

# WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION NEWS

Volume 2, Number 3

Fall, 1987

## Shelter reopens – volunteers perform facelift during summer closure

by  
Bonnie Byron  
Shelter Coordinator

The Shelter re-opened on September 14.

How deceptively simple that sentence sounds! It doesn't begin to convey the Herculean task that getting ready to open our doors represented. Frankly, I wonder if Hercules himself wouldn't quail at this challenge.

From where I sit, it was awesome. Even in early September, getting to my desk in the basement required that I wind my way through a different obstacle course each morning. One day it was cans of paints and tarps; the next, chunks of sheet-rock and bricks. One day I was very nearly lassoed by a coil of electrical wiring that was suddenly jerked upward just as I was stepping over it. So many different contractors, electricians, plumbers, work crews and volunteers were busily at work that just about anybody could have walked in here and started knocking out a wall — and I wouldn't have questioned it!

It was an interesting challenge for our emergency services staff to try to talk to clients about rent assistance and utility bills with steady hammering and sanding going on in the background.

Despite the fact there was sometimes a chaotic feel around here, we are all pleased with the results of the summer's work. Thank's to Ramon's (he's the Shelter House manager) tireless coordination of work crews, we now have fresh paint gleaming throughout the whole main floor where faded, stained wallpaper once buckled and curled. There's an efficient little gas furnace in our basement and the old oil-burning monstrosity hulks like a



rusty, avant-garde sculpture out in the yard by the dumpster.

The Hillsboro Jaycees, who helped paint upstairs bedrooms, were the first volunteers who responded to our latest direct mail appeal for assistance. We recently sent out a brochure to churches and service groups asking them to help us in one of two ways: by either volunteering to work at the Shelter on Sundays and bring the Sunday dinner to our residents, or by "adopting" a room. The "adopt-a-room" option entails providing color-coordinated materials needed to finish our bedrooms (i.e., curtains, carpets, bedspreads, light fixtures, mirrors). Our intent is to name the refurbished room after the organization that donated the materials and/or labor and have a plaque with that name hung above the door.

(continued next page)



# Fall Fiesta to aid energy program

Do you enjoy dancing to live music, sipping wine, and browsing in craft booths? If so, you won't want to miss the First Annual FALL FIESTA on Saturday night, October 24, 1987!

Come to the Cloverleaf Room of the Washington County Fairgrounds in Hillsboro at 6:00 p.m. prepared to dance away the evening until 11:30 p.m. Proceeds from this exciting event will go to benefit WCCAO's Energy Program.

Live music will be provided by the Muddy Bottom Boys (country/bluegrass), the Lew Jones Band (rock), and a mariachi band. In addition to the craft booths, there will be various food booths, and beverages available include wine, beer, and apple cider.

Advance tickets are \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children under 12 and Seniors. Tickets at the door will be \$3.50 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12 and Seniors.

If you are unable to wait another week for Halloween, feel free to come in costume!

For more information on this event, contact the WCCAO Energy Program at 591-5425.



## Shelter reopens, cont'd.

In essence, what we're hoping to do is to reach out to our neighbors and develop an active partnership with a variety of groups. With fewer paid staff and a tighter budget, we're going to need to rely on broad-based community support more than ever (the Shelter's budget woes are due primarily to the lack of financial support this year from some local county and city governments). In the long run, it is committed volunteers that will make the difference between opening our doors and keeping them open.

We look forward with anticipation to meeting, training, and working with these volunteers as the WCCAO Shelter begins a new era in its long history of serving the homeless and needy in Washington County.

If you didn't receive one of our brochures and are interested in knowing more about how you can help at the Shelter, please give me a call at 648-0829.

P.S. We're planning an open house for sometime later this fall — so keep your eyes and ears open for our announcement!

# WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

ACTION NEWS is the newsletter of the Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO), published quarterly by the WCCAO Administration, 245 SE Second, Hillsboro, OR 97123. ACTION NEWS is co-ordinated by Pilar Kleier and produced by volunteers Nancy Wilcox and Stephen W. Smith.

The Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO) is a private, non-profit corporation providing a wide variety of services to the needy in Washington County, Oregon. Information on WCCAO programs is available from the following individuals:

WCCAO Administration (Jerralynn Ness, Executive Director) ..	648-6646
Energy Program (Pam Brousseau, Director) .....	640-8811
Heating Assistance (December through March) .....	640-8951
Head Start Program (Cathy Wise, Director) .....	648-6646
Shelter & Housing Services (Cheryl Hilbert, Director) .....	648-0820
Retired Senior Volunteer Program (Elaine Wells, Director) .....	642-3236
Tualatin Valley Food Center (Val Donley, Director) .....	642-3236



## Board Chair's Message

Shirley Harper

### Coming to grips with budget cuts

During my year as chairperson of the WCCAO executive board I experienced a great deal of personal satisfaction at the accomplishments of the board and staff of WCCAO. WCCAO was blessed with a board and staff made up of hardworking, effective people, dedicated to making our organization strong and successful.

At the same time there is a deep sense of

frustration in that our organization has not yet been able to come to grips with the service crises created by reduction in funding levels.

As were other organizations across the country ours has been forced to curtail some of our critically needed services. As an example, due to the reduction of the funding levels from various governmental agencies the WCCAO Shelter Home for the homeless was forced to close its doors during the summer months this year. Some of the other services have also been reduced.

We are developing alternative sources of revenue. An example of this was this year's exciting and successful Mardi Gras fund raiser. We plan to make this an annual affair - bigger and better every year.

Our planning process is underway and a survey of community needs has been completed and will be the basis for developing our priorities in providing services.

It has been an honor and a challenge to serve as chairperson of this organization.



## Executive Director's Message

Jerralynn Ness

### WCCAO sets 1987-88 goals

As we enter our new fiscal year, we would like to share with you a brief summary of the goals that were established by the WCCAO Board and staff for 1987-88:

#### Housing and Emergency Services:

To prevent the destitution and homelessness of at least 8,339 low-income people through the provision of emergency services and shelter options.

**Head Start:** Increase the social competence of preschool children by enrolling 144 low-income families and providing education, health, nutrition, social services, and parental involvement to assure increased opportunities to become self-sufficient adults.

**Volunteer Support:** To assure that all WCCAO programs have access to a wide variety of qualified volunteers, coordinating the placements of community, Jesuit, and

VISTA volunteers. In addition, to develop and implement a plan for operating a thrift store that will provide a source of revenue to support WCCAO's volunteer projects.

**Tualatin Valley Food Center:** To operate a county-wide food distribution network which coordinates the solicitation, storage, and distribution of donated food to organizations serving hunger needs. In addition, to coordinate the Christmas Clearing Bureau, Operation Brown Bag, and distribution of USDA commodities.

**Retired Senior Volunteer Program:** To provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for retired people age 60 and older to participate in their community and provide valuable services, as well as to operate a medical equipment lending library and non-emergency volunteer transportation system.

**Energy Program:** To assist at least 13,620 low-income people in the acquisition of affordable energy through fuel assistance payments, energy conservation, policy education, and weatherization.

**WCCAO Administration:** To carry out the mission of the agency through the implementation of Board direction and to provide support to the Board, programs, and staff.

To obtain a complete copy of WCCAO's 1987-88 program and financial plan, please contact Pilar Kleier at 648-6646.





**Brown Bag Distribution Sites:**

**Beaverton Area** (including Beaverton, Aloha, Cedar Hills, Cedar Mill, Raleigh Hills, West Slope, Rock Creek, and Portland/Washington County): Second Friday of each month, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., at St. Bartholemew's Episcopal Church, 11265 SW Cabot, Beaverton.

**Hillsboro Area** (including Hillsboro, Orenco, West Union, Helvetia, Scholls, and North Plains): Third Friday of each month, 12 noon to 6 p.m., at the American Legion Hall, 285 West Main, Hillsboro.

