

# WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION NEWS

Winter 1993

## After the holidays, the need continues

*Volunteers who give year-round are a valuable resource, and enjoy themselves while they do it.*

During the holidays, WCCAO is inundated with donations, both material and financial, from concerned community members who want to spread holiday cheer and do their part for those in need. It's a sentiment we appreciate and are very grateful for. However, it's now that time of year when we like to remind everyone that the need doesn't get packed away with the Christmas decorations.

There are some very special WCCAO volunteers who understand the need and give year-round. Sister Delores Adelman, Sister Patricia Lulay, and Sister Joyce Barsotti of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon each give one evening per week to the WCCAO Shelter Home. "We answer phones, hand out food baskets and clothing to people who might need it, we do intake and orientation," says Sister Delores.

Early in 1992, the Sisters of St. Mary's

Church and Global Concerns Committee decided to make homelessness in Washington County the emphasis of their work. They invited Cheryl Hilbert, WCCAO's Client Services Director, to speak at one of their meetings. She told them about the Shelter Home, and they decided that was where they wanted to devote some of their time. They've each been spending five hours a week there ever since. According to Michael Vigil, Shelter Manager, the time the sisters spend at the shelter is an asset to the program.

"It's a savings of fifteen hours per week in staff time, which is a benefit to the tight budget. But they also have a stabi-



*Sister Joyce Barsotti spends Wednesday evenings at the WCCAO Shelter Home. Pictured with her are Greg and Candy Romero.*

## Volunteer makes the difference

*Lois Ebel demonstrates strong commitment to WCCAO's cause*

"I've always done volunteer work. It comes with the nursing personality, I guess," says Lois Ebel, who was a nurse



*Lois Ebel has contributed hundreds of hours to WCCAO.*

before she got into the real estate business. Lois has been an active supporter of WCCAO for the past few years, having volunteered many hours and also provided cash donations. "I can't remember how I first got involved," she says, "I think someone called me up and asked me to help out." And she's been helping out ever since. Her major volunteer work has been as a member of the Mardi Gras Committee, WCCAO's major annual fundraising event. The hours she and other volunteers spend are what make Mardi Gras a winning proposition for WCCAO.

Lois has lived in Forest Grove since 1973. She became a real estate agent in 1977, and started her own company,

liz ing influence on the shelter; both Sister Pat and Sister Delores have experience working in residential settings, that's very valuable. They're part of the staff. It would be difficult to run the shelter without them."

Sister Delores, who spends her days as Supervisor of Maintenance at St. Mary's of the Valley in Beaverton, says she's "impressed with WCCAO; they're trying to help people help themselves, not just giving them three weeks of shelter and then sending them back onto the streets." She also says she enjoys the time with the residents. "We spend time just talking. I really like it; it's really positive. We don't have the financial means, so we're giving of ourselves."

**If you are interested in finding ways to give year-round, call Pilar at 648-6646, and ask for a list of current volunteer opportunities, needed donations, and other ways to help. ♦**

*see Lois... continued on page 8*



**Sherry Robinson, Chair**  
WCCAO Board of Directors

*~Message from the Board Chair and Executive Director~*

**WCCAO builds communities, family by family**  
*Economic and social infrastructure is vital to our success*



**Jerralynn Ness**  
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

"If you give a man a fish he will eat for a day. If you teach him to fish, he will eat for a lifetime." This is an often-quoted phrase, and one that reflects WCCAO's philosophy.

Many in the community think of WCCAO in terms of the single fish given to the hungry person: whether it was the 5,770 homeless people who called us last year, desperate to shelter their children, or whether it was the 23,300 hungry families who received emergency food. In every community, it is critical that there is a place for families to turn when they find themselves in crisis and temporarily unable to meet their basic needs.

But we are also the teacher, enabling families to feed themselves for a lifetime by teaching them to fish. In addition to our work in emergency and basic needs services, we have a unique focus on empowering families with the knowledge, self esteem and skills to move successfully out of poverty. With this as our priority focus, we continually adjust our service delivery system to work with families in a more wholistic manner. Families can successfully achieve self reliance if we help them identify and link to a wide range of needed human service resources—including those needed to stabilize their lives, as well as appropriate education, training and

employment services — and actively support and encourage the achievement of their goals.

