

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
**ACTION NEWS**  
ORGANIZATION

Spring 1991

## Affordable Child Care A Must For Self-Sufficiency

*"Quality child care aid from Washington County Community Action is one of the best things that happened to me and my children. It came when I was at the verge of collapsing under the weight of high child care expenses even from home day cares and getting poor services in return. I have had to change services three times in one year and this has had an emotional impact on my kids...I believe that there are some persons out there who also desperately need help or are facing crises like I did but who are not being helped...High price increases have forced parents to either withdraw their children or quit working to stay home with their children, because it does not make sense just working in order to only pay child care or working without breaking even." (Angela Uba, 1991 Client, WCCAO Child Care Program)*

WCCAO's long range planning in 1988 produced a needs assessment document illustrating that quality affordable child care is a critical community need that will continue to be critical for at least the next 5 - 10 years. The following factors contribute to the need:

- Families in which both parents work and single (female) headed households

WCCAO employees participate in "Week of the Young Child: Send the Children to Work" (April 13th - 20th), to illustrate

how many children are in child care while their parents are working. Pictured is one of many children displayed on the walls of the agency's Conference Room in Hillsboro. Mailings of information



on the event were sent to child care providers around the state, so that Oregon's employers would have a graphic, visual indication of how important quality, affordable child care is to their employees and to them personally and economically. ♦

constitute 53% of the Washington County workforce. Women entering the labor force has hit record numbers and will probably continue to do so.

- 20% of jobs will not support a worker and two children and women tend to be employed in the low-paying service sector.

- There are only two United Way funded, non-profit child care centers in the Washington County area.

- Unsubsidized child care for one child can eat up more than 16% of a \$1,000/month pay check.

Low income parents are victims of a difficult situation - if they are to continue working, they very often have to settle for inadequate child care or leave their children home unattended. Neither of these options are desirable, or a choice that low income parents wish to make. The repercussions of either choice will be felt not only by the parents, but also by the larger community that deals with the problems of teen pregnancy, school drop-outs and alcohol and drug use. As we know, intervention is more

expensive and less effective than prevention.

Unsubsidized child care is a barrier to employment in low income families. Subsidized child care allows families to pursue their employment goals, know-

**53% of women with preschool children work outside the home.**

**By 1995, this is projected to increase to 66%.**

ing that their children are well cared for in a stable, high quality environment. In 1988, WCCAO chose to make an investment of resources into the development of quality affordable child care as a part of its overall mission to help low income people to remove barriers that prevent them from being self-sufficient. This year that decision resulted in a Child Care Program offering up to 90% of the cost of child care for pre-school age children in 35 low income families. Fund-

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## Board Chair's Message Mayor Clifford Clark

### One Smart Bomb

"A million here, a million there, pretty soon you're talking real money."

I don't know who said it first, but they had a point. I found myself thinking about it during the recent Persian Gulf War, and, in particular, when we learned that the so-called "smart-bombs" we saw blasting all those targets cost a cool \$1 million each.

It's probably not patriotic to think such thoughts, but I started wondering what WCCAO could have done with that million. It's futile, of course, to think in such terms. Social programs, such as those run by small non-profit agencies, never come first. Or even second. And they always require those who advocate for them to go hat-in-hand, expecting to be lectured and admonished: "Prove that you need it", "Promise you won't waste it" and "Guarantee the results".

But the results of the work done by WCCAO and similar agencies do not translate well into the high drama we saw on TV during the war, in which something or other was blown to smithereens while we watched and waited for the secondary explosions the narrator told us to expect.

You can't weigh or measure much

that happens in human services. After all, how can you every prove that a week in an emergency shelter kept a family from starting an irreversible slide into the deadly bleakness of lifelong poverty?

When an 18-year-old graduates from high school instead of dropping out, how can you say for sure that it was Head Start that made it happen? You can't.

With an extra \$1 million, WCCAO could double its Head Start Program, to serve 400 kids instead of the present 180. Or quadruple the Hunger and Nutrition Program. (Remember, there are over 30,000 people in Washington County with incomes below the poverty level.) Or, we could finally put WCCAO's operations and administration under one roof, in a permanent location.

