

"Changing Faces of Poverty" Exhibit Proposal

Panels – Each panel will have a background photo “face” in shading of either CA green or blue

- Panel 1 - Introduction
 - Economic Opportunity Act – Aug. 1964
 - History
 - Lyndon Johnson – War of Poverty
 - Design of Community Action Organization – unique, board
 - Seed Money
 - Unique
 - Board of 1/3 ...
 - Focus on causes and conditions of poverty

- Panel 2 - Generational Poverty 1965 – late 70s
 - Lived in poverty entire life
 - Mostly rural families
 - Programs
 - Access Education
 - Head Start
 - Work Force Training
 - Emergency Housing
 - Vista Program
 - Food Co-ops / Food Banks
 - Worked with community to open Central Cultural
 - Government
 - Social Security Act
 - GI Bill
 - More Home loan mortgage

- Panel 3 - Feminization of Poverty 75-85
 - Single women/mothers
 - Elderly
 - Focus on access to affordable childcare, job training, healthcare
 - Programs
 - Low income weatherization
 - Energy Assistance Program
 - Shelter House
 - Volunteer Center

- Panel 4 - Working Not Enough 85 -2008
 - Recession in 80's, under-employing
 - Full time jobs cut to part-time or temporary with no benefits
 - Lack in healthcare and stresses of poverty made people sick
 - Singles and families working several jobs but not making it.
 - Programs – stronger safety nets
 - Community Development Corporation – CDC
 - Opening Doors
 - Healthy Start / Healthy Families

- Panel 5 - Long term Unemployment 2008 -
 - The Great Recession
 - Skilled and professional population going through assets and coming to CAO after more than 12 -18 unemployed. Never experienced poverty before
 - Resources stretched thin,
 - Phone system collapsed, so many calls
 - 240,000 calls for energy assistance
 - Programs
 - Rental assistance

- Panel 6 - Poverty to Opportunity
 - Stresses of Poverty cause illness
 - Without hope people cannot move forward
 - Poverty is a transitional experience if the right opportunities are provided

Extra Panels

- Spin-offs panel or graphic – all the organizations that have been helped or started by CAO
- Gleaners – self help
 - Crop and Wood
 - CAO allow tax credit state and federal
 - All over country today
- Head Start
 - Stop the cycle
 - Involves parents in all aspects
 - Preschool / Kindergarten
 - Health Screening
 - Nutrition
 - Social Services
 - Dental
 - Parenting skills
- Head Start photos – Idea have a photo of a head start student for each year (50) and what the person is doing now.
- Myths of Poverty

Hands-on

- Have you ever experienced or know someone who has experienced these aspects of poverty
 - Most people are one significant event from poverty
 - Not paying utility, rent or car payment
 - foreclosure/bankruptcy,
- What does being poor mean to you?

Videos and Pictographs

- Potraits of Poverty – Senator Wayne Morse
- Graph – When Working is Not Enough

Quotes

- When there's a will in community there is a way
- "I sought my soul, but my soul failed to see. I sought my God, but my God alluded me. I sought my brother and I found all three." East Indian verse

Artifacts

- Original Charter
- Telegram from Nixon
- Back end of car?
- ?????

The Great Recession

Due to a changing economy in the 2000s, there was an unprecedented loss of jobs, followed by long-term unemployment. This brought a different face to poverty, the highly trained. As the economy collapsed many skilled workers lost their jobs, but didn't seek help until they had gone through all of their assets. At this time, Community Action began to hear from people who had never experienced poverty before. This inspired Community Action to significantly expand their emergency utility assistance programs and create a rental assistance program. In 2008 alone, Community Action received 240,000 emergency assistance phone calls.