However, there is a catch to the old saying. No matter how good a fisherman he becomes, the man will only be well-fed if the river is healthy enough to support the fish he plans to catch.

The same is true for the families with whom we work. They will only be self-reliant if the social and economic environment in which they live and work allows them to be.

As low income families successfully stabilize their lives after a crisis and obtain the education and training needed to be gainfully employed, they often run into barriers completely outside of their control: the lack of family-wage jobs, the high cost of quality child care that enables them to go to work and the lack of affordable housing.

For the families who experience these barriers, and for those of us who have watched and cheered as they achieved their goals and overcame each hurdle, it is very discouraging. We remain, however, committed to our mission, and won't give up. Nor will many of the families. But, until our community has the social and economic infrastructure in place to support their continued success, we will need to continue feeding people the fish, despite their ability to

catch it for themselves.

May 1993 bring peace and prosperity to all of our neighbors. ♦

**You can help**

Volunteers needed:

- Clerical work, word processing, data entry, reception; call Pilar, 648-6646
- Drivers, truck loaders for Tualatin Valley Food Center; call Vicki, 640-6005
- Accurate typist for Client Services; call Judy, 648-6646
- Client reception work; call Judy, 648-6646
- Reception work, information and referral at WCCAO's Neighborshare office in Tigard; call Carla, 639-0495
- Sales Clerk at WCCAO's thrift store; call Thelma, 644-8956
- Outreach Workers to Spanish and Southeast Asian speaking families; call Diane, 642-3236
- Human Resources Specialist; call Jerralynn, 648-6646
- Fundraising events helper; call Denise, 640-6005
- Child Care Volunteer at the Shelter; call Michael or Colleen, 640-3263
- Night/Day Supervisors at the Shelter; call Michael, 640-3263
- Child Care Assistant for Parenting Classes; call Renee, 648-6646

*see Help... continued on page 8*

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
COMMUNITY  
**ACTION**  
ORGANIZATION

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 produced by Connie Sherrard and Pam Brown, WCCAO staff members, and Alisa Corstorphine, volunteer. (Please inform WCCAO of any address corrections.)

**... 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
Child Development Dept. (Cathy Wise, Director) .....	648-6646
Housing & Energy Conservation Dept. (Leon Laptook, Director) .....	648-6646
Hunger & Transportation Dept. (Tom Caruso, Director) .....	640-6005
Resource Development Dept. (Pam Brown, Director) .....	648-6646
"Play It Again" Thrift Store .....	644-8956
Self-Sufficiency Dept. (Connie Sherrard, Manager) .....	648-6646



## ACTION NEWS EXTRA

### How WCCAO works: One family's story

*The following situation is a composite of the thousands of families who call WCCAO each year. While this is not an actual family, their situation is typical and very real. We tell this story in order to help our supporters understand how families get help from WCCAO.*

Sara and Charles are your neighbors. They've been married for six years and have two children, David, 4, and Selina, 2. Last year, Charles hurt himself while working on a neighbor's roof. Since he had no health insurance, they are now paying off a substantial medical bill at \$60 per month. Charles works full-time as a convenience store clerk and does odd jobs during evenings and weekends, and

moved to a motel. How were they going to afford the move-in costs to a new apartment? Where could they stay? What comes next? With nowhere to live, Sara wouldn't be able to babysit; how were they going to feed their family and keep up on their bills? With these questions and a lot of worry, Sara called WCCAO's Information and Referral (I&R) number.

Lydia Cruz, the I&R Specialist in WCCAO's Hillsboro office is usually the first person people talk to when they call. She says she gets this type of call all of the time. She makes a point of affirming their feelings and listening to what they have to say. "They're usually frustrated and upset. They say, 'I've got so many problems, I don't know where to begin.' I just tell them that I know they're feeling bad, that it must be hard, but if they just tell me what's going on, maybe we can figure out a way to help."