Yes, for the cost of a single smart-bomb, we could widen the War on Poverty, begun a quarter-century ago. We could save some more children, save some more families, and save the taxpayers many times that million, perhaps, by avoiding the societal costs that come when we ignore fundamental human needs.

The Persian Gulf War is history now, and there will be others to follow, and

more smart-bombs. But I'd like to think that in the next generation of those bombs, there will be one so smart that it will demand instead that we put the \$1 million into hunger and nutrition, or housing, or Head Start. It would say to our leaders: "I don't want to destroy anything. I don't want to kill anyone. Sign me up for the War on Poverty, which has yet to be won, and send me to Washington County, Oregon, where I can do some good."

Now, that would be one smart bomb. ♦

### Our Changing Community

The Washington County Human Services Coalition, together with the Heart of Oregon Coalition, is sponsoring a community education forum to discuss the impact of Ballot Measure 5 on business, education and human needs. The forum will focus on solutions to maintaining strong and healthy communities. Washington County legislators will be invited to join the forum to present their solutions.

The whole community is invited to attend and bring your questions and ideas. Jerralynn Ness, Chair of The Washington County Human Services Coalition, will serve as the forum moderator. The forum will be held:

Monday - May 20, 1991

7:00 - 9:00 PM

PGE Auditorium

14655 S.W. Old Scholls Ferry Road  
(Corner of Old Scholls Ferry Rd. and  
Murray Blvd. in Beaverton)

## ... People Helping People

The Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO is a private, non-profit corporation providing a wide variety of services to the needy in Washington County, Oregon. Information on WCCAO programs is available from the following individuals:

WCCAO Administration (Jerralynn Ness, Executive Director) .....	648-6646
Client Services Dept. - Intake, Information & Referral .....	648-0829
Cheryl Hilbert, Director .....	648-6646
Heating Assistance (December - March) .....	640-8951
Neighborshare (Tigard, Tualatin, Sherwood) .....	639-0495
Children and Youth Department (Cathy Wise, Director) .....	648-6646
Housing & Energy Conservation Dept. (Leon Laptook, Director) .....	642-3236
Hunger & Nutrition Dept. (Val Donley, Director) .....	642-3236
Resource Development Dept. (Pam Brousseau, Director) .....	648-6646
"Play It Again" Thrift Store .....	644-8956

ACTION NEWS is the quarterly newsletter of the Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO), published by the WCCAO Administration, 451 S. First, Suite 700, Hillsboro, OR 97123. ACTION NEWS is coordinated by WCCAO staff member Pam Brousseau and is edited and designed by volunteer Alisa Corstorphine. (Please inform WCCAO of any address corrections.)



## Executive Director's Message

Jerralynn Ness

### Model Workplace Values Individuals

Dear Friends:

While the Washington County Community Action Organization is most often thought of as a provider of human services for the economically disadvantaged, I also think a great deal about the role we play as an employer. During the winter, WCCAO employment reaches a high of 100 employees. By summer we drop down to about 55 employees when our Head Start program closes. We are an equal opportunity employer and committed to affirmative action. But beyond that, WCCAO is a workplace and, like other workplaces, we depend upon the commitment and skills of people in order to accomplish our mission.

Over the years I have become increasingly interested in establishing a workplace model that truly values the individual employee. As such, this model would need to be holistic in its management philosophy and recognize the value of family and non-work interests contributing to healthier, happier and more productive employees. **This model would take the position that work should not be the most important aspect of a person's life, but rather one aspect of a well-balanced life.** Work should enhance the individual and the family, not compete with it or drain out all the life blood. Work should contribute to building greater esteem and self-confidence and not erode a person's dignity

and self-worth. **This model would also value cultural diversity.**

Recently, I read that by the year 2000, twenty million more workers will enter the work force and 83% of them will be women, minorities and immigrants. When I look around me, I not only see employers unprepared for this changing work force, but communities also. **As employers, we can be successful in obtaining and maintaining productive workers if we develop management practices and policies that are supportive of parenting and developing children, which address issues of child and health care, transportation, family wages, and cultural differences.** Thousands of working people in Washington County are economically insecure, are unable to afford housing or child care and have no health coverage for their families. As a community, we can support our employees and our residents by assuring that development efforts include plans to meet these basic needs for all our workers. As individuals, we can support families and healthy communities by advocating for basic health care coverage, adequate transportation systems and more family wage jobs.

