



Watch for a broadcast of

# **When Ends Don't Meet**

Washington County's Working Poor

*Live, on Ch.9/33, January 19 from 7 - 9 pm.*

After the documentary is shown, an interactive discussion will be held with Leon Laptook (Community Action Organization) and Cassandra Garrison (Oregon Food Bank).

*Call in with questions and comments!*



You're invited to attend a premiere screening of the new documentary



# **When Ends Don't Meet**

**Washington County's Working Poor**

# **When Ends Don't Meet** a documentary about **Washington County's Working Poor**

## **Premiere Screenings:**

**Monday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Tigard Library, 13125 S.W. Hall Blvd.

**Tuesday, November 16, 7:00 p.m.**  
Tuality Health Education Center Auditorium,  
334 S.E. 8th Ave., Hillsboro

**Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.**  
Beaverton City Hall, 4755 SW Griffith Dr.

The 30 minute documentary will be followed by an informal discussion. Refreshments will be provided.

**RSVP: 629-8534 Ext. 181**

Funded by the *John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation*. Produced by Tualatin Valley Community Access in partnership with Community Action Organization and Oregon Human Rights Coalition.



1001 SW Baseline St. • Hillsboro, OR • 97123 • 648-6646 • 648-4175

November 3, 1999

Please join me for a special screening of a new documentary on the working poor in our county. Tualatin Valley Community Access, with support from the MacArthur Foundation, has captured on film the story of our low-income neighbors. I would welcome your presence at one of the viewings on November 15, 16 or 17<sup>th</sup>, and look forward to your continued advocacy for those in need in our county.

I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Jerralynn Ness  
Executive Director

## When Ends Don't Meet examines working poor

Documentary profiles families caught between paycheck, homelessness

By L.D. SAARI  
of the News-Times

The choices are simple — pay this bill or that bill with a limited income.

The choices are hard — pay the electricity and phone bill, or feed my family for another week.

The choices are real — for thousands of the working poor in Washington County who try to survive one paycheck away from homelessness.

*When Ends Don't Meet: Washington County's Working Poor* is a 30-minute documentary produced by Tualatin Valley Community Access. In partnership with Community Action Organization and Oregon Human Rights Coalition, the film examines the plight of more than 15 percent of the county's residents.

"There are somewhere around 74,000 low-income residents in the county," said Diane Hess, community relations coordinator for TVCA, "and this film examines some myths surrounding them. The first myth is that they don't exist. The second myth is who they are."

Although Washington County is a relatively affluent and prosperous area in the state, said Hess, there is a wide gap between the "have's" and the "have-not's."

"The perceptions of poor people are not totally accurate," said Hess. "Many people think they are all on public assistance, living in subsidized housing. But there are many people in every community who are single-parent homes, or even both parents are there, but everyone is working and they still have a hard time making ends meet."

Statistics indicate that housing costs in Washington County are among the highest in the state, with many low-income families spending more than one-half their income on housing needs. Many people considered the working poor are employed in temporary, part-time or contract work, which provide no health or other employment benefits.

"The consequences of living in poverty are enormous all around," said Hess. "They don't have medical insurance, so they go to hospital emergency rooms instead of a doctor's office. You've got all sorts of issues surrounding children like inadequate nutrition and child care, they often can't participate in other activities like their friends so they've got those peer issues to deal with. And these issues affect an entire community."

Six families are profiled in *When Ends Don't Meet*, all typical of the working poor. Some are



courtesy ph

**Families with children comprise a large portion of Washington County's working poor**

single-parent families, while some have both parents present. But all of the adults in the film show are working — working in assembly in the electronics industry; a maid; a janitor; a food service worker in a hospital; a warehouse worker; and someone working in retail.

Community Action Organization, headquartered in Hillsboro, receives more than 1,000 requests for assistance every month on its information and referral telephone line. On a typical night, there are nearly 500 homeless individuals in the county; one-quarter of that number is children. CAO serves 75 families each year at its Hillsboro homeless shelter.

"Half of those who stay at the shelter have at least one family member working," said Con Sherrard, program developer at CAO. "The families have no buffer. Most people have families and friends, savings we can fall back on if we have to. But many people have used those buffers, if they had them in the first place. That's when they can come dangerously close to homelessness."