Then she can take them to the next step in the process, making referrals. "I have a conversation with them, to let them know that I'm not just giving them orders." She asks them a series of questions in order to determine their needs, as well as their eligibility for various services available to them. In Charles and Sara's case, Lydia says, "I'd ask what hospital they owe the money to, to see if they could work out the medical bills. I'd refer them to Legal Aid, to the tenant rights hotline. I'd ask if they were receiving any other assistance and what

their income level is, in order to see if they qualify for food stamps, rent assistance, emergency assistance, Head Start. If they were looking for shelter, I'd prescreen them for our shelter and make an appointment for an intake."

Lydia's desk is almost lost amidst a tangle of phones, stacks of papers and yellow sticky notes with phone numbers and resources written on them, and, central to her work, a computer connected to a database that holds the names, phone numbers and contact people of all of the social services in Washington County. She has many of the often-used phone numbers memorized. But when someone calls with a need for which she doesn't have a ready referral, the system can help her identify likely services.

Sara comes away from the phone call with a handful of telephone numbers and an appointment for a shelter intake with one of the Intake and Assessment staff at the WCCAO Hillsboro office.



*Lydia Cruz, WCCAO's I & R Specialist, is usually the first person people talk to when they call WCCAO with questions about resources.*

Sara babysits for a neighbor's children in her home fifteen hours per week. Between them, they bring home about \$12,000 per year.

A few months ago, the landlord raised the rent on their two-bedroom apartment to \$500 per month. The next time the rent came due, they offered to pay two-thirds of the rent with the promise to pay the rest when Charles received his paycheck. The landlord agreed, but on the first of the next month, he gave them a thirty-day eviction notice.

At the end of the thirty days, Charles and Sara were not able to locate housing. Not knowing where else to go, they sold most of their furniture and



*Intake and Assessment Specialist Dan Jamsa works with many of the clients who come through WCCAO's doors.*

Dan Jamsa, Intake and Assessment Specialist at WCCAO's Hillsboro office, says that doing a Shelter intake evokes mixed feelings. "It feels good to be able to offer something as concrete as shel-

ter," he says. On the other hand, he has "a profound sense of the challenge ahead of them. It's only the first baby step of where they're going."



*Martha Plaza spends a lot of time on the phone in her job as Case Manager at the shelter.*

The intake lasts about an hour. It consists mostly of a series of questions which determine whether or not the family will be able to live in close proximity to others, and ensures the safety and security of all residents. "People are guarded in their responses, not real willing to open up. But that's to be expected. If they don't want to go into detail, that's okay. You can't pry the answers out of them. If they want to talk, that's okay, too." In general, says Dan, "people are very cordial and pleasant during the intake. They're so happy to have gotten to this point, to have found shelter. The kids are exhausted and grumpy, but the parents are content, and want to get through it as fast as they can."

Sara, Charles, David and Selina move into the Hillsboro Shelter Home that day. They are assigned a room and household chores, briefed on shelter rules, given food to cook in the communal kitchen, and introduced to the staff and other residents.

"When families come into the shelter, they're usually numb," says Carol Surrency, Shelter Supervisor at

WCCAO's Emergency Shelter Home in Hillsboro. "It's a busy time, getting people settled in. People are tired, the children are fussy. We have to assess what needs to happen first. Sometimes people haven't eaten, so we have to take care of that first. We want to make them comfortable."

The following day, they are scheduled to meet with the Shelter Case Manager. The Case Manager sits down with them and completes a series of steps to ensure that their shelter stay will be productive. These steps include an assessment, goal setting, and identifying the resources and services to which they will need to make connections in order to reach their goals.

