

## Celebration Recognizes Corporate Partners, Community Leaders



*Marta Thrasher, Ken Thrasher, CEO Compli; Bernie Thurber, Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP; Jerralynn Ness, CAO Executive Director; John Vuylsteke, Oak Knoll Winery; Deserie Gomez, Head Start Alumni; Leslea S. Smith, CAO Board Chair*

Each year as part of its Celebration of Community Spirit, Community Action recognizes exemplary businesses and individuals for their work to help us achieve our mission: In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low-income people to achieve self-determination.

This year, Community Action's Board of Directors selected Kaiser Permanente as Outstanding Corporate Partner, Bill and Sharon Beran as Outstanding Business Leaders, and Women's Healthcare Associates Tualatin Clinic as our Outstanding Community Partner.

Kaiser Permanente is a founding supporter of Community Action's prenatal outreach program, Opening Doors, and has been a significant contributor to the program. Their Director of Resource Stewardship, Wendy Ray, serves on the Community Action Board. Last fall, their executive leadership participated in a group volunteer project at the shelter.

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## Farzana Siddiqui Promoted to Director of Child Development

Community Action Organization has promoted Head Start Prekindergarten Program Manager Farzana Siddiqui to Director of Child Development, replacing Marilyn Harrison, who accepted a position with Nike after 24 years at Community Action.

A native of India, Farzana immigrated to Ohio in 1982. In 1997, she joined Community Action as School-age Child Care Coordinator, and in 2000 became Support Services Manager for Community Action Head Start, supervising enrollment, central support, and the food service program. Farzana was promoted to Manager of the Pre-K program in 2004, a position that she held until being named director, effective April 2, 2007.

Community Action operates Washington County's largest Head Start program for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and their families. The program serves 645 children of low-income families in Aloha, Beaverton, Bridgeport, Hillsboro, Tigard, and Tualatin. Community Action Head Start currently serves about half of all eligible children in Washington County, but with recent legislative approval for expansion, we will be able to serve twice as many children.

Farzana earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees at universities in India, with the intention of teaching high school chemistry. She discovered her love for working with young children while her

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*Farzana Siddiqui  
Director of Child Development*

## A Letter to Our Friends

Community Action has been fortunate to attract quality board members who care deeply about our work and our mission. They bring unique perspectives, talents and expertise to set us on a strong course. They are engaged, knowledgeable and exceptional stewards of our resources. This June we will be experiencing a change in leadership as our current board chair, Leslea Smith, Regional Director of Legal Aid Services of Oregon, passes the gavel to Kevin Aquirre, District Manger, Oregon Department of Human Services.



Jerralynn Ness



Leslea S. Smith



Kevin Aquirre

I invited Leslea and Kevin to share some thoughts about their involvement with Community Action. Leslea writes that chairing the Community Action Board of Directors has been a pleasure. "My life has been enriched by the close working relationships I have formed with many staff and board members. I have been privileged to meet many wonderful volunteers and donors. I have been proud to represent Community Action in public settings such as fundraisers, dinners, training events, and meetings - many meetings. Though we faced challenges during my term as board chair, our organization continues to stay true to its promise: 'Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community and are dedicated to helping individuals help themselves and each other.' Community Action remains focused on its mission to serve the needs of low-income residents of our community. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve."

Kevin has served as board vice-chair during the past two years. "I love Community Action!" he writes. "I love the help Community Action provides to people in need in the community, as well as the spirit of the people who work for Community Action - their call to service, their optimism, their nurturing of hope for the community. I love how the staff's commitment to Community Action's ideals encourages a sense of hope and optimism in the people whose lives they positively impact everyday. To be a part of this grassroots, dynamic organization is exciting and rewarding. I look forward to interacting with the many generous supporters of Community Action. My goals as board chair include increasing the organization's ability to evolve and expand its services to meet the ever-changing demands and dynamics of Washington County. I hope I can also help Community Action continue to cultivate and nurture partnerships with community service organizations to make our combined efforts truly one of 'community action.'"

Thank you Leslea for your caring and thoughtful leadership, and for always being there for us. Welcome, Kevin, into this leadership role that is so critical to our organization. I am looking forward to seeing your vision for Community Action become a reality. We truly are a stronger organization because of board members like you. If you, Dear Reader, have ever thought of becoming involved with the volunteer leadership of Community Action, I'd love to hear from you!

Jerralynn Ness, Executive Director

## Farzana Siddiqui Promoted to Director of Child Development

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own children attended a cooperative preschool class requiring parent involvement. During Head Start expansion in Cleveland, Ohio, Farzana was hired to manage all aspects of the program serving 100 children. She discovered that helping young children gain the skills they need to be ready for kindergarten also means working with families. "Head Start touches your heart and I didn't want to leave. It's so rewarding to see the changes Head Start makes in families' lives -

simple changes such as reading to children or eating healthy foods can be big changes for them," she said.

In 1997, Farzana moved to Oregon with her husband. She found a good fit for her experience at Community Action Head Start. Farzana is currently studying toward a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology at Pacific University. She earned her M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Pacific in 2004.