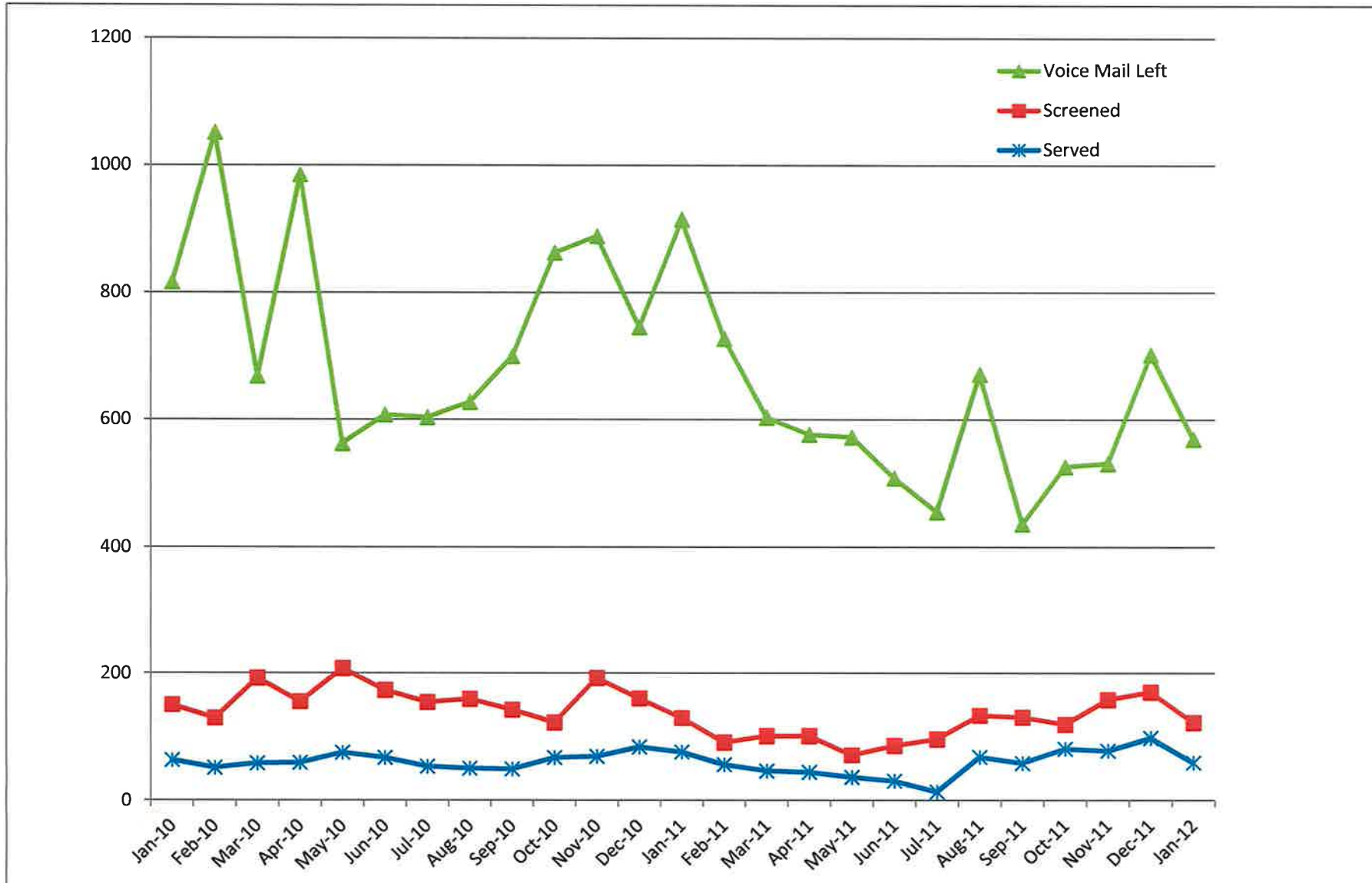
Graphic of phone calls

By 2010, poverty in Washington County hit an all time high of 13% and resources were stretched thin. This period also saw Community Action working together with the business sector at a policy level to create solutions to prevent poverty from occurring. They created guidelines for businesses to support their own low-wage earners. Early Head Start expanded to serve new born babies and toddlers ensuring the greatest opportunity for these children to succeed in life.

Community Action continues to meet the needs of the community. The economy is improving, but now the crisis is affordable housing. There is not enough housing to include all who need it. Jobs are growing at the low wage end, but many jobs that were lost in 2008 have not returned. Job training for skilled labor is not yet in place either.