For Charles and Sara, housing is the most important goal to accomplish, since Charles already has a job and Sara can't continue her babysitting unless she has somewhere to do it. They apply at the Housing Authority, contact as many HUD-subsidized apartments as possible, and check the papers every day for affordable rentals. They call Adult and Family Services to see if they qualify for Emergency Assis-

tance to help cover some of the costs of moving into a new apartment. They make another appointment with the WCCAO Intake and Assessment office to complete an application for David to enter Head Start. They also begin the process of applying for one of the WCCAO transitional housing units, but are warned that there are only six units, and that they don't have a very high likelihood of getting in, due to the number of applicants.

"People have a great need to talk. Sometimes an assessment can take two hours," says Martha Plaza, Case Manager at the WCCAO Emergency Shelter Home. Listening is usually the most

important part of her job. Another important part is making sure people know what's available to them, and that they have rights to certain services and resources. Some people expect "magic solutions" to their housing problems, says Martha. "I have to tell them that I don't have housing for them. I have resources and information, but they have to do the footwork."

The maximum shelter stay is three weeks. During such a short time, it isn't possible to fully address the variety of complex barriers faced by most homeless families such as the need for training and/or education and improved parenting skills, mental health or substance abuse issues, and the need for better-paying employment. "They aren't able to look at other issues because of their housing crisis," says Martha. The best that can be done is to make sure people know about available resources, and hope that they will seek out the services when they are more stable.

At the end of their stay in Shelter, Sara and Charles are successful in finding a new apartment, paying the same amount of rent as they had been paying to their last landlord. They receive emergency assistance from



*Shelter resident Nancy Ciniluca (left) and Carol Surrency, Shelter Supervisor (right).*

Adult and Family Services, and their case manager helps them to negotiate a payment schedule with the new landlord to pay off their move-in costs over a three-month period. They also work with the hospital to lower their monthly payments on their bill. Sara



begin's babysitting again, and Charles continues at his job. Things are relatively stable, but they are painfully aware that a small crisis, such as a stretch of bad weather or an illness or accident, could put them back on the street. WCCAO is not completely out of their lives, however. David is enrolled in Head Start. He is assigned to a center a few miles from their apartment. Several Head Start staff come to visit them. First, the bus driver comes to tell them which center he will be attending, his teacher's name, to answer any questions they might have, and also to show them the bus David will ride to school. Sara is relieved to see that he will wear a seat belt. It is the first time he will be away from her for more than a few hours.

Head Start is more than a preschool. Three and four year olds attend class half a day, five days per week, but that is only a part of what is available to families. All children are screened for potential medical, dental, vision, speech and nutrition problems; staff work with the parents to ensure that they are aware of resources and opportunities that will enhance the child's and family's development.

The teacher also visits the family. She helps Sara identify the things that David is best at, by asking her questions about what he likes to do, and what Sara sees as his strengths. Together, they develop an educational plan for David's year that will build on his strengths and help him develop in other areas. The teacher encourages Sara and Charles to become involved, and Sara decides to volunteer for the Policy Council, a parent advisory group to the Head Start program.

"The parent is the primary educator of the child," says Judy Nagy, a former Head Start teacher and now the Coordinator of the South Beaverton Center. The teacher's role is to educate the parent, so that they understand the child's emotional, social and intellectual development, "so that they can learn the steps to literacy, what it takes to be ready for kindergarten." The teachers keep in close contact with the parents throughout the year by means of home visits, phone calls, or parents' visits to the classroom.

All components of Head Start are family-focused. Sharon Bolmeier, Family Services Coordinator for WCCAO Head Start, says, "the parents can be involved in four ways: as a visitor to the classroom, as a volunteer, as a partner in their child's education, or as a paid staff person or substitute."

A Family Service Worker also visits Sara and Charles. She helps them assess their current situation, and offers to work closely with them over the year if there are specific goals they want to work on. Sara and Charles have a chance to talk about their dreams. Charles has a tenth grade education. "Considering that, I do pretty well for my family. I'd like to get trained in something that would make me more money, but who can afford to take the time to go to school?" Sara has a high school diploma, but says that her most important job right now is to raise her children. "They need me now. When they're older, I'd like to go to college and study accounting or maybe pre-law."