I am interested in hearing from you about workplace models in existence that value the family and cultural diversity. Please feel free to drop me a line if you have examples to share. ♦

#### Cultural Competence Workshop Planned

A Workshop in Cultural Competence", sponsored by WCCAO, will be presented to the community on Friday, May 17th from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM at the Hillsboro United Methodist Church. The workshop will provide a basic understanding of the concepts of culture and cultural competence, help participants

understand their strengths and weaknesses and enable participants to set goals for increasing cross-cultural skills.

Pre-registration fee for the full-day workshop is \$35.00. Space permitting, registration at the door will be \$40.00. The fee includes lunch. To register and for more information, call 648-6646. ♦

### Tom Caruso Heads Newly Organized Department

With the help of Val Donley, former Director of WCCAO's Hunger and Nutrition Department, agency administration investigated reorganization of the department to more efficiently support department and agency goals. A decision was made to incorporate Volunteer Transportation into the Hunger and Nutrition Department, allowing greater utilization of volunteer and vehicle resources. The new department has been named Hunger and Transportation. Recruitment for the Department's Director began in February, and, on April 17, Tom Caruso began to work in that capacity.

Tom states that WCCAO's mission to promote self-sufficiency closely resembles the work he has done in the



past. He left his practice as an attorney to establish the St. Andrew Legal Clinic in Portland, which he managed for seven years. He has spent the last five years working for Catholic Charities and the Campaign for Human Development. "I chose the position at WCCAO", states Caruso, "because the agency has an excellent reputation for being innovative and pro-active in the area of self-sufficiency. I have learned that it is never enough to deliver direct services. We need to get at the underlying causes of poverty."

After less than one week on the job, Tom had already reflected on a couple of ideas that might get at the "underlying causes of hunger." He would like to see WCCAO help low income people develop cooperative businesses (i.e. a farmers' co-op) and be more active in advocacy efforts to change policies that lead to hunger. ♦

## "Everyone Deserves A Home"

Legislation is being introduced to form an Oregon Housing Fund (HB2779) which would create low income hous-

advocate that stable housing is a necessary ingredient for anyone to be successful - it is a basic necessity of life. To illustrate that point, if a person does not have stable housing, they can't go to school, they can't keep a job, they can't get mental health counseling or drug and alcohol abuse treatment.

"America's Economy has changed drastically in the past ten years. For low-income people, housing at affordable rates is now more difficult to find than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930's. Nonetheless, the federal government has reduced its housing budget by 75% since 1981 (from \$32 billion down to \$7 billion) and eliminated tax code provisions previously favorable to development of low-income housing, thereby drastically reducing low-income housing construction throughout the nation. The State of Oregon has never used general fund resources for housing construction or subsidy programs." (Oregon Housing Now Coalition)

Sources of money for the Oregon Housing Fund are being discussed. One source that has been suggested is the Homeowner's and Renter's Refund Program that has traditionally provided refunds directly to low-income people. That money could be used instead to create low income housing.

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*Demonstrators at the State Capitol Building rally for affordable housing for all Oregonians.*

### Housing Advocacy Coordinator Hired



Ms. Diane Hess was hired recently to work in WCCAO's Housing and Energy Conservation Department as coordinator of Housing Advocacy. Hess comes to WCCAO with an impressive background in advocacy, community education and program development. Her prior position was with Metropolitan Community Action as the Community Services Advocacy Coordinator.

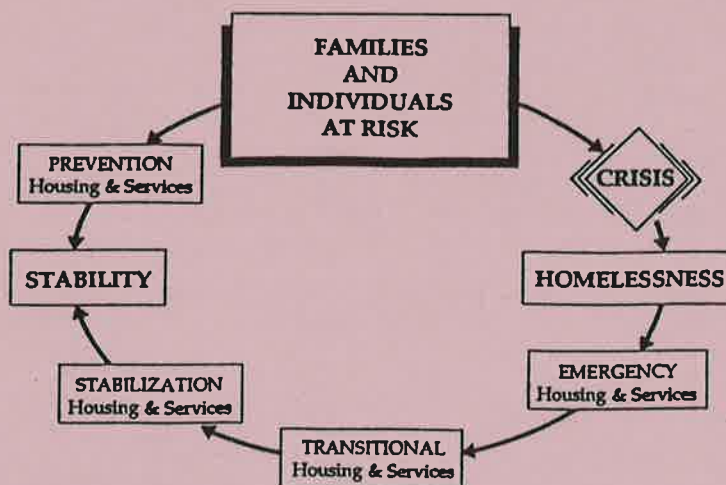
The Housing Advocacy position involves fair housing counseling and training, supporting the development of low-income housing and coordinating housing services. Diane's housing experience has included developing a tri-county rent assistance program, setting up an emergency shelter for homeless families and organizing the "Oregon Housing Now" Coalition.

