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To: Jeri Alcock **DEC 16 2004**

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Thursday, December

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Giving really can make a difference close to home

A new effort to link philanthropy close to home is catching on in Washington County. The notion is a cooperative campaign called iGiveWhereiLive and is made up of 20 Washington County-based nonprofit organizations and four local library associations.

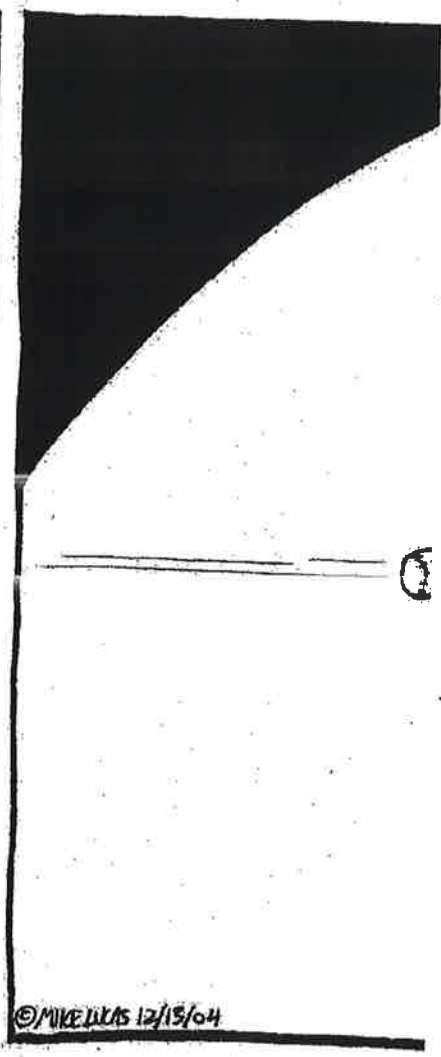
The idea is to link these diversely different service organizations for the purpose of educating local residents not only about the existence of local nonprofit organizations and programs that do many good things for the community and those in need. But the hope is that a rather obvious thing will result: Once informed, local residents will invest either their volunteer time or monetary donations to help these programs and non-profits do good things.

Frankly, sometimes being obvious is not a bad thing. In Washington County's case, it may be just the right time to be more obvious. For while the Westside of Portland is considered an affluent area with the presence of many successful large businesses and thousands of large homes, the gap between those who have and those who haven't is growing wider. Poverty is an increasing, albeit silent, problem in Washington County.

Washington County's own Community Action Organization, which serves thousands of needy local residents, estimates that from 1990 to 2000, the number of young people under the age of five who are living in poverty grew by 247 percent. And the agency estimates that 58,000 Washington County residents don't have access to health care.

It is those kinds of numbers of increased need, as well as mounting pressures on their own budgets, that prompted the 20 or so agencies to form iGiveWhereiLive, and by doing so seek to better educate the local public about the importance of charity at home. As well, iGiveWhereiLive helps these many agencies share some resources among themselves and engage a broader cross section of the community in helping out than may be possible one agency at a time.

Information about this campaign can be gathered by going to iGiveWhereiLive.net. The group last week also published 20,000 copies of a giving guide in the Tigard, Tualatin and Beaverton Times newspapers and in the Forest Grove News-



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The real trouble with hotel is its location

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Information about this campaign can be gathered by going to iGiveWhereiLive.net. The group last week also published 20,000 copies of a giving guide in the Tigard, Tualatin and Beaverton Times newspapers and in the Forest Grove News-Times. The publication and website are both effective ways to learn more about the need and the opportunity to get involved in making a difference.

Organizers of the giving effort say that the timing around the holidays largely is coincidental, although they admit that some individuals and businesses plan giving at year's end for tax purposes.

But most nonprofits and Washington County businesses that do engage in giving say that philanthropy is a year-round need.