"My job is to give options," says Joanne Parker, whose position as a Family Service Worker brings her into contact with many families like Sara and Charles. "I think I might encourage her [Sara] to volunteer in the center or try to get one of the paid jobs like Food Service Aide, to build her skills with kids." Joanne says she makes sure they're receiving all of the social services they're entitled to, including medical coverage for the children through the Poverty Level Medical Program.

She engages the families in a planning process much like the one Sara and Charles went through with the case manager when they were staying in the shelter. In this case, they can think longer-term, since she works with them over the school year. "We set short-term goals first. If they can't meet those, it's hard to go on to future goals." She also makes a point to talk about emotional issues the family might be facing. "Pressure, coping, making sure they know that there is counseling available if they need it, also support groups and

parenting classes."

During their meeting with the Family Service Worker, Sara and Charles decide that since rents are so high, they really want to own their own



Joanne Parker, Family Service Worker with Head Start, talks to a client about community resources.

home, a goal that is several years into the future. In order to do that, "we know that we need to build up our income and begin saving some money, no matter how little that might be right now," says Charles. Charles enrolls in GED classes, and plans to pass all of the exams by June. After that, he'll be enrolling in the deisel mechanics program at Portland Community College. The Family Service Worker encourages him to talk to the financial aid counselor, who helps him put together a financial aid package that will make it affordable for him to quit the convenience store job. He will continue to do odd jobs to bring in a little extra income.

Sara will continue to provide child care in her home. She is in the process of becoming a certified child care provider, and has signed up for a class on how to set up a child care business. After her children are both in school, she will pursue her college dreams.

"We're not fooling ourselves," says Charles. "This is going to be rough. We still don't have health insurance for me or Sara. Our rent is still too high, and we can barely afford it. If something big happens, we're on the street again. But for the time being, we're going to try to make it." ♦

## Rental assistance helps stabilize families

### *A single mother begins the journey to greater self-reliance*

Sherry Pastor and her two children, Richie, 7, and Diane, 4, were living on the streets when WCCAO Head Start Family Service Worker Lu Lamping met them. "We had to move out of our house in Tigard when we couldn't make the rent," says Sherry. "We were staying with family when we could, but basically we were out and about from June until October. It was hard on us."

Lu nominated them for the Low Income Rental Housing Fund, a program operated by the State of Oregon and administered in this county by WCCAO. The program provides seven families at risk of homelessness with six months' free rent, allowing them the time to get caught up and make progress toward more stable housing.

It wasn't easy for Sherry to find a place, however, because of potential landlords' suspicions about the assistance she was receiving. "They wanted to know if it was Section 8," (a federal rent subsidy available to low income renters through the local Housing Authority). "Also, I had to be able to get a lease, and they didn't want to give me one, which is kind of funny, since the

rent was guaranteed." She finally found an apartment for \$545 per month in Tigard.

Sherry says that the assistance she's received has "made a big difference. Me and the kids are happier, not having to worry about where we're going to stay." With Lu's help, she is looking into her options for going back to school. She is interested in bookkeeping, and has taken some of the course work in the two-year program at Portland Community College. She figures she has another year to go. She is also looking into training opportunities offered through the Private Industry Council.

The six months' assistance will end early this year, and Sherry will do what she can to stay in the apartment she worked so hard to find. She says that, in addition to her other plans, she will need to work doing data entry in order to keep her apartment. Her daughter will continue to attend Head Start until June, and Sherry will keep working with Lu to achieve her goals. She has nothing but praise for WCCAO and Head Start. "It's been wonderful. I'm amazed at all the stuff they help you with." ♦

## Spanish-language forum for tenants scheduled for March 4th

WCCAO and a consortium of Washington County agencies and volunteers will be presenting a Spanish-language community forum on "Tenant Rights and Responsibilities" Thursday, March 4th, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm., at the First Congregational Church, 464 E. Main, Hillsboro. There will be no charge for the event.

WCCAO has organized other tenants' forums in partnership with the Oregon Housing NOW coalition. This is to be the first conducted in Spanish.