EMERGENCY RENT ASSISTANCE REQUESTS



Working is Not Enough

Starting in 1985, a recession caused the private sector to cut jobs. Many full-time jobs were cut to part-time with no benefits. Individuals, single parents, and even two parent households meet had to piece together several part-time jobs trying to make ends. Temp Agencies sprung up almost overnight to help employers fill part-time or temporary jobs at lower wages without benefits. During this time, Community Action received calls for help from people who were working, but still not able to make a living wage. As more people scrambled for low wage jobs, others already experiencing poverty became destitute.

When working is not enough graphic

The stresses of living in poverty were making people sick, and a lack of healthcare became a real problem. The rising cost of healthcare was dragging more people down to poverty levels. Child care costs were also increasing. More people began to experience homelessness at this time.

Community Action saw the need for a stronger safety net to keep people out of homelessness and break the cycles of poverty. Bilingual flyers telling people about their services were posted at laundry mats, community centers, and grocery stores. Community Action established local health clinics, after school care, a Family Self Sufficiency program, pre-natal outreach and parenting classes, child care referral service, as well as an emergency funds program. At the same time, they educated the community on the importance of creating family wage jobs.

After school care photo

Community Action helped create the Community Development Corporation (CDC), a nonprofit, community-based organization focused on revitalizing low-income, underserved neighborhoods that have experienced significant disinvestment. The CDC in Washington County is still dedicated to creating affordable housing in the county today.

In 1995, Community Action opened the doors on a new facility in Hillsboro, and they remain active there today.

Angel Gonzales and poem at dedication ceremony.

Feminization of Poverty

Between 1975 and 1985, Community Action saw a rising trend of feminization in poverty. More and more single women were raising families alone, with little to no financial means. While continuing with current programs, Community Action specifically focused on family support by making sure mothers had access to affordable child care, job training and healthcare. The Head Start program continued to grow.

photo of mom and children

The increase in the feminization of poverty also included senior widows on low or fixed incomes. Community Action's first priority was to make sure the elderly did not lose their homes, a group that often did not apply for services or benefits. Weatherization and energy assistance programs were developed to help with the rising cost of energy. While weatherizing a home, Community Action volunteers would often do repairs for leaks or repair safety hazards. Community Action created the country's first Affordable Housing Corporations. These programs often prevented a family from becoming homeless.

photo of weatherization

In general, issues of poverty remained largely unknown within the county. Advocacy became an important part of Community Action as more family services were needed. This included educating the community and helping to enact policies at the state and federal level to create opportunities for the disadvantaged. The first shelter house in Washington County for families with children was established in 1980. During this time the Tualatin Valley Food Center also opened. In 1982 alone, Community Action did the following:

- 4,119 households received help with heating costs
- VISTA placed 10 fulltime volunteers on Washington County projects.
- 1305 families received paralegal assistance
- 628 food boxes provided to families
- 29,335 families received emergency assistance
- 444 families received emergency housing
- 117,580 pounds of food were collected by gleaners from 107 growers
- 97 households received 226.5 cords of wood
- 213 homes weatherized and 27 homes repaired
- 335 volunteers donated 66,634 hours
- 159 children were served through Head Start

photo of shelter house








COMMUNITY ACTION
Helping people. Changing lives.

Generational Poverty

By the 1960s, a great many rural families in Washington County had been living with poverty for generations. The main goal of Community Action was to respond to this community need by creating strategies to make a better future for these families. In order to do this, the Head Start program was established in 1965 throughout rural locations. Head Start promoted the school readiness of children from birth to age five of low-income families, from birth to age five, by enhancing their cognitive, social and emotional development. Today, the program serves almost a million children nationwide. This innovative program helped break the cycle of generational poverty.

Photo of Generational

As Community Action developed, food co-ops were created, which later became the first Washington County food banks. With self-sufficiency in mind, Community Action created the Gleaning Program, the first of its kind in the United States. People in need gathered leftover food or firewood from harvested fields, then distributed the food to others in poverty that were less mobile. Community Action also successfully advocated for tax credits, as incentive to landowners to participate. This program spread across the country.

Photo of Gleaners

In 1972, to give voice to the problems of the rural poor, Community Action began publishing the Rural Tribune. The bilingual newspaper was delivered to every rural mailbox for free. Issues of poverty were highlighted, in addition to letting people know where to find help.

