

Expanding Head Start To Serve More Eligible Children



Children who attend Head Start are more likely to finish high school and attend college.

Community Action Head Start is significantly increasing enrollment for the 2007-2008 program year. The increase is a result of additional funding from the Oregon Department of Education, which supplements federal Head Start funding.

“We will be able to serve 162 additional children who otherwise would not get the preschool experience that prepares them for kindergarten,” said Community Action Director of Child Development, Farzana Siddiqui.

Community Action Head Start enrollment will grow from 645

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Families Face Challenges Our Assistance Helps

As the school year begins, Community Action receives generous offers of help for children whose families struggle to afford school supplies. A growing number of parents also call for information about where to get assistance. Community Action’s Hillsboro Family Shelter helps students whose families are homeless, whether they are shelter residents or not. Sometimes a simple request for school supplies opens the door to opportunity.

Alice,* a single mom, works at a gas station. One of her young boys is in elementary school, the other is a toddler. They had been doubling-up with another family while searching for housing, but the landlord said there were

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Lisa Brown Will Lead Resource Development

Community Action is pleased to introduce our new Director of Development and Community Relations, Ms. Lisa Brown, who will join us November 5th. Lisa has 20 years of professional development experience including capital campaigns, major gifts, events, direct mails, grant writing, sponsorships, endowments and planned giving. She also brings a depth of experience in marketing, communications, public relations and management.

“I’m so pleased to be joining the Community Action team and look forward to helping expand public awareness of, and support for, the many important programs making a real difference for families in Washington County,” Lisa said.

Executive Director, Jerralynn Ness said, “Lisa brings a passion for our mission and a level of



Lisa A. Brown

expertise that will move our fund development and community relations efforts forward to achieve higher levels of public engagement and private support. Lisa is looking forward to meeting our many friends and supporters. We are looking forward to November 5th!”

Dear Friends,

We are so pleased to announce the expansion of Community Action Head Start enrollment, thanks to an increase in state support. Washington County has had the highest percentage of unserved children in Head Start in Oregon. Only 35.7% of eligible children were being served. Clearly, our leaders recognize and value the impact of providing comprehensive preschool to help children succeed. Between 2000 and 2005, the number of Washington County residents living in poverty grew nearly six-times faster than the general population. Over 51,000 Washington County residents live at or below poverty level.



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director



Kevin Aguirre
Board Chair

The federal government defines poverty for a family of three as an annual income of \$17,170 or less. Even families living on incomes twice this amount experience conditions of poverty. They struggle to make ends meet and often make choices between heating and eating. One unexpected expense can be catastrophic, putting families at risk of eviction and homelessness. This is primarily due to the high cost of housing and child care, as well as the rising costs of fuel, energy and food. Since November 2000, low wage industries, those paying less than \$30,000/year, accounted for 63% of the job growth in Oregon. Nearly 40% of the households who seek Community Action services are in the Beaverton area. Community Action responded by relocating our east county office to Beaverton. Our vision is to open a larger center in the Beaverton area, similar to our multi-service center in Hillsboro. We hope to see this vision become a reality in the next three years as we seek partners to join with us. We invite you to learn more about Community Action, our programs and the issues of poverty. Please check our web site, www.communityaction4u.org, and let us know if you would like to have a speaker for your group, or arrange for a tour of our programs. We welcome the opportunity to meet you, share what we are doing, and offer ways for you to be involved.

Sincerely, Jerralynn & Kevin

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Our Assistance Helps Families Stay Housed, Warm, Secure

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too many people in the apartment. Alice arrived at the shelter by bus. She and her children were about to be put out on the street with no prospects for housing, not even a car to live in. Alice and her children were added to the shelter waiting list. Staff recognized her son's need for school supplies and were able to help, but Alice's housing situation posed a bigger challenge.

By coincidence, while Alice met with Community Action homeless student advocate Kristin Ludwig, a fax arrived identifying an available apartment with reasonable move-in costs. Alice had never rented before, but because she is employed and could demonstrate that she is responsible,

the landlord accepted her. Kristin's advocacy also helped. Alice was ecstatic and so were shelter staff. It's much less stressful for families, and much less expensive, to keep families in their homes rather than provide shelter.

