



Community "IN" ACTION

Newsletter November 17th, 2009

Deadline is the second Friday of the month; Contacts for articles are: Child Dev. - Farzana Siddiqui, F&CR & Layout - Barb Dame, Development & Community Relations - Lisa Brown, HR - Nicole Cossette, All others - Nancy Peters. Editor: Renée Bruce

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

I wanted to bring you up to date on Community Action's role with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Overall, Community Action will be receiving almost \$5.1 million to increase the delivery of essential services at a time of unprecedented need. These funds will be spent between April 20, 2009 and July 6, 2012. We are proudly creating and supporting 34-39 jobs locally. As a result, approximately 2,206 families who are struggling to make ends meet will have their lives improved. Our ARRA funded services include Weatherization, Early Head Start, quality improvements in Head Start, emergency and longer term rental assistance, Opening Doors, CCR&R and the Summer Meals program. In addition, we will be providing a range of housing, employment, case management and support services to high-risk, unstable or newly economic insecure families, to ease the impact of the recession. We are also pleased to be a recipient of two ARRA AmeriCorps members to help us with our outreach to, and engagement of, the faith community. I hope you will get a chance to meet Asia and Lindsey at our December 4th All Staff.

This week, at Congressman Wu's request, we had an opportunity to meet with him and present our ARRA plans and activities. He emphasized the importance of being able to communicate the impact we are having on the economy. From the beginning, we have

Directors' Corner continued

known that this was important and have been working on an economic impact statement, starting with Weatherization. We are working with the former Economic Development Director for the City of Hillsboro and have developed an economic analysis of our ARRA Weatherization program. This will create a model for us to use for all of our programs.

An economic impact analysis traces spending through the economy and measures the cumulative effects of that spending. The cumulative effects are determined by various "multipliers" that allow us to determine the impact of each dollar entering, impacting and eventually leaving a defined economy. For example, when one of our employees gets a pay check, they spend their money on food at the grocery store; the grocery store spends their money on their employees and their suppliers; their employees and their suppliers spend their money, and so on. That is the "multiplier effect" that stimulates the economy and Community Action is doing its' part. In ARRA Weatherization alone, our \$2.7 million dollar grant will create or support 56 direct and indirect jobs, save \$1.5 million in energy savings, and stimulate \$3.87 million in additional spending, for a total economic impact of \$6.59 million. That is very impressive. But more important, the reason we are doing this is to help make life better for hundreds of families in our community....and this is what we shine at.

As we approach Thanksgiving, I wish for all of you and your families many reasons to be thankful. Enjoy this holiday break, and thank you for all that you do.



NEWS OF NOTE

Fall All Staff

Friday, December 4th
will be held at Trinity Lutheran
2194 SE Minter Bridge Road
in Hillsboro.

Begins at 8:30 am.
Ends at 5:00pm.

Attendance is required. See page 2 for more details.

If you would like to support the food pantry at our Hillsboro Family Shelter, we will be providing an area at All Staff for you to drop off your donations.

Thank you to those who have generously contributed canned goods and other shelf-stable items.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

IS Committee Meeting	12/1
Fall All Staff	12/4
Safety Committee Meeting	12/10
Hillsboro Building Meeting	12/15
Head Start Policy Council	12/15
Board Meeting	12/17
Christmas Holiday	12/24 & 12/25

December 2009 BIRTHDAYS



Jonielle Bright	12/4
Dominica Webber	12/5
Joan Ellen Jones	12/7
Cherlyn Page	12/7
Michelle Carter	12/7
Nancy Alderman	12/11
Randy Webber	12/11
Jessica Poletski	12/10
Ana Alvarez	12/13
Maria Rodriguez-Perez	12/13
Francis Nichols	12/14
Linda Watt	12/17
Carla Chilton	12/19
Rosanna Ferguson	12/20
Carolyne Westlake	12/20
Cilicia Burrell	12/21
Sonia Sanchez	12/22
Natalie Horne	12/23
Mayra Barrera de Gomez	12/24
Mary Carol Britt	12/24
Randall Marker	12/27

(If you want your birthday acknowledged, be sure to complete an authorization form – contact HR)

All-Staff Meeting “Understanding Value”

December 4, 2009

8:30 am – 5:00pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

(2194 SE Minter Bridge Rd. in Hillsboro **)

Potluck Breakfast

- *Must be Store Bought Items only*

If your **LAST NAME** begins with:

A-E:	JUICE (e.g. orange juice, pineapple, V-8 juice, etc.)
F-J:	DAIRY (e.g. yogurt, cottage cheese, string cheese, etc.)
K-O:	PROTEIN (sliced meats, bacon, boiled eggs, etc.)
P-T:	GRAINS (bread, bagels, croissants, etc.)
U-Z:	FRESH FRUIT (apples, bananas, oranges, etc.)