Community Action continued to work with local communities to meet the needs that they identified. During this time, Community Action began programs like Access Education, Work Force Training, Emergency Housing Assistance, and the VISTA Volunteer program. When a group of migrant families in Cornelius wanted to build a local Hispanic community center, Community Action partnered with them to create Centro Cultural. Established in 1972, Centro Cultural is the oldest culturally specific Hispanic organization in Oregon, serving large numbers of Latino residents. Centro fills an important role in our community as an all-purpose hub where people can access services, attend classes and connect with resources of all kinds.

Photo of Rural Tribune

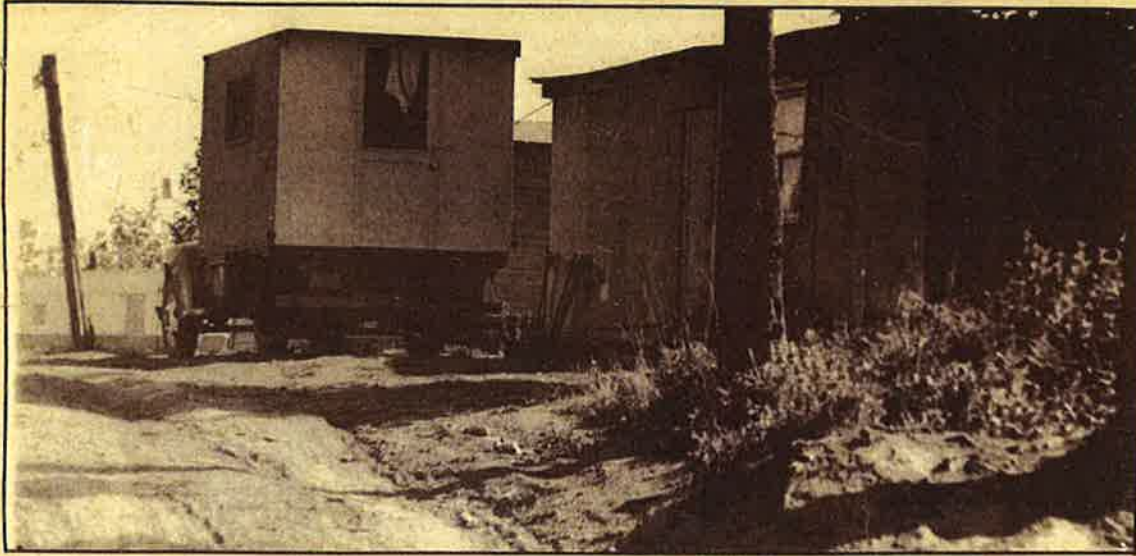




The Rural Tribune

Volume 1, Number 1

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Low-income Housing

RATS, ROACHES AND HOLES IN THE WALLS

There is a housing crisis in Washington County and it should surprise no one. The shortage of housing for low-income people was documented years ago. The Columbia Region Association of Governments (CRAG) reported in 1969 that there was then a "critical need" for 1184 dwelling units for the elderly, for low-income families and for newly settled migrants. The same year a County Health Department survey estimated that more than 1300 dwellings — the homes of over 4300

people — could be classified as "poor." The report guessed that 2400 new units were required to satisfy the needs of low-income families.

The problem is worse today than it was three years ago. Houses are being built in Washington County, but not for the poor. Meanwhile, people have to live some place, and many families have had to settle for inadequate housing, because it is, as a friend reminds me, "better than nothing."

A few of the individual stories of these families

are told on these pages. They only begin to suggest the misery of families forced to live in crowded, poorly ventilated, and barely heated houses — where rats and roaches are an inescapable part of every day life.

In Washington County, these problems are outside of government control. The 1969 Health Department survey recommended that the County Commission approve a housing code, one based on a model prepared by the American Public Health Association. But, three years

(continued on page 2)

THE RURAL TRIBUNE

Washington County Community
Action Organization, Inc.
330 N.E. Lincoln
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123

POSTAL CUSTOMER,
LOCAL



Community Action continues to be the safety net for Washington County. Over the last 50 years, they have been the leaders in every anti-poverty initiative in Washington County. They have become a national leader in creating effective solutions to eliminate conditions of poverty and create opportunities for families and communities to thrive. Most programs created by Community Action still exist in some form today. Community Action operates with over 280 employees to serve over 12,000 families in Washington County yearly, including 1,000 Head Start families.

