

# WCCAO

WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY  
ACTION ORGANIZATION

1978 - 1979 Guide To Programs



"PEOPLE HELPING EACH OTHER"

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*Washington County Community Action, Inc. is a locally controlled private non-profit corporation which helps socially and economically disadvantaged people to improve the quality of their lives.*

*WCCAO was started in 1965 as part of President Johnson's War on Poverty and Great Society Programs. Today, thirteen years later, WCCAO continues to focus its energy on the needs of the poor through the programs described in this pamphlet. We hope that you will find one or more of these programs helpful to you or someone you know.*

*WCCAO is governed by a Board of locally elected and appointed people representing low-income groups, community groups and elected public officials. The Board meets monthly to oversee the operation of WCCAO's programs and to establish the policies of the corporation.*

*The meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend. Of particular interest will be two meetings: the annual election of Board members held each November at which any resident of Washington County over the age of 18 can vote, and the April meeting when the public is asked to help decide what programs WCCAO should offer in the coming year. The time, place and agenda of any Board meeting can be obtained by calling the WCCAO offices and asking for the administrative secretary. Please come!*

*WCCAO receives its funding from a variety of sources, including the Community Services Administration (CSA), the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), ACTION, the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA), the Department of Energy (DOE), Washington County, the City of Hillsboro, and from several private foundations. Most of the funds we receive require a match of local dollars or "in-kind" goods or services.*

*We rely on people like you who donate time, materials and/or dollars necessary to the operation of our programs. Examples of donations used to match other funds are crops, wood, clothes, money and volunteered time. If you would like to help out in some way, choose one of the programs described or call the WCCAO office and ask for the volunteer coordinator. Remember that all your donations are tax-deductible.*

*WCCAO is "People Helping Each Other." We provide certain services to people and in turn rely on people to provide other services. The people select our Board of Directors, determine which programs to operate and provide for our funding. We hope that this pamphlet will help you get some of the services you need and show you how you may be of assistance.*

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# Bilingual/Bi-cultural Program

The original idea for the Bilingual/Bi-cultural Program came from a need to have accurate, consistent, and reliable translations between agencies and non-English speaking individuals.

This year the Bilingual/Bi-cultural Program will manage two projects:

## Translators Bureau

The Translators Bureau's purpose is to insure that non-English speaking persons in Washington County are accurately and fairly represented when dealing with life support needs. The Bureau is concerned that no one be deprived of their medical, legal or social needs because of an inability to speak English.

## Bilingual/Bi-cultural Research Project

The Bilingual Research and Development Project will concentrate on improving accessibility of information and services to non-English speaking persons. Staff will survey the geographic location and socio-economic needs of Spanish-speaking people, as well as measure the capabilities of agencies serving Spanish-speaking people to provide translations.

With this information of agency and individual communication needs, the Bilingual Research and Development project foresees opportunities to develop lasting solutions.

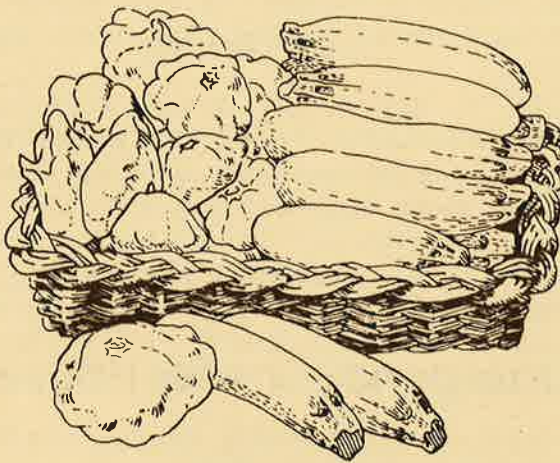


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# Community Food and Nutrition

A variety of activities designed to improve the nutritional status and/or reduce hunger among low-income people are operating under Community Food and Nutrition.

Local food closets receive funds to purchase high protein supplementary foods. Emergency food vouchers are also available through WCCAO. Through coordination with the other community groups, efforts are being made to help develop needed resources such as school breakfast programs, nutrition education, direct farmers marketing and gardener's assistance.



