, 2009. Nominations must be received by March 6, 2009.

Please use the form below to submit nominees for either the individual or organization award:

Nomination for (check one) Individual Group/Organization

Nominee Information:

Individual/Agency: COMMUNITY ACTION OPENING DOORS program
 Address: 9340 SW BARNES RD., Suite 100A
 City: PORTLAND State OR Zip 97225
 Phone: 503 517 3198 E-mail: jbrown@caowash.org

Please answer the following questions completely on a separate sheet of paper. Write clearly or type information.

1. What does the individual/agency do to improve the public's health within the community?
Describe activities, including length of service.
2. Who does the individual/agency assist in the community?
3. Why do you believe this individual or agency should be given this award?

Submitted by: LISA BROWN Phone: 503.693.3230

Please submit completed nomination to:
 Kelly Jurman, Health Promotion Supervisor
 155 N. First Ave - MS 4 - Hillsboro, OR 97124

*Supplement to the nomination of Community Action's Opening Doors program for the
Washington County Department of Health & Human Services
2009 Public Health Recognition Award*

Questions:

1. What does the individual/agency do to improve the public's health within the community? Describe activities, including length of service.

Community Action plays an important role in improving the health and well-being of low-income pregnant women and their babies through a program called Opening Doors. Opening Doors is a bilingual (English/Spanish) prenatal outreach program that links low-income pregnant women with the resources they need for healthy births. Since 1998, the program has increasingly become the primary point of access in Washington County for low-income women seeking prenatal care. Each year, more than 600 pregnant women are connected with prenatal care and referrals to other social services. Opening Doors also provides assistance enrolling uninsured women in the Oregon Health Plan, the Citizen Alien Waiver Emergency Medical program, and the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program. Over 69 percent of Opening Doors clients are seen by a provider within two weeks of intake. Women with multiple risk factors such as age, poverty, behavior, and domestic violence, are assigned to a Support Worker who provides support and education throughout the pregnancy.

Community Action works in partnership with all hospitals and health plan providers in the county to address the unmet health care needs of low-income pregnant women. Interpretation and translation services are provided for Spanish-speaking women through Opening Doors, to ensure that language does not become a barrier to a woman's ability to receive adequate prenatal care, and to assist health care partners who are providing services for uninsured women. Through enhanced outreach, education and public awareness, Opening Doors increases participation in maternal child health programs and improves healthy birth outcomes.

2. Who does the individual/agency assist in the community?

Adequate prenatal care has been identified as a basic need for all pregnant women in Oregon (Oregon Benchmark #40). However, 6.4 percent of Oregon women giving birth in 2007 did not receive adequate care, including 279 women in Washington County, according to the Oregon Department of Human Services. Babies born pre-term, or at a low birth weight, may experience breathing problems, brain hemorrhaging, heart problems, and other serious health risks. Opening Doors is a strategic community response to address this issue.

The following statistics depict Opening Doors clients during FY 2006-2007: 63 percent were single; 53 percent had less than a high school education; 21 percent reported alcohol use; 17 percent smoked cigarettes; 44 percent experienced domestic violence; 2 percent had private health insurance; and 62 percent were unable to access health care services because they were undocumented.

During FY 2008-2009, approximately 600 women will receive services from Opening Doors, comprising approximately 50 percent of all births to low-income women in Washington County. Clients can access services at sites in Beaverton and Cornelius, and Opening Doors conducts grassroots outreach to engage women who may be unlikely to seek appropriate prenatal care.

3. Why do you believe this individual or agency should be given this award?

Community Action is a community-based nonprofit social services organization serving low-income residents of Washington County since 1965. The organization's mission is to work in partnership with the community to assist low-income people to achieve self-determination. Community Action offers a wide range of services in early childhood and family development, housing and homelessness, and basic needs assistance. Opening Doors is a program that exemplifies Community Action's commitment to ensuring the success of Washington County families by eliminating barriers and providing access to appropriate services.

During 2007-2008, Opening Doors succeeded in equipping 511 low-income pregnant women for healthy births, 52 at-risk pregnant women received comprehensive services to enable healthy births, and 100 percent gave birth to healthy babies. Opening Doors has consistently achieved and often exceeded its goal of ensuring a 90 percent healthy birth rate. As a result of Opening Doors' work, and in spite of client risk factors, birth outcomes for clients assisted by the program are comparable to those of the general population.

Community Action and Opening Doors maintain strong relationships with health care providers, as well as other social service agencies. The program is carefully monitored. Representatives from the three hospitals in Washington County, health insurance providers, and local health clinics, form an oversight committee. The committee meets quarterly to review progress and assist with challenges, as well as to review quarterly reports containing detailed information regarding the number and characteristics of women served, as well as birth outcomes.

Opening Doors exemplifies community collaboration. The program receives financial support from stakeholders throughout the community, including: Washington County Commission on Children & Families, Kaiser Permanente, Tuality Healthcare, Legacy Health Systems, Providence St. Vincent Hospital, Care Oregon, Oregon MothersCare, and private foundations.

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