**Forest Grove Area** (including Forest Grove, Gaston, Dilly, Buxton, Banks, Gales Creek, Glenwood, Cherry Grove, Manning, Timber, and Laurelwood): Last Friday of each month, 12 noon to 6 p.m., at the United Church of Christ, 2032 College Way, Forest Grove.

**Cornelius:** Last Friday of each month, 12 noon to 6 p.m., at the Cornelius Baptist Church, 198 South 16th St., Cornelius.

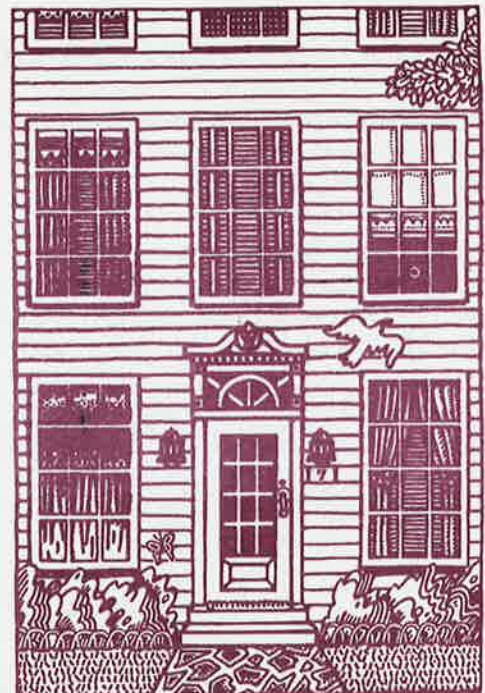


**Justice for All Day - November 17** - a national day to draw attention to poverty and the needs of the poor. Watch your newspaper for information on local events or call 648-6636.

## Fair Housing brochures available in foreign languages

WCCAO's Fair Housing program has fair housing brochures available in Vietnamese and Spanish. Please contact Donna Butler, 648-0829, at the WCCAO Housing and Emergency Services program if you wish copies of these materials.

The brochures have been developed as part of the agency's fair housing counseling activities to promote equal opportunity housing. Funding for this project has been derived from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Washington County Community Development Block Grant Program.







## Volunteers sought to staff local programs

The Tualatin Valley Food Center needs volunteers to help in the warehouse. They need the most help on Wednesdays and Thursdays, which are their weekly distribution days. Also needed are drivers to pick up donated food throughout Washington County and transport it to the warehouse in Aloha. Please call Gary at 642-3236 if you are interested in helping.

The Oregon Human Development Corporation needs drivers and babysitters to transport teen mothers and their children to school and to sit with the baby while the mother is in class. If you are interested in more information, please call Jan or Hilda at 642-3236.

The RSVP Volunteer Transportation Program needs volunteer drivers and support staff to transport seniors and handicapped persons in two Volunteer Transportation vans. If you are interested, please call Joe at 642-3236.

The Christmas Clearing Bureau needs volunteer help in the office screening applications for duplications and low income eligibility. There is also a great need for a Hillsboro Coordinator. This person would be responsible for matching food basket applications with the individuals and organizations giving out food baskets.

WCCAO is looking for volunteers to become part of our 1988 Mardi Gras Committee. This is a gala event which will be held on February 20, 1988, as a benefit for WCCAO. Committee members can work on arrangements, food and beverage, promotions, decorations, ticket sales, program, or the silent auction. Please contact Pilar Kleier if you are interested, at 648-6646.