Opportunity can cure poverty. If the right opportunities are provided, poverty is a transitional experience. As the needs of the community change, Community Action is committed to being responsive and flexible to address them.

Graphic of the Community Action tree

serve Energy

Westco Emergency Fund

Rural Tribune

ABC Soup

Play

Hillsboro Emergency Fund

ter

RSVP Retired Seniors Volunteer Program

Forest Grove Food Co-Op

Housing Development Corp.

A Kids Domain

Senior Home Repair Program

Child Care Resource & Referral

VISTA

dia Resource Center

Community Partners for Affordable Housing

Crop Gleaners

Early Head Start

Rural Awareness Project

Head Start

Welfare Advis

ource Center



REACH



H

r



Tenant Hotline



Hillsbo

Opening Doors



Tualatin Valley Housing Partners

PACTO

HopeSpring

For Homeless Women and Children...



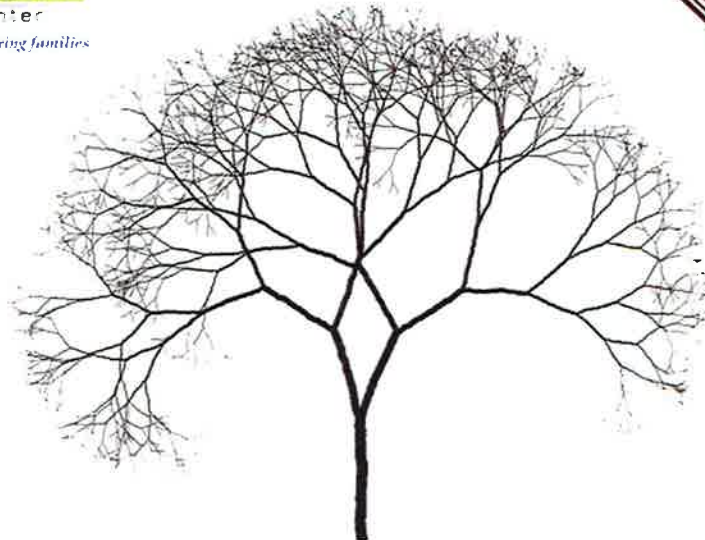
Brown Bag

ty Assistance Program



...moving toward self-sufficiency and stable housing.

Youth Employment ar



Head Start

Like all of Community Action's programs, Head Start approaches childhood education and care holistically. The program aims to stop the cycle of poverty by involving parents in all aspects of their child's early education. Included are health screenings, immunizations, nutrition, social services, dental services and parenting skills and classes. Families are also connected to other Community Action programs when there is a need. Head Start was created in 1965 so that parents also share governance on the "policy council."

Coffee Creek Program

Opened in 2000, the Head Start at Coffee Creek is an innovative locally designed program that was the first in the country. The program serves children whose mothers are incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Through a partnership with Oregon Department of Corrections, and in cooperation with the children's caregivers, teachers help imprisoned mothers bond with their children. They also learn parenting skills and prepare for life after they are released from prison. Children attend class at Coffee Creek twice per week with their mothers.

Photo of graduates and what are doing now

War on Poverty

During the 1960s, President Lyndon B. Johnson launched a nationwide war on poverty, marking the first federal involvement in such an aggressive program. In his 1964 State of the Union address, Johnson stated:

"Let us carry forward the plans and programs of John F. Kennedy, not because of our sorrow or sympathy, but because they are right.

"This administration today, here and now, declares an unconditional War on Poverty in America...

"Our aim is not only to relieve the symptom of poverty, but to cure it and, above all, to prevent it."

Within in the next year, President Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act, the Civil Rights Act, and the Economic Opportunity Act (EOA), all landmark legislation designed to address a wide range of social and equality issues that relate to poverty. The EOA created programs such as Head Start, the Job Corps, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), and Community Action Agencies. Later these programs were accompanied by Medicare and Medicaid, the introduction of Food Stamps, the GI Bill, and the expansion of social security. With these programs successfully in place, the poverty rate in the U.S. declined from approximately 19% to 10% within ten years.

