



# WASHINGTON COUNTY

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## OREGON

February 8, 2008

Washington County Department of Health and Human Services is now accepting nominations for the 2008 Public Health Recognition Awards. This annual ceremony is designed to recognize those individuals or groups who have worked hard to establish and maintain the health of our community

Take a moment to honor those who have contributed so much to the health of our community. If there is a group or an individual you would like to nominate, please complete the nomination, return it by March 21st, and then join Washington County and its community partners on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 for the awards ceremony. The ceremony will take place in the county's Public Services Building, 155 N First Ave., Hillsboro, in the Shirley Huffman Auditorium on the first floor, beginning at 8:30 AM.

The Public Health system plays a significant roll in all of our lives. Though we tend to take it for granted, we have an opportunity to honor those who have meant so much to so many.

Please join Washington County in celebrating National Public Health Week by nominating a deserving group or individual. Please return completed nomination forms by March 21st, to:

Kelly Jurman, Health Promotion Supervisor  
Washington County Department of  
Health and Human Services  
155 N First Ave. MS4  
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Kelly will receive forms and answer any questions that you may have. She can be contacted at (503) 846-4965.

Thank you for your participation and we hope to see you on April 9th.



Washington County  
Department of Health & Human Services  
2008 Public Health Recognition Award  
Nomination Form

*Public Health promotes healthy lifestyles, safe environments and thriving communities*

In conjunction with a celebration of National Public Health Week, the department of Health and Human Services presents an award to an individual and an organization that has made a significant contribution to public health in the county.

Winners will be chosen by a group of WCHHS staff and managers with an awards presentation to be held on Wednesday April 9, 2008.

**Please use the form below to submit nominees for either the individual or organization award:**

Nomination for (check one)  Individual  Group/Organization

**Nominee Information:**

Individual/Agency: Community Action Organization

Address: 1001 SW Baseline St.

City Hillsboro State OR Zip 97123

Phone: 503-693-3254 E-mail: contact@caowash.org

Please answer the following questions completely on a separate sheet of paper. Write clearly or type information.

1. What does the individual/agency do for public health within the community? Describe activities, including length of service.
2. What population(s) does the individual/agency assist in the community?
3. Why do you believe this individual or agency should be given this award?

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit completed nomination to:  
Kelly Jurman, Health Promotion Supervisor  
155 N. First Ave - MS 4 - Hillsboro, OR 97124

*Please answer the following questions completely on a separate sheet of paper.  
Write clearly or type information.*

**1. What does the individual/agency do for public health within the community? Describe activities, including length of service.**

In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low-income people to achieve self-determination. Community Action has been providing assistance to low-income families in Washington County since 1965, nearly 43 years. Its programs frequently provide referrals to clients for a wide range of health-related services, working with 211*info* to connect people with service providers most likely to offer assistance.

Community Action is the largest provider of Head Start preschool education in Washington County. The organization has built many strong, health-related community partnerships that are beneficial beyond measure for nearly 800 children in Head Start and Early Head Start. By learning that health is important children are more likely to pay attention to their own health as they grow. For example, brushing teeth is an essential part of each day's class in Head Start, along with eating healthy foods as part of a balanced diet. When children develop health concerns:

- Children and families are referred to private dentists who often provide services at no charge to low-income families.
- Apollo College students gain practical experience by providing health screenings in Community Action Head Start & Early Head Start Child Development Centers in Hillsboro and Beaverton.
- By diagnosing health concerns early, community partners made it more likely that children from families living in poverty will receive treatment and enjoy better health in the present as well as later in life.

Community Action's Child Care Resource & Referral program is part of a state-wide network. Community Action CCR&R:

- Refers families to Morrison Child & Family Services when children develop behavioral concerns.
- Refers low-income families without health insurance to the Essential Health Clinic, as well as the Oregon Health Plan, Women Infants & Children (WIC), and other programs related to child health.

Community Action's Opening Doors program connects low-income women without health insurance to health resources in order to ensure healthy births. The program maintains strong, on-going partnerships with:

- Women's Healthcare Associates in Tualatin.
- Tuality Healthcare.
- Virginia Garcia Clinic.
- Providence St. Vincent Hospital.

Community Action's Energy and Rent Assistance programs contribute significantly to public health in Washington County by helping people keep heat in their homes and/or avoid homelessness (public Section 8 housing may evict tenants for utility shut-offs):

- Lack of heat can contribute to pneumonia and other illnesses.
- The stress of homelessness is certainly unhealthy, as is living in a car, camping out in cold temperatures, or in unsafe, unsanitary places.

Community Action's Housing & Homeless Services program provides temporary shelter for families while they seek permanent housing. While families are in shelter the program:

- Keeps families warm, provides kitchen facilities for meal preparation, and provides food from the Oregon Food Bank, as well as local donors.
- Pays for child immunizations required for Head Start as well as public school attendance.
- Pays for prescriptions for residents of Community Action's Hillsboro Family Shelter by special arrangement with Hanks Hillsboro supermarket.

In addition to reducing high utility bills, Community Action's weatherization program reduces drafts in homes. When homes are poorly weatherized, drafts and insufficient heat can contribute to the growth and spread of viruses that can cause illness.

Community Action's Information & Referral program offers health-related information through the organization's website, or by referral to 211info. I&R also sponsors six "I&R Networking Breakfasts" each year at Community Action, to help providers learn and share information about current topics, which are often health related.

For Community Action's more than 250 staff, the organization provides an annual Wellness Day event, focusing on employee mind, body, and spiritual health.

**2. What population(s) does the individual/agency assist in the community?**

Community Action serves low-income residents of Washington County, most living in homes where at least one person is employed full-time. A significant number of the people Community Action assists are children under age 5, single mothers, elderly and disabled Americans.

**3. Why do you believe this individual or agency should be given this award?**

As a board member since February 2001, board chair 2005 - 2007, and as Regional Director for Legal Aid Services of Oregon, I, Leslea S. Smith, have become very familiar with the vital role Community Action plays in Washington County. I believe Community Action should receive the 2008 Public Health Recognition Award because the organization contributes invaluable to the public health of Washington County's low-income population, especially children and elderly citizens. Community Action deserves appropriate recognition for this important work performed professionally by its vital programs. Community Action staff apply a holistic approach to client health. Because of Community Action's excellent programs and thoughtful staff, public health in Washington County reflects Community Action's vision that: "Washington County's residents are strong, resilient, involved in the community, and live with dignity and security."

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