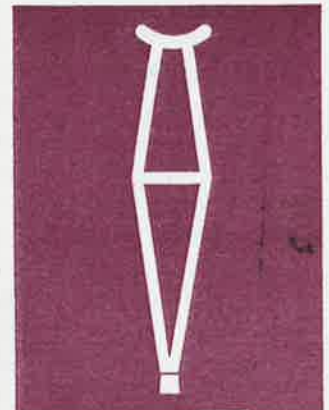
WCCAO's Shelter Home is undergoing major repairs and renovation. If you or your group would like to help, we have the following needs:

1. Volunteers to answer phones, provide clients with information and referrals, issuing food boxes and talking with our Shelter residents.
2. Providing Sunday supper for residents, organizing games for the children, helping with holiday celebrations and organizing special events for residents.
3. "Adopt a Room" and help us by completely remodeling one of our Shelter bedrooms. We will name the "new" room for your organization.
4. Donations of linens, personal hygiene items, food, and kitchen utensils.

## Medical Equipment Lending Library now available

Medical equipment can be a very costly investment, especially if you have only a temporary need for it. The Retired Senior Volunteer Program has a Medical Equipment Lending Library available to all senior, low-income, and handicapped persons in Washington County. There is a variety of equipment in the library, including canes, walkers, commodes, and grab bars. The equipment borrowed may be kept as long as it is needed and being used.

All of the equipment has been donated by organizations and individuals. Crestview



Nursing Home recently made a large donation of some very nice equipment.

If you or someone you know needs some medical equipment, and they can't afford to buy it, please call Elaine at 642-3236. We will gladly accept additional donations of medical equipment.

## WCCAO welcomes new employees

### VISTA and Jesuit Volunteers join WCCAO staff

WCCAO has four new Jesuit volunteers and three new VISTA volunteers. Joe Whittman is a Jesuit volunteer from Cranford, New Jersey. He will be coordinating our new Volunteer Transportation Program. Joe is a former New York City tour guide. He has also worked part-time for a transportation program for senior citizens.

Christina Larch is also a Jesuit volunteer. She is originally from Detroit, Michigan, but has spent the last six months working in a shelter home in Rochester, New York. Christina will be spending half of her time coordinating special projects for TVFC and RSVP. The rest of her time she will be

writing grants and proposals to help support our program efforts.

Katy Brandley and Michael Vigil are Jesuit volunteers placed at WCCAO's Shelter Home. Katy came to WCCAO from North Attleboro, Massachusetts. While a part of the Housing and Emergency Services staff, Katy will be working with individuals who are facing evictions or are experiencing other housing related problems so that their housing situations can be solved and fewer individuals become homeless. Michael left his job at the La Puente Emergency Shelter in Ala Mosa, Colorado, to join the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Michael will be working with the many homeless individuals seeking shelter and assistance from WCCAO.

Jan Kenney and Hilda Stephens are new VISTA volunteers. They will be working together to develop a volunteer recruitment and placement program for WCCAO. Jan lives in Forest Grove with her family. Hilda is new to Oregon. She moved here from Los Angeles and is now living in Beaverton. They both feel this will be a very exciting and interesting year.

Marion Allman is our third new VISTA. Marion will be working to establish a comprehensive Information and Referral Program at WCCAO.

### Christmas Clearing Bureau seeks donations, volunteers

The Christmas Clearing Bureau (CCB) will be starting soon. The goal of the Bureau is to provide a Christmas basket for every low-income family in Washington County who needs one. The Bureau will be passing out applications through the USDA Mass Food Distributions, libraries, social service agencies, food boxes, and schools. All applications are sent back to the Bureau, where they are screened for duplications and income eligibility. The applications are then sent to four area coordinators, and matched with individuals or organizations who wish to give a Christmas basket.

The Christmas Clearing Bureau is set up and operated entirely by volunteers. If you would be interested in volunteering, giving a Christmas basket, or if you need to receive one, please call the Bureau at 642-3236.





# Justice for All Day November 17

On November 17, 1987, WCCAO will join with organizations and individuals nationwide to reaffirm that "Justice for All" is one of our nation's founding principles.

"Justice for All Day" was organized to call on neighbors, our coworkers, and elected officials to recognize that poverty is a public problem that requires public solutions as well as private caring.

Across the country, communities will hold forums, hearings, town meetings, and public events. WCCAO is currently planning how to utilize "Justice for All Day" to understand poverty — its scope, its consequences, and its diversity.