## Crop Gleaning

The Crop Gleaning Project operates during the harvest season. Low-income, elderly, and disabled persons are able to obtain excess fresh fruits and vegetables that have been donated and gleaned from local farms and gardens. Farmers donating crops receive a state tax deduction. Persons able to work in the field pick the crops and donate half of what they pick to someone who cannot pick.



## Emergency Services

Emergency Service Specialists assist low-income people who are having difficulties, questions or needs related to food, clothing, housing, finances, utilities, transportation and medical problems.

If unable to help directly through small loans, food vouchers, negotiations, etc., the Specialists will see that help is found through other resources. Information and support is also given to help people deal with and solve their problems themselves.

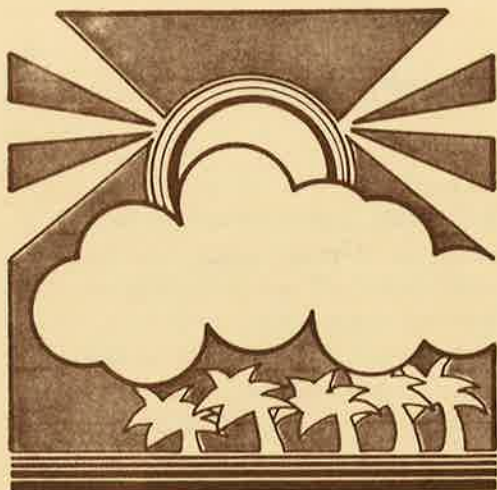
Staff can be reached at the WCCAO office Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## Emergency Shelter House

Temporary emergency housing for homeless low-income persons is provided at the Shelter House.

Located in downtown Hillsboro, the facility is available to persons who are low-income, 18 years or older (or with a guardian), physically and emotionally self-sufficient and in need of immediate housing. A maximum of 15 persons can be housed at any one time at the Shelter Home and individuals are able to stay for a two-week period. At the end of two weeks, evaluations are made by a community screening committee and in some situations extensions can be granted.

Job, housing, and general support counseling is offered at the home. In addition to regularly seeking housing and employment, residents are expected to help staff with normal housework and obey house rules.



## Energy Program

The Energy Program concentrates on the energy problems of low-income people by helping them to reduce their heating costs.

### Weatherization

Weatherization saves on the high cost of heating. Its purpose is to keep warm air in the house and cold air outside.

Weatherization is done through a variety of ways such as weatherstripping, vapor barriers, attic insulation, and installation of clear plastic semi-permanent storm windows. At times minor repairs, like fixing broken windows or leaky roofs, are made to houses before weatherization can be completed. Information on how to reduce energy consumption is also provided.

The service is available free of cost to 210 qualifying low-income residents including elderly and disabled.

### Wood Gleaning

Wood for home heating can be obtained on an emergency basis through this project. Priority is given to the elderly and handicapped who cannot cut their own wood.

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## Head Start

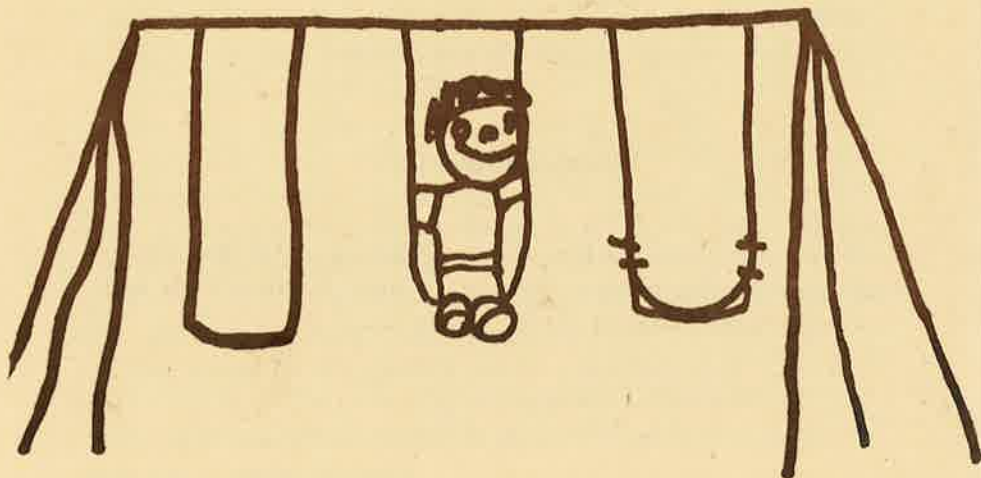
Head Start implements a total family involvement approach to dealing with the needs of children. It provides an ongoing pre-school learning experience, which doesn't end at the Center but reaches out into the home and the community.