"I am looking forward", states Hess, "to linking emergency housing issues with broader issues of housing access and affordability, and, through community education, organizing and advocacy, in order to be better able to impact the housing crisis in Washington County." ♦

**THE HOUSING SITUATION IN OREGON**

- 4,000 TO 5,000 people are homeless every night.
- A conservative estimate of 50,000 low-income households are paying more than 30% of their income for rent and utilities; 50% of these households pay more than 50% of their incomes, while 25% of them pay more than 70%. Most are at risk of homelessness.
- Construction of low-income housing has virtually stopped in the past 10 years.
- Rental housing vacancy rates have dropped to 3% in the Portland Metropolitan Area and as low as 1% in some other Oregon communities.
- In many communities there are so few units for rent that available federal rent subsidy funds cannot be used to help.
- Rental costs are increasing at a dramatic rate: an average 16% in 1988 and 15% in many communities in 1989.
- Rents increased by 47% and average wages by only 34% from 1980 to 1988.

ing and increase emergency help for the homeless. Proponents of the legislation



*PREVENTION OR CURE? Planners see it as more difficult and costly to stabilize a homeless family than it is to prevent homelessness. The following conceptualization is from Resolving Homelessness in Portland and Multnomah County, Housing Authority of Portland, 1989.*

## Keeping The Flames Lit - A Client Speaks Out

"My name is Maria Estela Loyola. I am a single woman. My husband died when I was 18 years old. I was left with two children - a two year old girl and a 4 month old boy, who now are students at Forest Grove High School.

When I came to this country five years ago, I lived in a very small wooden cabin, which had no heat or hot water - only cold. We had electricity for lights only. During the winter months, we kept ourselves warm by leaving the flames lit all night on the stove. This place was in North Plains. This was where I lived and worked doing all kinds of farm work.

But in November 1988, I met a man who had a mink farm and manufactures fur products in Forest Grove. Here I lived and worked for two years. In the factory, they kill and disembowel the animals on the first floor. On the second floor, on one side, the skins are cleaned and hung on racks on the ceiling to dry. On the other side is a kitchen where people were allowed to prepare their food. In another room, there are more skins drying and below are cots where the 5 or 6 workers sleep. I was the only woman worker, so my children and I got to sleep in a trailer.

The first 6 months, I was paid on contract. I sewed fur toys and gifts by machine, 10 hours a day, six days a week. In November 1990, I began to feel a strong pain in my back. I went to the doctor and he gave me sick leave for 15 days. That was when there was a lot of

snow and the trailer had no water, because the pipes froze. There was no heat. It was very cold. We had a little warmth by keeping the stove on in the trailer.

One night at about 5:00 in the morning, while we slept, something broke in the old stove and gas began to leak. I woke up because I felt a burning pain in my throat, and, when I realized what was happening, I felt frightened and I quickly woke up my children. I took them outside, while I looked for a way to turn off the gas. My son found a friend who fixed the gas leak.

My employer knew all about the lack of services, but he never cared about the bad conditions we lived in. On the contrary, he called me in to tell me that he was going to begin paying me \$4.75 an hour and that I had to pay \$175 a month for rent, plus electricity and gas.

I could not endure the conditions much longer, especially with my back problem. I tried to get workers compensation in December. In early January, I received a letter saying it was denied, because my employer said it was not an on-the-job injury. A week later I was fired. I was told it was because I came back late one or two days when I had gone to the doctor.

I had heard that there were some inexpensive apartments in Forest Grove and that I might get help from WCCAO to pay the rent. I moved there in January. Diana, the case manager at WCCAO,

called a lawyer to help me with my workers compensation. She also reported the conditions at the mink farm.