A light supper will be served at 6:30 and the program will begin at 7:00. A panel of presenters will address tenant and landlord roles and responsibilities and methods to remedy problem situations such as discrimination, deposits, rent raises, evictions, etc. There will be ample time set aside to answer specific questions from tenants. The panel will consist of representatives from WCCAO,

Oregon Legal Services and Beaverton Mediation, as well as a tenant who successfully organized other tenants in his apartment complex.

Written materials on landlord-tenant issues and housing resources will be available in Spanish and English. Child care and special accommodations for those with disabilities will be available: those interested should call Diane Hess at 648-6646. Spanish-language flyers describing the event will be available from WCCAO. **Volunteers will be needed to help distribute flyers at apartment complexes, laundromats, stores, banks and other locations. For more information about the forum, to obtain flyers or volunteer to help out call Diane Hess at 648-6646.** ♦

## From index cards to computers

### *Information and Referral system now serves thousands*

Originally set up by a VISTA Volunteer, WCCAO's Information and Referral (I&R) system has evolved over the past seven years from notebook to index cards to Rolodex to a fully computerized database. Currently, this service provides assistance to more than 15,000 callers each year, 24 hours per day, in both English and Spanish.

The current system, is a collaboration between WCCAO and seven other human service agencies and the Washington County Cooperative Library System (WCCLS). The data that was on WCCAO's Rolodex system was entered into a Community Resource Directory in the WCCLS mainframe computer, and participating agencies were provided with modems and software that allows them to access the directory by phone. In addition, this information can be accessed by library patrons through on-line catalog terminals at all public libraries in Washington County. The system is easy to use: information can be pulled up by agency name, key word, subject matter, or target group.

There are several advantages to this cooperative effort, says Judy Schilling, WCCAO's Intake and Assessment Manager. "All Washington County residents can access the I&R system from terminals in each library, as well as by calling any of the human service agencies which are linked to the system. With WCCAO as the lead agency compiling and updating the information, users are guaranteed the most accurate and up-to-date information."

Transferring the information, training staff, and becoming comfortable with the new system were goals all achieved during the first year of automation. Since then the agencies involved have continued to meet quarterly, keeping the system continually evolving and improving to meet community needs. "In the future," says Judy, "plans include developing a more sophisticated system for logging and analyzing calls, and streamlining the updating procedure. We will also be doing more community outreach, educating people on how to better access I&R." ♦



**T**he BEST CARNIVAL NORTH OF BOURBON STREET ...

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

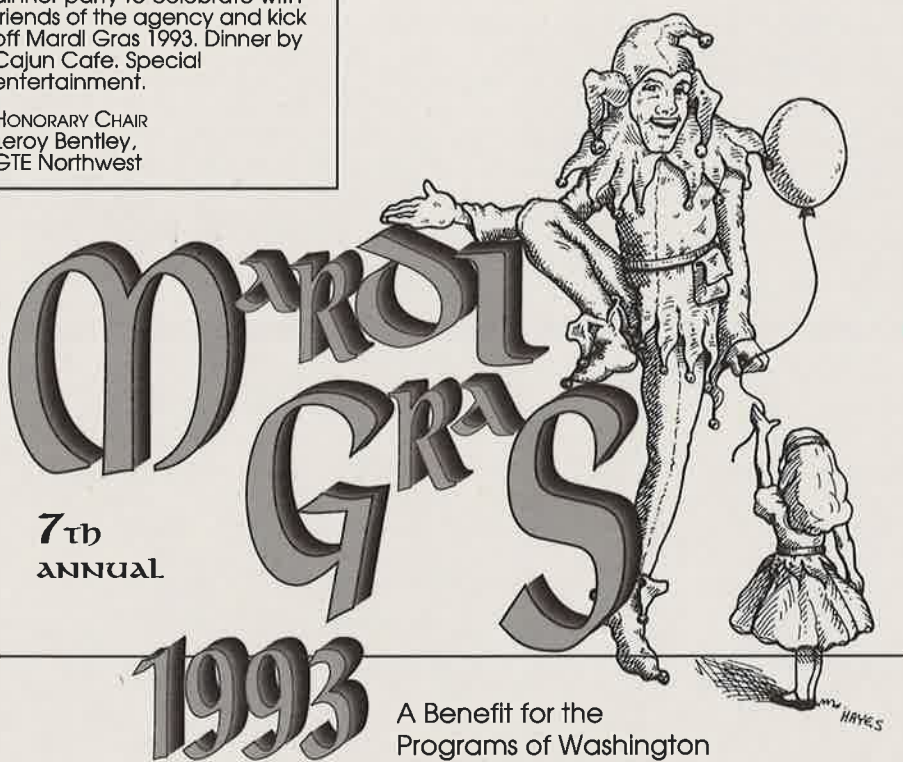
**MASONIC TEMPLE  
1119 SW PARK  
PORTLAND**