Four- and five-year olds participate each class day in the many activities, such as music, art, games, stories, science and math projects. The program also includes a bilingual approach. Nutritious snacks and lunches are served daily.

Total enrollment is 110 children. Children from low-income families make up 90 per cent of the enrollment. Pre-schoolers with special needs are also accepted.

Parents and people from throughout the community serve in many ways to maintain a quality program. Involvement may include serving on the Policy Council, working in the Center, seeking donations and finding resources.

Head Start offers many special services both to the children and their families. Medical and dental care is provided for each child, and social, life support, educational, recreational and nutritional information are available to the families. Classes in parenting are scheduled regularly and individual counseling is provided.



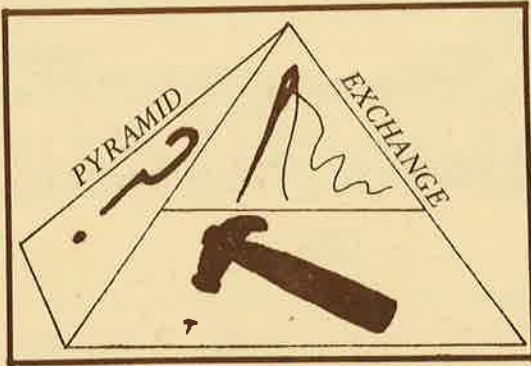


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## Housing Advocacy

Housing is one of the major issues facing low-income people in Washington County. WCCAO is attempting to impact on the housing problem through three activities.

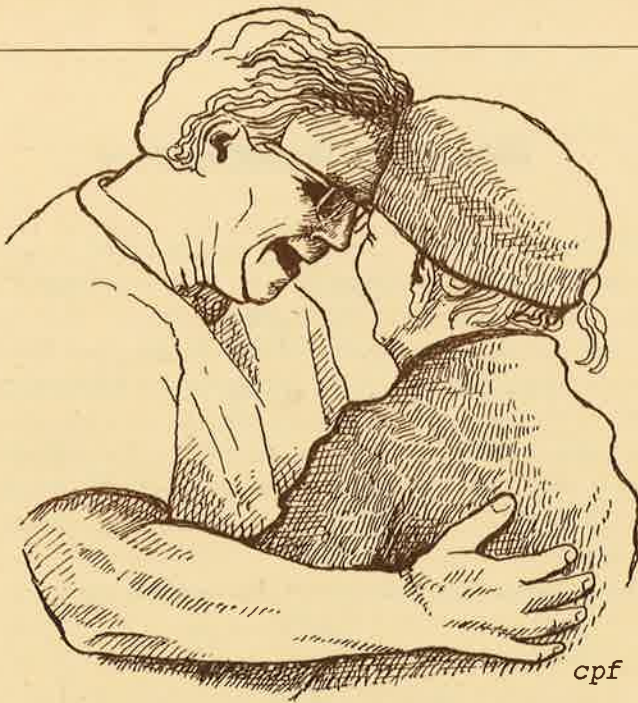
Manpower is being provided to Washington County to assist in development of a \$1.9 million Urban Block Grant and a survey of the county's housing stock. An organization is being formed which will try to construct agricultural labor housing. Finally, a group of low-income renters who have had or are having difficulties with their landlords is being organized.



