

From: Jerralynn Ness
To: Eric Canon
Subject: Re: Homelessness In Washington County

Dear Eric,

Thank you for your leadership on this very important social concern. It is very inspiring and heartwarming to see such a swell of community support rise and bring visibility to the issues of homelessness in our community. Community Action deeply appreciates all that you're doing and we are here as a resource and willing partner. Warmly, Jerralynn

>>> Eric Canon <canonmetals@yahoo.com> 5/26/2006 9:40:03 AM >>>
Hello Everyone,

The May 13th event, "Putting A Face on Homelessness", attracted over 90 people to Pacific University on a sunny Saturday morning. To see that our group's concern was shared by so many of you was deeply moving for members of our committee as well as the shelter directors who came to speak. It was good to know that we are not alone. I like to think that this issue's time has come. There's a reason so many of us turned out: We need to do a better job helping people who are homeless!

The most telling remark for me that "put a face" on a homeless person came from Sydney Sherwood of the Tigard Good Neighbor Shelter. She said that "the average age of a homeless person in Washington County is twelve". When you combine that fact with another fact, that our family shelters are able to serve only one in ten people who are in need, the real picture of "that face" becomes disturbingly clear.

Here is an account of our forum that appeared in the Forest Grove News Times:

<http://www.forestgrovenewstimes.com/article/11397>

Our committee has composed a letter to all the houses of faith in our county, and some other individuals and groups as well. Watch your mail for our letter. If you do not receive our letter by next week, and would like a copy of the letter, please let me know. We are trying to organize all of your names and contact information. We do not want to leave anyone out who wants to be a part of this effort. We definitely need and appreciate your help with this part of this effort. If you do not wish to be on this list, let me know.

The next step, as we said at the forum, is a county wide collection for our four county shelters. Their budgets have been cut, and the

funds we are able to raise will help to restore some of what they no longer provide for us. Our letter will outline this for each of you.

We have materials to assist you with this appeal. We have a fact sheet, listing the four shelters and the people they serve (as well as the people they do NOT serve). We have our poster, which will give our effort continuity county wide. We also have a list of people who are willing to come and talk to any group about this issue. And, we are here for your questions and suggestions and ideas.

Our committee continues to meet on a regular basis. We are learning a lot about this issue and working closely with people in the field. We want to be as effective and appropriate as we can be.

This effort will go nowhere without all of you! Each of us is an essential part to the process of finding solutions to this crisis. Our roles are certainly different one from another, but, combined, we become a team, able to take a giant step forward.

I will keep you informed of the progress of our campaign as we go along. We very much appreciate your input and your prayers.

Blessings,

Eric Canon
Chair - FGUCC Homelessness Committee
(503) 357-3282

CC: Board of Directors; Directors