*When Ends Don't Meet* will have a free premier screening Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7 p.m., in the Tualatin Health Education Auditorium, 334 S. Eighth Ave., Hillsboro. To reserve a space, call (503) 629-8534, Ext. 181. An informal discussion period and refreshments will follow the documentary.

Both Hess and Sherrard hope the documentary will serve to educate the public about the needs of the working poor and some ways efforts can help to stem the gap between the "have's" and "have-not's."

"For many of us, if we come up short we cut something out, not go out to dinner every weekend or something," said Hess. "But for the working poor, they aren't doing those extra things in the first place. What they have to cut out is some basic needs."

"It's often a decision between heat or eat," said Sherrard. "It's that simple."

# BEAVERTON VALLEY TIMES

AN EDITION OF TIMES NEWSPAPERS

VOL. 79 ■ NO. 45 50 CENTS

BEAVERTON, OREGON

Thursday, November 11, 1999

# OPINION

Thursday, November 11, 1999

## Working poor film, talks right steps

A valuable look inside the realities of Washington County's working poor will be unveiled next week in three community screenings of a documentary film titled "When Ends Don't Meet: Washington County's Working Poor."

The documentary has been produced by Tualatin Valley Community Access in partnership with Community Action Organization of Washington County, the Oregon Human Rights Coalition and a citizens advisory committee. The screenings will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at the Tigard Library; Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Tuality Health Education Center Auditorium in Hillsboro; and Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Beaverton City Hall.

Unfortunately, Washington County is perceived as an across-the-board affluent community. While many in the county are financially stable, an estimated 58,000 county residents are living in poverty. Most of these folks are employed. Yet they are engaged in an everyday struggle to support their families and households.

"When Ends Don't Meet" tells these local residents story — and compelling struggle — through the eyes and own words of those affected by poverty. Featured in the film are several residents of Tigard and Beaverton and western Washington County. What becomes clear is that the financial difficulties they endure are something that may be felt by many more of us who live from paycheck to paycheck.

But simply producing a video telling the story of those in need is not enough for Tualatin Valley Community Access, its partners, the community — or for those in need. That's why a discussion following each screening of the film is vitally important. Hopefully, the discussions will raise issues related to working poverty and community strategies for solving problems.

Such a discussion should not just involve government officials or social service providers. Washington County residents of all financial abilities — those in need and those who are not — should attend the screenings and contribute to a strategy for a more balanced community.

The production of "When Ends Don't Meet" is a valuable first step forward. The second step is the community discussion. The third is a community-based plan and actions that come from commitments made at those screenings.

For more information and to reserve a seat at a screening, call Tualatin Valley Community Access at 629-8534, Ext. 181.

# When Ends Don't Meet Screening Survey

*Thank you for taking a few minutes to respond to these questions. Your input will help us to evaluate the effectiveness of the documentary for community education efforts.*

What is your overall reaction to this documentary? What feelings or thoughts does it leave you with?

1. What messages do you get from this documentary?
2. Does the documentary leave you with any questions?
3. We plan to use the documentary as an educational tool in the community. Are there any specific improvements you would recommend?
4. Are there groups that you know of who should see this? Who are they?
5. Would you be willing to set up a showing for a group you are affiliated with? If so, what group would that be?
6. What do you see yourself doing to address poverty in the future?

Optional:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

# ON LOCATION

## "When Ends Don't Meet: Washington County's Working Poor" Debuts in November

When you think of Washington County, do you think of high-tech industries, farm land, and a boom in housing and commercial developments? If you are among the 58,000 county residents who are working but living in poverty, there's another face to the image.

Join TVCA as we debut our documentary *When Ends Don't Meet: Washington County's Working Poor*, the story of life in Oregon's silicon forest shown through the eyes of low-income working families struggling to make ends meet here.

*When Ends Don't Meet* was funded by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. Mac Arthur Foundation, which promotes the development of healthy individuals and effective communities. TVCA produced the documentary in partnership with Community Action Organization, Oregon Human Rights Coalition and a community-based project advisory committee.