## Pyramid Skills Exchange

Pyramid Skills Exchange is a "bartering exchange service" designed especially for residents of Washington County. PSX supports and encourages a system of "trading" with minimal use of currency. This system of exchange makes it possible to obtain many goods, services and skills that are often only accessible by using hard-earned cash.

Pyramid Skills Exchange maintains a directory of skills available through their telephone intake and referral service and coordinates exchanges between individuals in the same geographical area.



## Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Retirement from work activities, combined with separation from family and loss of friends often deprives older adults of contact and meaningful activities. RSVP helps people of retirement age recognize and develop personally satisfying roles in the community through volunteer services. The emphasis of the program is on the needs and interests of the senior volunteer.

Volunteer opportunities are arranged to match the interest, abilities and physical capacities of the 512 senior volunteers presently involved. They donate over 2,000 hours monthly to publicly owned and operated facilities and to local projects sponsored by non-profit organizations. Senior volunteers do not displace employed workers and volunteers are not placed in programs of religious worship or instruction.

Any retired person over 60 is eligible and can get involved with RSVP by calling WCCAO and asking for the RSVP Director.

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## Rural Awareness Project



The Rural Awareness Project (RAP) increases public awareness of problems facing low-income and minority people.

This is done through the publication of *The Rural Tribune*, the Print Media Resource Center, a book on herbal remedies used among Chicano people, and a 28-minute film entitled "PORTRAITS: Poverty in Washington County."

### The Rural Tribune

*The Rural Tribune* is a bilingual (Spanish/English) monthly publication, reporting on the issues and events affecting, and of interest to, the low-income and minority Washington County communities.

*The Rural Tribune* is the newsletter of the Community Action Organization.

Many of the articles in *The Rural Tribune* are written by

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local contributors wishing to learn and improve on their journalism skills. Workshops and classes are sponsored by the newsletter staff dealing with writing techniques, press relations, press releases, interviewing, researching and different styles of writing.

Anyone interested in contributing articles or desiring to learn more about basic writing, photography or layout skills should contact *The Rural Tribune*.

### **Print Media Resource Center**

The Print Media Resource Center provides typesetting, photography and layout equipment and technical assistance for low-income and minority groups to produce printed documents, flyers, announcements, newsletters, etc. of benefit to their organization. Where appropriate, fees are charged for use of the equipment. Each organization is responsible for paying its own printing costs, on a sliding fee scale.

Video equipment is also available through the Resource Center.

### **Herb Book**

A bilingual (Spanish/English) book on the use of herbs is being assembled as a VISTA project conducted through RAP. Much herbal knowledge has been passed down by word of mouth from generation to generation in the Chicano and Indian communities, but could be lost if not written down. RAP is attempting to preserve this knowledge by means of this publication.

### **"Portraits"**

"Portraits" is a film developed by WCCAO to educate citizens about poverty within Washington County. Not always visible because of suburban development, conditions of poverty do exist within the county.

The 28-minute black and white film is available for viewing at a small fee to interested groups or organizations.

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# Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA)

VISTAs work to develop needed resources for low-income and minority persons in Washington County. The VISTAs work through ACTION, a federal agency, who currently has a contract with WCCAO for up to 12 volunteers.

Washington County Co-operative Library, A Child's Place, Loaves and Fishes, Head Start, 4-Cs, Centro Cultural, Hillsboro Senior Center, Forest Grove Youth Services and Community Action are only a few of the many programs in which VISTAs have been placed.

Through these program placements VISTAs have been involved in the development of numerous projects such as a library for the blind, a state tax credit for farmers who donate crops to gleaning projects, an emergency shelter house, a services exchange project, services for seniors, a community writers' pool, a coordinated emergency needs council, a research project on herbal remedies, and an alternative education project.

Community persons interested in becoming VISTA volunteers or groups interested in receiving a VISTA, should contact the volunteer coordinator.