If you are interested in helping to plan for this event, or would like more information on the events as November 17 approaches, please contact Christine Larch at 642-3236.



## Planning underway for second annual Mardi Gras fund raiser



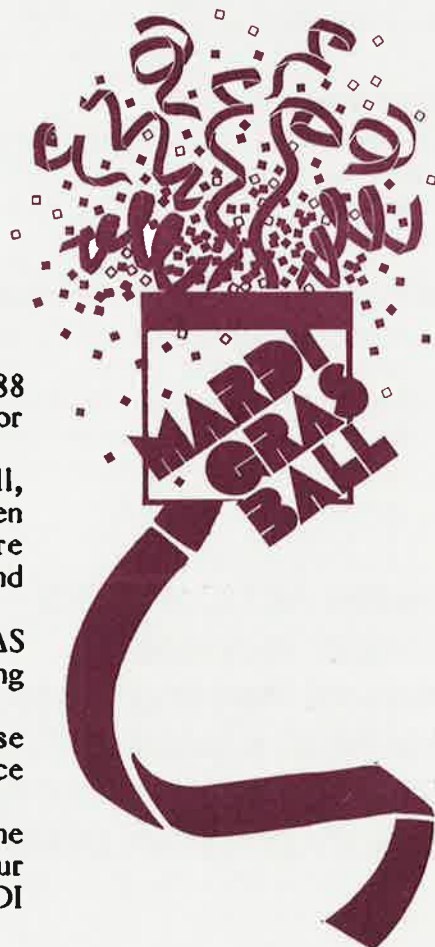
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!** The 1988 MARDI GRAS BALL has been scheduled for February 20.

The big, shimmery, glimmery masked ball, WCCAO's major fundraising event, will be even **MORE EXCITING** in 1988. Watch for more details on the location, entertainment, and special surprises planned for this evening.

WCCAO is now recruiting for MARDI GRAS team — there are opportunities in everything from Promotions to the Auction.

If you want to be a part of the team, please call Pilar Kleier at 648-6646. Any assistance offered will be greatly appreciated.

And, even if you can't be part of the preparations — don't forget to dust off your dancing shoes and get ready to join us — MARDI GRAS 1988 is on its way!





## Energy program offers workshops, low-income assistance

As the cold weather begins to hit pocketbooks again with high utility bills, TAKE ACTION! WCCAO's Energy Program offers free Self-Help Weatherization Workshops. The workshops feature videotapes of energy saving tips, hands-on demonstrations and an energy conservation manual. Each participant receives a kit at the workshop to begin weatherizing their homes. Low and moderate income participants receive individualized home audits and additional

weatherization materials to install. Anyone wishing to "host" a workshop at their home can invite their friends and have the weatherization materials installed by the workshop participants and instructors.

Four workshops per month will be offered from October through February. For more information and to sign up for a workshop, call 591-5425, between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30, Monday through Friday.

**Energy Assistance:** Not a moment too soon, help arrives for low-income households plagued with high utility costs. If you or someone you know needs assistance in paying for heat this winter, help is available through WCCAO's Energy Assistance Program (commonly referred to as LIEAP). Last year, almost 4,000 households were given assistance, information, and referral. Don't miss out on this opportunity to free up money needed for food, clothing, or rent.

Official start-up date for the program is December 1. Call to qualify at 640-8951.

**Washington County  
Community Action Organization**  
245 S.E. Second  
Hillsboro, OR 97123  
(503) 648-6646

### **WCCAO Executive Committee:**

Shirley Harper, Chair  
Jim Sehon, Vice Chair  
Nancy Monroe, Secretary  
Rep. Al Young, Treasurer  
Joan Johnson, At Large  
Jerry Arnold, At Large

### **Inside ACTION NEWS:**

**Shelter reopens**  
**Annual Meeting announced**  
**Medical equipment available on loan**  
**Christmas donations needed**  
**Energy program offers assistance**

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