Please bring what's assigned.

Guest Facilitator - Eileen Mejia

Lunch catered by the Beaverton Sub Station

**Door prizes, Anniversary Celebrations,
Employee Giving Campaign and more!**

** Please remember to car pool, or use the parking lot at Home Depot, as there is limited parking at the church.

December 2009 ANNIVERSARIES



15 years	Wendy Crislip
14 years	Corie Jensen
8 years	America Morales
7 years	Sandra Lazo Lopez
7 years	Blanca Silva
5 years	Janie Diaz Hernandez
5 years	Kathy Zane
2 years	Randy Webber
1 year	Tami Minnieweather, Marisela Bernal, Giselle-Anne Kim, Leah Brand & Kimmerly Webb

Operations –

Operations Manager -

Ann Hering 503-726-0854

IS Staff -

Todd Bentley, IS Coordinator 503-693-3287

Randall Marker, IS Technician 503-726-0853

Facilities - Cal Bowe, Maintenance 503-969-7231

Courier Services - Tracy Kristensen 971-563-7977 and

Bob Johncola 503-302-2382

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Green Team Tip

*Contributed by Kimberly Gazaway,
A Community Action Green Team Member*



Being Green means more than simply recycling. For those who are interested in taking another step in helping the environment and making a difference, here are some tips for a Greener Thanksgiving:

- Buy an organic free range turkey or even have a tofurkey to be even more Green.
- Donate your leftover food to a shelter or food bank.
- Buy food products that are in packaging that is environmentally friendly.
- Buy local products, from within a 100 mile radius, that way you are reducing your carbon footprint.

Enjoy the season and remember all that you are thankful for.

Think Green. Be Green.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Gratitude

Recent studies show that grateful people are happier, more resilient, and less depressed.

During school in November we ask children to write or draw something they are thankful for, but a school assignment is limited. Real gratitude is an awareness that permeates our lives, regardless of our age.

Gratitude is more than just saying polite words, although that is a part of the equation. It is a deep appreciation of people, things and experiences. There are simple ways to point out and share things we can be grateful for with children and hope the emotions will follow.

Gratitude involves more than just an appreciation. Gratitude needs to be shared to be truly experienced. It is important when a child expresses gratitude that we stop and share in the celebration whenever possible.

Teaching children to be grateful is important for many reasons. First of all, it makes them more enjoyable to be around. Also, people want to do more for those who appreciate their efforts. But if you want them to experience happiness in life, they must learn to be grateful for what they have today. It doesn't really matter what children choose to be grateful for, it matters that they learn to be grateful and to appreciate good fortune and benefits when they occur. They learn that life is not all about just them and that life and life's goodness is a gift, not something to be expected or taken for granted.

Thanksgiving is a special time to give thanks not just for the obvious, such as food, but for the fortunate moments and the blessings that we receive each year. Making thankfulness and gratitude a daily habit is beneficial for everyone, including our children.

Teaching children to be grateful helps them to become more positive and optimistic about life. We want our children to be appreciative and thoughtful. Teaching children to attain this attitude of thankfulness will require repeated efforts over a long period of time, but it is well worth the effort.



Operations, cont...

We have recently had a change in couriers and are asking for your patience during the training process. When addressing mail to anyone in the agency, **please** be sure to include their first & last name, and location. This will help ensure your mail is delivered in a timely manner.

Thanks,
Ann Hering, Operations Manager



CHECKS & BALANCES

Fiscal –

PAYROLL TIME SHEET ALERT

Because of the Thanksgiving holidays, **please have your time sheet into the Fiscal Office by Wednesday, November 25th, at the end of the day.** Thank you.

If you need a time sheet, please contact Javier or Kim in the Payroll department.

FISCAL CONTACT INFO

Fiscal Manager: Keith Byerly 503-693-3247

Accounts Payable: Cindy Johncola 503-726-0847

Accounts Receivable: Kurt Cabrera 503-726-0848

Payroll:

Javier Peña 503-693-3285 or Kim Pastor 503-726-0846

Fax number: 503-357-6057

WHAT'S DEVELOPING?