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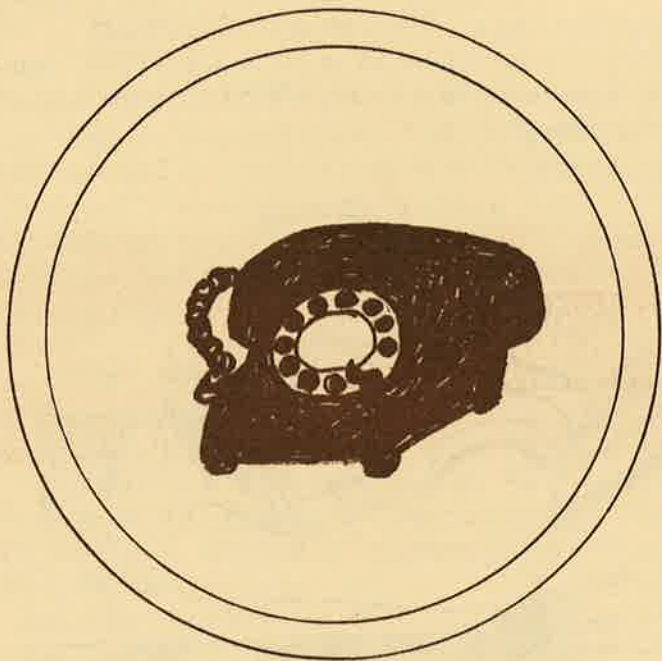
## Welfare Hotline and Drop-In Center

Operated in both Spanish and English, the Welfare Hotline responds to questions concerning Welfare or Food Stamps. The drop-in center helps people resolve problems concerning Public Welfare, Food Stamps and Social Security. Staff will act in behalf of recipients to negotiate with these agencies and represent clients at hearings.

Testimony on legislative issues dealing with Welfare and Food Stamps at both state and federal levels are prepared by the center. Staff will also assist others in assembling and coordinating testimony to be presented at the legislature or other appropriate forums.

Regulations governing Welfare and Food Stamp programs and a Welfare Rights Manual, outlining basic provisions of the programs, are available at the center.

The Hotline is open Monday through Friday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.



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# Information

## In-Kind

WCCAO receives its funding from a variety of sources. Most of the funding sources require that a percentage of their grant be matched by local donations. This match is called "in-kind." In-kind helps to support the projects and shows that local support exists for the programs.

In-kind can be donated goods, services, time or money. If the donation is other than money, a dollar amount is assigned and recorded by the WCCAO comptroller. A receipt is given to each donor.

WCCAO is a non-profit tax exempt corporation, and most donations are tax-deductible. To determine if your donation is tax-deductible, please consult the IRS or the individual who prepares your tax returns.

## Special Needs

- 1) People to pick crops for seniors and handicapped people.
- 2) People who can speak or write Spanish.
- 3) People with carpentry skills.
- 4) People to help install weatherization materials.
- 5) People over 60 years of age with any lifetime skill.
- 6) People with a need or skill they are willing to exchange for something else.
- 7) People who can write articles or stories.
- 8) People willing to provide transportation for someone else.
- 9) People willing to work with children.
- 10) Donations of excess crops, goods, or money.

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# Directory

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Translators Bureau	
Survey	
Community Food and Nutrition .....	648-6646
Crop Gleaning	
Emergency Services .....	648-6646
Emergency Shelter House .....	648-6646
Energy Program .....	640-3800
Weatherization	
Wood Gleaning	
Head Start .....	648-6646
Sunset Center .....	645-5311
Cornelius Center .....	357-4964
Housing Advocacy .....	648-6646
Pyramid Skills Exchange .....	640-4814
Retired Senior Volunteer Program .....	648-6646
Rural Awareness Project .....	648-3141
The Rural Tribune	
Print Media Resource Center	
Herb Book	
"Portraits"	
Volunteers In Service To America .....	648-6646
Welfare Hotline and Drop-In Center .....	648-0513
Administration .....	648-6646
Executive Director	
Comptroller	
Program Planner & Developer	
Advocacy Program Director	

## Eligibility

*Each program has its own particular eligibility requirements. Most of the WCCAO programs were developed for low-income, minority, handicapped or senior citizens. For further information about individual programs call WCCAO at 648-6646 and ask for the Director of the program you are interested in.*