I was able to stay in the apartments in Forest Grove for two months, but when I had to move out on February 28, I could not get another apartment because of only receiving \$147 a month from unemployment. A very nice man named Ismael Huerta invited me to share an apartment in Aloha, where he and his wife and two children live.

I am now taking an electronics class, which Fernando Gutierrez helped me to enroll in, and I hope to sometime get a job so my children and I can have our own apartment near their school in Forest Grove." (Translation by Diana Solano)

Maria Estela Loyola and her children are one of twenty-two families that were helped through WCCAO's Homeless Farmworker Family Project - a collaborative project that raised \$64,850 in cash and \$5,000 in donations from this community last December in response to an emergency housing situation. Those contributing included the Washington County Office of Community Development, United Way, the Housing Authority, GTE Northwest and numerous private donors.

Maria Estela and the other twenty-one families are on their way to achieving self-sufficiency now thanks to the generous donations of those that made this project possible. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you. ♦

## "PROJECT SECOND WIND" Food Drive Yields Huge Donation To TVFC

Stagg Foods, Inc., a company specializing in the production of premium canned chili, leads the "winners" in the annual food drive, Project Second Wind, again this year with a contribution of 10,700 pounds of their products. Stagg Foods President, Bo Hirsch, says that he believes that, "Hunger can be overcome if everyone from corporate to private America gets involved."

Besides this huge donation of chili, the community-based food drive involved 23 schools, 20 churches and 6 businesses in the collection of 14,500 pounds of food to replenish the food bank. To honor the outstanding contributors, TVFC held an Awards Cer-

emony on March 27 at their warehouse.

Winners in each category were: Special Recognition - Stagg Foods (10,700 lbs.); Elementary School Division - Tualatin Valley Junior Academy (1,286 lbs.); Junior High Division - St. Pius X (135 lbs.); High School Division - Oregon Episcopal School (3,310 lbs.); Church - Tigard Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (700 lbs.); Business - Tuality Hospital (180 lbs.).

THANK YOU TO ALL THE CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, AND BUSINESSES THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS FOOD DRIVE. ♦



Dave Gray (left), Administrative Manager of the Hillsboro plant of Stagg Foods, Inc., shares glory with two school representatives following awards for "Project Second Wind" Food Drive.

## You Can Help

### Volunteers Needed:

- Clerical work, word processing, data entry, receptionists; call Pilar, 648-6646.
- Typesetting, printing, graphics design & lay-out; call Pam, 648-6646
- Drivers and loaders for the Tualatin Valley Food Center; call Vicki, 642-3236.
- Client reception, information, referral and intake workers; call Judy, 648-6646
- Drivers, dispatchers and clerical assistants for the Transportation Program; call Wendi, 648-6646.
- Caretaker at the Family Shelter; call Judy, 648-6646.
- Human Resources Specialist; call Jerralynn, 648-6646.

### Donations Needed:

**Equipment & Supplies:** Computers, printers, color TV, phone message machine, table for the conference room, high quality 35mm camera equipped with lenses for wide-angle, zoom and close-up photos; call Pilar, 648-6646.

**Head Start Centers:** large capacity food processor, 35 mm cameras, 35 mm camera film, film developing, portable tape/CD players, TV with VCR built in, camcorder, wooden signs, old uniforms for dress-up corners, electric meat slicer, blenders, computers, printers; call Cathy, 648-6646.

**Furniture:** Adopt a transitional house or a room in the house and furnish it; call Norma, 648-0829.

**Food:** Tualatin Valley Food Center is in need of high protein and staple food items, such as tuna, rice, pasta, canned fruits and vegetables; call Denise, 642-3236.

## Head Start Enrollment Open

The Head Start Program, a comprehensive preschool program for four year old low income children and their families, is currently accepting applications for the 91-92 school year. Head Start classrooms are located in five sites around Washington County in Aloha, Cornelius, Hillsboro and Sherwood.

Children enrolled in the program attend school four days a week for three and a half hours. A teacher and assistant are provided for each group of 18 children, and parents and community volunteers provide additional support. Family service staff work with families of the children to identify needs, set goals and utilize community resources to help meet those needs. Health and nutrition services, including dental exams, vision, hearing and other screenings, assist staff in identifying potential problems for treatment that will help ensure that each child is healthy and ready to learn.