When she asked for shelter, Becky* and her family were living in their car after leaving a domestic violence situation. They found shelter at Good Neighbor Center in Tigard. Community Action shelter staff helped with bus tickets so Becky's children could get to classes at the same school they attended before they became homeless. Becky also received help with unpaid utility bills, enabling her to establish service at a new apartment. Now she has a

part-time job and her family's future looks brighter.

Help from Community Action sometimes prevents disabled Washington County residents from becoming homeless. After he became disabled recently, Carl* writes that he saw his income drop to \$629 per month (\$7,548/yr.). Community Action helped Carl with high utility bills.

An energy audit of his manufactured home revealed a substantial heat loss due to lack of insulation. Carl tells in a thank you letter that by weatherizing his home Community Action substantially reduced his heating costs. "Keep up the good work," he writes.

** Names were changed to protect client confidentiality.*

Local Heroes Help Community Action Assist People In Need

In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low-income people to achieve self-determination. We gratefully acknowledge gifts and in-kind support from these businesses, community organizations and faith-based groups during June, July, and August: Bank of America, Beran Vineyards, Buena Vista Custom Homes, Central Bethany Development, Columbia Community Bank, Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, Hines Horticulture, Kaiser Foundation, One Economy Corporation, Portland General Electric, Tektronix, Inc., The Standard Insurance, Welch Allyn Protocol, Inc., Wells Fargo Community Support

Campaign, and West Coast Bank.

Community Action Head Start acknowledges gifts from Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory and Sheelar Nursery.

Community Action Opening Doors pregnancy outreach program is grateful for gifts from Beaverton Christian Church Women's Ministry, Northwest Quilters, Providence Plan Partners, Teddybear Childcare, and The Streets of Tanasbourne.

Community Action's Hillsboro Family Shelter recognizes these donors for their grassroots fundraising: Community Church of Christ, Hillsboro Public Library, Kaiser Permanente Sunset Clinic, MasterBrand Cabinets, New Seasons Market Orenco Station and

customers, Oregon Community Foundation, 7-Eleven, The Sunshine Lady Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County, and Windermere Foundation.

Community Action's Energy and Emergency Rent receives support from: Aloha Christian Church, Evergreen Christian Center, Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Kiwanis Club of Cedar Hills, Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Portland General Electric, St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Anthony's Church of Forest Grove, Tigard Church of God, Tigard Community Friends Church, United Methodist, Women of Forest Grove, and the Women of Emanuel at Emanuel Lutheran church.

Head Start Expands

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to 807 preschoolers this year, significantly reducing the long waiting list of eligible students. Part-day sessions are being added in existing classroom space under contracts with Washington County school districts. Maximum class size will continue to be 20 children.

Head Start prepares children from low-income families to enter school ready to learn. Studies show that Head Start graduates are more likely to finish high school and attend college, more likely to achieve school benchmarks, and less likely to be held back in a grade, or become involved in crime as adults. Parent involvement is a cornerstone of the Head Start program. Parents are encouraged to volunteer in classrooms and learn lasting parenting skills. Children are screened for health and learning issues and receive instruction in good hygiene. Families are eligible for Head Start if their income is below 150% of the Federal Poverty Level. Priority is given to families with very low incomes and/or children with disabilities.



Living Hope Fellowship Vacation Bible School students and their teacher, Jan Smith, present gift check for Hillsboro Family Shelter supplies.



Looking for holiday cards? Send art by kids in our programs!
For more information go to: www.communityaction4u.org.



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Community Action is a private, non-profit corporation.
In partnership with the community, Community Action
assists low-income people to achieve self-determination.

For further information, contact Resource Development
503.693.3255, or visit our website:
www.communityaction4u.org

Executive Director
Jerralynn Ness

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Save the Date!

“People You Should Know”
Breakfast

Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Kingstad Center, Beaverton
7:30 - 8:30 am



For information or to RSVP,
please contact Leanna Woodall,
503-693-3252 or lwoodall@caowash.org