Photo of Johnson signing EOA

The EOA gave start-up funds to local communities to form their own Community Action Agencies. This unique concept allowed communities to create and implement their own programs to meet the needs of their own. Each Community Action Agency was required to form a tri-party governing board consisting of a unique system of 1/3 elected officials, 1/3 private sector, and 1/3 low income individuals. This revolutionary idea gave Community Action Agencies an active role in the design and administration of the programs and services in their own communities thus giving "maximum feasible participation" to the poor. The EOA also tasked these newly formed Community Action Agencies to focus on the causes and conditions of poverty in their communities in order to reach solutions instead of temporary fixes.

Here in Washington County, 21 forward-thinking individuals took up this challenge to "implement as fully as possible the purposes of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964." Washington County Community Action Organization (WACCO) was created in October 1965 as a non-profit to help the disadvantaged in the county.

Original Charter of WCCAO - include names

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION

ARTICLE I

The name of this corporation is the Washington County Community Action Organization, and its duration shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE II

The purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

- A. To assure the constructive use of any federal funds spent in Washington County in connection with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 and any amendments thereto.
- B. To act as the community action organization for Washington County through which the local and state organizations and the Office of Economic Opportunity shall work.
- C. To act in screening, planning, advisory and coordinating capacity, and to implement as fully as possible the purposes of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 in Washington County.
- D. To contract for, receive and disburse federal funds made available under the Economic Opportunity act of 1964, and to supervise the application of such funds.
- E. To exercise any of the powers granted to a nonprofit corporation under the Oregon Nonprofit Corporation Act.

ARTICLE III

The number of directors constituting the initial board of directors of the corporation is 21, and 8 recipient board members.

The persons who are to serve as directors until the first annual meeting of the corporation or until their successors are appointed are as follows:

Blair N. Preuss
Purnell Sisk
Gerald Murley

9100 S.W. Westhaven Dr., Portland
1465 N.E. Arrowwood, Hillsboro
251 N. Bailey, Hillsboro

Stanford Cody	14300 S.W. Hargis Rd., Beaverton
Walter McKinney	P.O. Box 29, Hillsboro
Mrs. William R. Sweetman	13500 S.W. Walker Rd., Beaverton
W. W. (Matt) Mattoon	9330 W. Stark Street, Portland
Donald C. Jones	Rt. 1, Box 127B, Gaston
Lloyd Dyke	Cornelius, Oregon
Hugh McGilvra	P.O.Box 7, Forest Grove
J. William Young	1930 Council St., Forest Grove
Mrs. W. H. Watson	1560 N.E. Jackson School Rd., Hills.
David M. Martinez	2607 - 21st Ave., Apt. 25, Forest G.
Mrs. David McCarthy	1635 S.E. Timberline, Beaverton
L. E. Olson	2135 S.E. Rollingwood Dr. Beaverton
William B. Prophet, Jr.	34265 S.W. Tualatin Valley Hwy., Hillsboro
Howard Hutchins	P.O.Box 654, North Plains
James Anderson	15001 S.W. 109th., Tigard
Don Burke	Health Department, Hillsboro
R. M. Nyman	Washington County Court House
Robert Greger	St. Cecilia's Church, 102 S.E. 5th. Beaverton

and 8 recipient members:

Marion Spatz	3445 S.W. 198th. Aloha
Marion McCloud	Star Route, Box 1245, Glenwood
Domingo Figueroa	1159 S.W. Tualatin Valley Highway
Kenneth Glover	432 S.E. 7th. #1, Hillsboro
George Skosberg	8065 S.W. Barnes Rd., Portland
Elvin Shaw	P.O.Box 682, North Plains
Doug Short	Rt. 2, Box 266, Forest Grove
Roy Merritt	P.O.Box 175, Gaston

ARTICLE IV

The name and address of each incorporator is:

1. The Reverend Walter J. McGettigan
11775 S. W. Bowmont Lane
Portland, Oregon 97225
2. Robert W. Warner
P. O. Box 688
North Plains, Oregon
3. John L. Dezell
1012 S. E. 13th
Beaverton, Oregon 97005

ARTICLE V

The address of the initial registered office of the corporation is 1012 S. E. 13th, Beaverton, Oregon, 97005, and the name of its initial registered agent and such agent is John L. Dezell.