Parent involvement, an integral part of Head Start, ensures that Head Start activities are suited to family needs. Parents participate in the educational program to help set goals for their children, which allows them to more effectively support their children's growth. They also plan activities for parent groups that will provide opportunities for making social contacts, networking, training and leadership.

People interested in enrolling a child should call WCCAO's Client Services Office, 648-0829, to schedule an appointment. Income and birthdate verification, as well as the child's immunization record will be needed at the appointment to complete the application process. Handicapped children may be enrolled regardless of their family income and are integrated into the regular classrooms with special services provided as appropriate. ♦

## Measure 5 Impacts WCCAO Services

Many people have been curious, in an academic sense, about the impact of the approval of Measure 5 by the Oregon voters last Fall. The impact is becoming less academic, however, even for the most conservative of us out there, as human service providers project the estimated cut back or elimination of resources due to passage of this measure. WCCAO's Executive Director, Jerralynn Ness, estimates revenue loss for the next fiscal year at \$300,000 as a result of the Measure 5 action, which represents a 13% cut in the total operating budget. How does that figure translate into services? According to Ness, "We will need to deny Head Start preschool ser-

vices to 18 more children and their families, turn away 165 more homeless people from our Emergency Shelter Home, cut back by 277 the number of families receiving case management/self-sufficiency services and eliminate child care assistance to 35 low income working families. As a result of the service cuts, 16 WCCAO staff members will have to be laid off." In a nutshell, the news is bad. Alternative sources of funding must be found to avoid the effects of this action. As WCCAO's Board of Directors and staff enter into planning for the next year, they will be challenged to find ways not only to implement these changes, but to overcome them. ♦

## "Everyone Deserves A Home" continued from page 4

Economic development consequences of the Oregon Housing Fund are very favorable. Money that is spent will go into the housing industry and will be used to match commercial loans and attract federal funds. The State of Washington's Housing Trust Fund is attracting \$5.30 for every dollar invested. Washington has been building

about 150 low-income housing units per \$1,000 of State funds spent.

Furthermore, there will be homes for people at the bottom of the economic ladder. Those people can then begin to lead more productive lives, which will allow the community to grow. Without a home, personal economic development is extremely difficult and com-

munity-wide economic development is slowed down.

Let your representatives in Salem hear from you concerning this bill. The address for all of them is The State Capitol Building, Salem, OR, 97310, or you can also call toll-free, 1-800-327-7389. ♦

## Jesuit Volunteers Motivated By Social Justice

Four young college graduates chose to spend a year of their lives in volunteer service to the Washington County community. They enrolled in the Jesuit Vol-



Patty Richards and "her kids".

unteer Corps, and, from the numerous jobs available around the country, each chose to work with Washington County Community Action.

Two of the four, Patty Richards and Lyssa Palu-ay, are spotlighted in this edition of ACTION NEWS. Both women have degrees in Political Science. Patty is from Vermont and graduated from Saint Michael's College. Lyssa is from Illinois and attended Boston College.

**QUESTION:** Why did you decide to be a Jesuit Volunteer and why did you select your job at WCCAO?

**Lyssa:** I became interested in social justice issues while I was in college and volunteered with an elderly legal service program and an Appalachian Outreach Program. I was looking for something after I graduated to follow up on my interest with social justice issues and the Jesuit Volunteer Corps seemed like the right program.

I chose WCCAO because of the close client contact. It also seemed like a good

job to get an overview of the social service system, since WCCAO has a number of different programs. I deal directly with clients in the Client Services Department doing intake, referral and needs assessment.

**Patty:** I decided to become a Jesuit Volunteer after spending Spring Breaks working with the poor in Kentucky and Connecticut and because I was concerned about the struggle for peace and social justice.

I decided to work at WCCAO because of my interest in children and because I wished to work among the homeless. My position is the Shelter Program Assistant. It entails providing assistance to the Shelter Manager and running a children's program for preschool and school age children in the Shelter.

**QUESTION:** What have you learned so far about poverty issues in Washington County and elsewhere?

**Lyssa:** "Washington County is fast growing but poverty still exists. The problem of poverty touches many bases in this county and around the country - education, jobs and housing. It is ironic that fewer resources are available for these problems at the time it is most needed. Even though I have not lived in this area very long, I can see that Ballot Measure 5 will make it even harder for these needs to be met. The problem needs to be recognized and acted upon openly instead of just ignored. There are many other agencies like WCCAO helping those hurt most by poverty. But they need even more support now.