Farzana and her husband have two

children. Their daughter attends medical school in Nevada. Their son attends Portland State University.

Farzana says her goals are "maintaining quality and stability" in Community Action's Head Start program, and finding time to begin work on her dissertation. "You have to plan, organize, and prioritize," she said, adding: "I don't watch any TV!"

## Celebration Recognizes Partners and Leaders

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Kaiser Permanente has made a major grant to Community Action's Housing First homeless prevention program. Kaiser also supports other community organizations, including Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center and Essential Health Clinic. Kaiser Permanente Sunset Medical Office staff donate to Community Action's Hillsboro Family Shelter.

Women's Healthcare Associates' Tualatin Clinic supports Community Action's Opening Doors pregnancy outreach program by providing prenatal care to low-income women without health insurance. During the past 3 years, WHA has helped 427 at-risk pregnant women through Opening Doors to ensure the healthy birth of their babies.

Bill and Sharon Beran own and operate Beran Vineyards near Hillsboro. They are long-time supporters of Community Action. In addition to donating patrons fees from wine tastings, the Berans have

helped families at Community Action's Hillsboro Family Shelter. They regularly attend Community Action events and serve as ambassadors to our work. Bill also serves on the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce board.

Compli CEO Ken Thrasher delivered a powerful keynote speech. His remarks focused on the social value of investing in early childhood programs, as well as his belief that "what's good for children is good for business and communities."

Community Action Head Start alumnae Cilicia Burrell and Deserie Gomez were also recognized during the celebration, along with their mother, Elaine Burrell, who in September will celebrate 25 years as an employee of Community Action Head Start. Cilicia is studying toward her B.A. in Accounting. Deserie manages a downtown Portland dental office.

Through gifts and sponsorships, this year's Celebration of Community Spirit raised \$58,000 for Community Action programs and services.

## Local Heroes

Community Action gratefully acknowledges gifts and in-kind support from this broad range of businesses, community organizations, and faith-based groups:

Bank of America  
Buena Vista Custom Homes  
David Hill Winery and Vineyard  
Henningsen Cold Storage  
John L. Scott Market Center  
Nike  
Oak Knoll Winery  
Portland General Electric  
Tektronix  
The Pepsi Bottling Group Foundations  
UBS-Global Impact  
Washington Mutual

### Head Start

The Shoebox Pediatric Dentistry  
Oregon Foster Parent Association  
Women's Ministry, Beaverton Christian Church

### Hillsboro Family Shelter

Community Housing Fund - Bridging The Gap  
Employees of Providence St. Vincent Medical Center  
Hillsboro American Legion Auxiliary  
Kaiser Permanente Sunset Medical Office  
MasterBrand Cabinets  
New Seasons Market  
Portland Women's Union Foundation  
Providence Plan Partners  
7-Eleven  
The Sunshine Lady Foundation, Inc.

### Opening Doors

CARE Oregon  
Northwest Health Foundation - Kaiser Community Fund  
The Streets of Tanasbourne  
Tuality Healthcare  
Tuality Health Alliance  
NW Quilters

### PRESENTING SPONSOR

Nike

### BENEFACTORS

Columbia Community Bank  
Intel  
Tuality Healthcare

### SPONSORS

Farmington Gardens  
JD Fulwiler & Company  
Lattice Semiconductor  
NW Natural  
O'Donnell & Clark, LLP  
Portland General Electric  
Providence Health System  
Washington Mutual Bank

### SUSTAINERS

Bank of America  
Kaiser Permanente  
Legacy Meridian Park Hospital  
The Standard

### EXECUTIVE CIRCLE

Community Newspapers  
Conkling Fiskum & McCormick  
Davis Wright Tremaine  
Hillsboro Argus  
Hines Horticulture  
One Economy Corporation  
Seattle Leasing  
Umpqua Bank  
West Coast Bank

### Emergency Assistance Funds

Aloha Christian Church  
Employees of Providence St. Vincent Medical Center  
Evergreen Christian Center, Hillsboro Emergency Fund  
Hillsboro Presbyterian Church  
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church  
St. Vincent DePaul Conference - Forest Grove  
Tigard Church of God  
Tigard Community Friends Church  
United Methodist Church - Forest Grove  
Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Washington County



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## Community Connections

*Community Connections* is a publication of  
**Community Action**

1001 SW Baseline Street, Hillsboro, OR 97123

Community Action is a private, non-profit corporation. In partnership with the community, Community Action assists low-income people to achieve self-determination.

For further information, contact Resource Development  
503.693.3255, or visit our website:  
[www.communityaction4u.org](http://www.communityaction4u.org)

### **Executive Director**

Jerralynn Ness

### **Board of Directors**

Kevin Aguirre	Anastasia Mata Hernandez
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Mayor Rob Drake	Leslea S. Smith
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Mayor Tom Hughes	Councilor Cathy Stanton
D. Craig Kinnie	Dick Stenson
Maria Lopez	Congressman David Wu

# Save the Date!

## "People You Should Know" Breakfast

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Kingstad Center, Beaverton

7:30 - 8:30 am



For more information,  
please contact Mary Jones, 503-693-3230.

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