Don Elsom, head of Providence St. Vincent Medical Center said his hospital system provided \$12 million charitable health care in 2004. Both Elsom and Ron Johnson, a vice president of Portland General Electric, say that their businesses believe that not only is charity good for business, but it is good for their employees to be charitable. Johnson said PGE's focus is not just on giving money to charity but enabling its employees to choose to work in their own community as volunteers. At PGE, for example, 258 employees and company retirees made cash pledges to the Oregon Food Bank, and this past year employees donated more than 600 hours of volunteer time to the food bank.

Such examples are a good link back to iGiveWhereiLive. The unique list of participating agencies (which offer services from medical health services, to housing, mental health assistance, domestic violence support, the arts and library services, as well as livability and environmental services) offer many reasons and many ways that local people and local businesses can get involved and make a difference close to home.

Giving where you live or work is a very good way to help make for a better community. Charity can start at home.

The real trouble with hotel is its location

I have speculated that this would be the eventual result of The Greenwood Inn ("Losses catch up to The Greenwood Inn; hotel closes in January," Valley Times, Dec. 9).

The major reason that the hotel has not been attracting tenants and making money is largely because its location is unappealing. A hotel that is set immediately off a busy highway is not particularly appealing to travelers who prefer a more calm setting.

For business travelers, they would prefer to stay at other nearby places such as the Hilton Hotel, or the Phoenix Inn, which is located on or near Cornell Road.

Another problem is that hotels such as the Hilton and the Phoenix Inn are closer to sites of major companies; the Hilton hotel is a walk away from Intel.

Unfortunately for The Greenwood Inn, there are no major companies that are close to it. In addition, the better restaurants are located closer to the Hilton and the Phoenix than The Greenwood Inn.

Therefore, any traveler would choose the latter hotels over The Greenwood Inn.

VARUN GADIRAJU
Cedar Mill

Beware, chief, voter discontent on the rise

Concerning the proposed annexations by the city of Beaverton, why is the Beaverton Police Department responding to calls outside the city limits ("City

annexation plan raises concerns," Valley Times, Dec. 9). The police chief said area to be annexed is "a loop for our patrols." How much money have they been spending on patrolling areas that aren't their city limits?

Perhaps the city plan along to put a police precinct areas outside the city and then say, "We have you because our police are all the time anyway?"

The city had better voter discontent is on the tide is already turning. Measure 37 passed in Washington County and Libertarian vote totals in November were double two and four years ago.

Beaverton officials claim that anyone would live outside the city limit wait to see what happens if they stop annexing defunct mobile home parks and Cedar Hills. They won't what hit them.

ROBERT HANSEN
Cedar Hills

Our students need real-world education

About your Dec. 9 article ("Without education, education will stall"), I am a high school student in the Beaverton area who has seen this problem on a personal level.

I have in some of my teachers who, to say the least, are not very good at what they do. My generation and the generation after me are to make it in the real world, our teachers need a better job of teaching real-world application to their students.

The business education

My head is in the sand? Barb, if you can,

(Soapboxes are guest commentaries from our readers and anyone is welcome to write one. Ron Gandy is a resident of Cedar Hills.)

A logical response to Barbara Wilson's Nov. 25 letter, "Gandy wants to put his head in the sand" — Good grief, Barb, one sophomoric negative tirade was more than enough — we certainly didn't need two!

It was hoped that after the election the negative crap would cease.

SOAPBOX

RON GANDY

precise meaning the author intends to convey, comes only after reading accurately what the author has written. Barb: I suggest you read that comment on the Warren Report, over and over if necessary, until you fully comprehend it fits your position. Precisely!

Anyone with just a reasonable grasp

cial history and theory. A bit of history and my own personal take on Social Security may be of interest.

Way back, Barb, probably before you were born, I chose the Social Security system as the topic for a college speech class presentation. A 1946 spring term assignment was to speak on something currently in effect that we thought would have the greatest impact on your grandchildren's way of life.

Long before I ever heard of or understood