**Patty:** "I have learned that poverty has many faces and there is no way to distinguish those it affects. In essence, it

affects us all, yet some choose not to see it. I find it ironic that a county that is considered to have so much wealth, has so many needy people. I realize that basic human needs are not being met across the whole county and not just in this county - poverty has no boundaries."

**QUESTION:** How do you think WCCAO can best impact those issues?

**Lyssa:** By continuing to provide the services it has over the years and creating new programs to cater to the changing needs of the community (i.e. the new migrant program). Reaching out to the greater community for more support is also another way.

**Patty:** With Measure 5 cuts, I think WCCAO can best impact these issues by mobilizing and coordinating volunteer efforts.

In August, Patty, Lyssa and the other two Jesuit Volunteers, Amy and Barbara, will end their year volunteering with WCCAO. Patty and Lyssa have no definite plans yet as to their future endeavors, but both are interested in staying in the Northwest.

WCCAO is fortunate to have such dedicated and talented people to work with our clients. While they learn from their experiences, we learn from them. ♦



Lyssa Palu-ay, help is just a phone call away.

## GTE Northwest A Partner In Promoting Self-Sufficiency

GTE has been a long-time supporter of Community Action's mission in Washington County, but this year in particular, the company has come forward to demonstrate their support in several very significant ways:

- Donation of a community phone housed in the WCCAO Client Services Office in Hillsboro, including unlimited local calling privileges.
- Donation of a phone for the South

County Head Start Center office and non-working phones for the Head Start classrooms (used for instruction).

- Purchase of a Corporate Table for the 5th Annual Mardi Gras Ball.
  - \$2,500 to help provide housing assistance to farm workers and other homeless people in Washington County.
  - \$1,000 to Tualatin Valley Food Center to support ongoing operations
- GTE's sister company, GTE Mobilnet,

has even gotten involved by donating mobile phones for use in the Head Start vans that transport children to and from the classrooms. Thank you to GTE Northwest for everything you've done to support the programs of Washington County Community Action. You have admirably demonstrated the benefits of partnership that will ultimately make the big difference in improving our community for everyone. ♦

**Affordable Child Care...** continued from page 1

ing came from the State of Oregon through the Community Child & Youth Services Commission's Great Start Program. What's ahead? Great Start funds may be cut as part of the Measure 5 implementation. New money is coming down from the Federal Government in the form of a block grant to the State (the Child Care Development Block Grant), which will be administered by the State's Department of Human Resources. Guidelines for use of the funds is being determined by an interagency group that will produce a Plan by the end of April or early May. Funds will be available for distribution in September. The Federal money is supposed to enhance child care systems already in place in the states. If it is handled appropriately in Oregon, it will not be used to fill the gap left by Measure 5 actions. Instead, hopefully, it will be used to expand the projects that are already established. If that's the case, by next September,

WCCAO may be able to help a lot more than 35 families to become self-sufficient through subsidized child care. We hope this is the beginning of a tide of funding that will get at the causes of poverty, rather than just the symptoms.

"If it weren't for the Great Start program, our family couldn't afford day care. And without day care, our family would be forced to look for other public assistance. We are a young family of four. My husband works part time and goes to school full time in a graduate student program. He plans to teach history in a community college. I enjoy my job with a local paper company. However, my wages are minimal. Great Start enables us to pursue our career goals while our littlest, age 4, is in preschool...Please don't drop a most needed program." (Debra Harrison, 1991 Client, WCCAO Child Care Program) ♦



*Mr. Gene Hermelin, full-time volunteer in WCCAO's Transportation Program, receives one of ten Golden Rule Awards for outstanding volunteer service, presented by JCPenney and The Volunteer Bureau. (Pictured here with his family just following the Award Ceremony)*

**CONGRATULATIONS, GENE!!**

**WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE ON OUR TEAM!**

**Washington County  
Community Action Organization**

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- Sherry Robinson, Vice Chair
- Mayor Shirley Huffman, Secretary
- Jose Jaimé, Treasurer
- Dr. Shirley Harper, At Large
- Gale Patterson, At Large



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