**7PM TO MIDNIGHT**

**PRE-EVENT: 5-7PM**

Join us for an exclusive black-tie dinner party to celebrate with friends of the agency and kick off Mardi Gras 1993. Dinner by Cajun Cafe. Special entertainment.

HONORARY CHAIR  
Leroy Bentley,  
GTE Northwest



**7th  
ANNUAL**

**1993**

A Benefit for the  
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Action Organization

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 **MARDI GRAS TICKETS**

**Lois...continued from page 1**

ERA Lois Ebel and Associates Realtors, in 1986.

Lois conveys a strong sense of personal commitment to her community. She has volunteered for the Red Cross, Mary Anne Nimmo Hospice, Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce, and Habitat for Humanity, among others. "I believe in tithing, and not just to the church." She supports WCCAO for a number of reasons. "Naturally, I have an interest in housing and homelessness," she says, referring to her real estate business. "My donations stay in the local area; I know that overhead is kept as low as possible, that funding goes to where it's intended," and WCCAO provides a service that is "necessary and worthwhile."

In addition, she feels that the private sector should carry its share of the load. "Local and small businesses have a moral obligation to give back to the community," she says emphatically. "Big corporations should, too, but we all should, to the best of our ability." Lois Ebel

demonstrates that sentiment every day. Thanks, Lois, for your commitment, time and energy. ❖

**What's happening**

- **WCCAO Board of Directors** meets the third Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM, Hillsboro Conference Room, 451 S. First, Suite 600; call Pilar, 648-6646, to confirm date, time and place
- **Head Start Policy Council** meets the second Tuesday of each month (Sept. - June); contact Susan, 648-6646, for time and place
- **Washington County Human Services Coalition** meets the second Friday of each month from 9:00 - 11:00 AM, Washington County Administration Bldg., 155 N. 1st, room 140.
- **1993 Mardi Gras Ball.** Saturday, February 27th, 7:00 PM to Midnight, Portland Masonic Temple. \$25 per person or \$100 per person which includes admission to exclusive black tie pre-event dinner. Call 648-6646 or 293-8460 (24 hours) to order tickets. **For additional information see Page 7 of this newsletter.**

- **Spanish Language Tenant Rights and Responsibilities Forum.** March 4th, 7:00-9:00 PM, at the First Congregational Church, 494 E. Main, Hillsboro. Volunteers are still needed to help out. Call Diane Hess at 648-6646 for information. **For more information, Page 6.** ❖

**Help... continued from page 3**

- Phone screener to contact weatherization clients; call Joan, 642-3236
- Donations Needed:** Computers, printers, color TV, VCR, coffee table, phone message machine; call Pilar, 648-6646.
- For Head Start Centers:** 35mm camera, film and film developing, portable tape/CD players, TV with VCR built in, camcorder, old uniforms for dress-up corners, electric meat slicer, computers, printers; call Cathy, 648-6646.
- Furniture:** Adopt a transitional house or a room in the house and furnish it; call Michael, 640-3263.
- Food:** Tualatin Valley Food Center needs high protein and staple food items, such as tuna, rice, pasta, canned fruits and vegetables; call Denise, 640-6005. ❖

**Washington County  
Community Action Organization**

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(503) 648-6646

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