### SPECIAL SCREENINGS

- Monday, November 15, 7 p.m.  
Tigard Library, Puett Room, 13125 SW Hall Blvd.,
- Tuesday, November 16, 7 p.m.  
Tuality Health Education Center Auditorium,  
334 SE 8<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hillsboro
- Wednesday, November 17, 7 p.m.  
Beaverton City Hall,  
4755 SW Griffith Dr., 1st floor conference room

**RSVP: 629-8534 EXT. 181 BY WED. NOV. 10.**

*When Ends Don't Meet* will be used as an educational tool by social service, labor and advocacy groups on an ongoing basis. To learn more about the video, contact Diane Hess at TVCA, 629-8534, Ext. 116.





... Your Center for Community Communication

## When Ends Don't Meet: Washington County's Working Poor

Cablecast Dates:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Channel</u>
Monday, November 22, 1999	7:00pm	9/33
Tuesday, November 23, 1999	1:00pm	9/33
Saturday, November 27, 1999	9:00pm	9/33
Thursday, December 2, 1999	7:30pm	9/33
Friday, December 3, 1999	1:30pm	9/33
Sunday, December 5, 1999	9:30pm	9/33
Wednesday, December 8, 1999	8:30pm	9/33
Thursday, December 9, 1999	2:30pm	9/33
Sunday, December 12, 1999	4:30pm	9/33
Friday, December 17, 1999	6:30pm	9/33
Saturday, December 18, 1999	8:30am	9/33
Monday, December 20, 1999	12:30pm	9/33
	4:00pm	9/33
Tuesday, December 21, 1999	10:00am	9/33
Saturday, December 25, 1999	6:00pm	9/33
Thursday, December 30, 1999	5:00pm	9/33
Friday, December 31, 1999	11:00am	9/33
Sunday, January 2, 2000	7:00pm	9/33

Channels are listed with two channel numbers separated by a slash. The first channel number is for the TCI Tualatin Valley system; the second number is for the portion of the TCI Portland system serving unincorporated Washington County. Programs scheduled for Channel 11 can be seen throughout the Portland metropolitan area on the Community Access Network.

If you have any questions, please call me at 629-8534, extension 107.

Sincerely,

Matt O'Dell  
Tape Traffic Coordinator

## Premier Screenings

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Beaverton City Hall, 4755 SW Griffith Dr.

The 30 minute documentary will be followed  
by an informal discussion.

Refreshments will be provided.

Join us for this free community event.

**RSVP 629-8534 Ext. 181**



# When Ends Don't Meet

## Washington County's Working Poor

## Screening Events Agenda

- 7:00-7:15 Sign in, refreshments
- 7:15--7:30 Welcome, plan for evening, "the value of dialogue" (Diane Hess, Jerralynn Ness/Lowell Greathouse)
- 7:30-8:00 Screen documentary
- 8:00-8:40 Small group discussions (groups of 4-5; facilitators ask questions, make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak)  
*Ask each question and encourage everyone to participate. If someone hasn't spoken, ask them what they think. Estimate about five-10 minutes per question.*
- Introductions
  - What were your reactions to the documentary?
  - Where do you see poverty in your day-to-day life?  
*Encourage them to go through their day: example- stopping for gas or 7-11 to get milk, dropping their child off at day care, stopping for coffee, going to the bank, etc.*
  - Where do you think the responsibility lies for addressing poverty?  
*This could be government, churches, volunteers, etc.*
  - What strategies do you think would help address poverty?  
*These could be public policies related to price controls, wage increases, subsidizing expenses, tax benefits for charity, etc.*
  - Do you think this documentary is an effective tool for community education? What audiences do you think it would be most effective with?  
*These could be high school classes, church social concerns committees, Chamber Leadership, etc.*
- 8:40-8:50 Diane Hess and Cassandra Garrison pass out and explain hand-outs: "What Can I Do?", "Washington County Legislators", "Playback Schedule" and "Survey". Diane asks people to fill out the brief survey and drop it off at the registration table before they leave. Thank people for coming.
- 8:50-9:00 Fill out surveys, take brochures/refreshments, etc.