'Tis the season' for giving and Resource Development is gearing up to help generate support for many of our programs. Head Start *Adopt-A-Class* is in full swing. Our goal is to match each classroom again this year. We also hope to branch out and match families in the home-based program. If you know a business, church or civic group that would like to adopt a classroom or a family, please let us know.

Our annual holiday mailing will be going out later this month. Nearly 10,000 holiday cards of appreciation will be sent to past donors and prospects encouraging their support of our work. We would love to add your contacts to our distribution list. Names and addresses can be emailed to lbrown@caowash.org.

We are beginning to receive calls from those interested in donating items such as coats, socks, food and other essentials. If you have a particular item that a community drive can supply, let us know. We've put the call out for diapers, since a number of our programs have this need, and are hopeful that we will receive some donations for this important family resource.

SPECIAL THANKS to all who volunteered to help at this year's breakfast (and thank you to supervisors for your support of their participation). *The Washington Square Embassy Suites was the place to be on November 18th!*

BIG NEWS COMING SOON regarding new Resource Development team members. Stay tuned!

HR -- from Nicole

Hi All!



November is Open Enrollment season for Human Resources and I'm very pleased with the response that we've been getting from all of you. As of today, we've had about 150 attendees which is a super turnout. I'm very impressed with the thoughtfulness of the questions that I'm hearing and really appreciate that you're taking the time to learn about your benefits package.

I enjoyed creating the personalized benefits statements and would love your feedback about whether or not you felt they were valuable to you or ways that I could improve them. Even though I understand the value of the benefits because I analyze them for budgeting purposes, it's gratifying to look at the person by person values for individual staff members and think about the impact that might have on your life.

As a reminder, the health and dental changes took effect on October 1st and all of the other changes will take effect on January 1st.

~Nicole

For the latest information on the H1N1 flu and seasonal flu, visit Kaiser Permanente's website at: <https://www.kaiserpermanente.org/> or

Washington County's website: <http://www.co.washington.or.us/> or

Multnomah County's website: <http://www.mchealth.org/swineflu/index.shtml> or

Oregon State's Department of Health Services at: <http://flu.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx>



FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Housing & Homeless Services

Community Action was fortunate to have been chosen to implement a Housing & Urban Development (HUD) sponsored program, called the "Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP)". This program was created by HUD for the purpose of assisting households who have been negatively impacted by the recent downturn in our economy. In other words, households who have recently lost their source of income, and cannot afford their housing as a result.

Judy Schilling's Emergency Rent Assistance program serves as the model and the foundation, from which we will enhance our approach to prevention of homelessness through the use of HPRP funds. Housing and Homeless Services has recruited additional staff who will be working closely with Judy's team, to begin screening a larger number of households who are seeking eviction prevention assistance, or are seeking longer-term relief from an unaffordable housing situation.

We will serve an additional 80 households over a two-year period with these new rental assistance funds. Our approach will include, paying back-rent, short-term rent subsidies, and assistance with re-location from unaffordable rental units and into affordable units. It is our hope that this enhanced approach will reduce the numbers of households who eventually become homeless.

For further information, contact Pat Rogers, Housing & Homeless Services Manager-(503) 726-0814.

December's Information & Referral Networking Breakfast Meeting: The next meeting is being held on Thursday, December 3rd from 8am-10am. This month the topic will be on **Preventing Identity Theft**. Our meeting this **month only** will be held at Tuality Heath Education Center, Conference Room B. Additional information can be found on our website: www.communityaction4u.org/find/brkfst.php

BUSY TIME FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE

As expected, with the poor economy and rising fuel costs, calls to Energy Assistance have greatly increased, and an increasing number of families have had their gas or electricity cut off each day. We encourage any staff members who may qualify for energy assistance to make appointments. You can view the income guidelines at our website:

www.communityaction4you.org. We also have a new Pilot Program for families slightly over income, so you may be eligible for this program if your household is over the guidelines for LIHEAP or OEAP.

Call our appointment lines at (503) 615-0771 (Hillsboro) or (503) 615-0772 (Beaverton). At certain times the lines are overloaded, so please be patient and keep trying!

LOOKIN' FER WORK IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

Job Opportunities may be viewed online at: www.communityaction4u.org/employment.php

*NOTE: Please check this web site weekly for current information and details. We have many jobs in development that will be posted before the next publication and we will take applications as each job is posted.