



Community IN ACTION

Newsletter March 19, 2007

Deadline is the second Friday of the month; Contacts for articles are: Child Dev. - Farzana Siddiqui, F&CR - Serena Villafaña, Morale & Wellness -Phyllis Johnpoll,. Development – Scott Schlegel, All others – Nancy Peters. Editor: Winnie Althizer

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

March has been a month filled with the buzz that major changes can bring to an organization. With the departure of Marilyn Harrison, after 24 years at Community Action Head Start, many staff are feeling a mixture of emotions. Sadness at the loss of a valuable and respected member of our organization and happiness for the new opportunities that Marilyn will have at Nike.

And then there is the anticipation of change; changes in Head Start Leadership; changes on Community Action's Leadership Team. Marilyn has always brought great thinking to our leadership discussions; she is visionary, analytical and practical. She is reliable, always coming through with quality work.

Marilyn also brought a depth of knowledge and expertise in early childhood development. She never lost sight of what was in the best interest of children and their families. And she intuitively knew how to relate to our clients in a non-judgmental, respectful and empowering way. Marilyn provided the leadership needed for significant program growth to occur and maintained a careful watch to assure quality. During her tenure as Director our Head Start

Continued column 2

Cont. from Director's Corner:

enrollment grew by over 40%, to 645 children. We added Early Head Start and developed many creative partnerships in our community. Through all of our program changes, Marilyn made sure that we never lost sight of our core values around serving low-income children and their families. We have had outstanding reviews and we can proudly say that we have been operating a program of excellence. This is truly Marilyn's legacy.

Marilyn leaves at a time when the program is poised for potentially the largest growth spurt ever. But she has left us in good hands. She has carefully mentored strong leadership in the program and collectively we have experienced what it takes to effectively grow a program and not compromise quality.

And we are fortunate to have one of our strong leaders, Farzana Siddiqui, prepared to carry on the good work of Head Start. But the Head Start Director position is unique, as it must be approved by Head Start Policy Council, our Board of Directors and Region X Head Start. So we have been going through the internal processes to seek these approvals and I am confident that they will all be received by the time you are reading this column.

I have worked with Marilyn for 24 years and she has been rock solid support. Like many of you, I will miss her dearly and I am so proud of her. I wish her the very best in the next chapter of her life...it's bound to be a great adventure!

News of Note



Congratulations to our staff that have recently received honors for their fine work at Community Action.

On March 13, 2007, the University of Oregon College of Education Alumni Association celebrated a handful of Oregonians for their service to their community.

Kristin Ludwig was honored as a "Friend of Education" for her homeless student advocacy work.

On April 12, 2007, the Oregon Coalition on Housing and Homelessness will be present three awards at their annual conference banquet. **Pat Rogers** will be honored with their "Ma Curtis Award". This award is presented to an individual who has experienced homelessness, has turned their life around and is now making a significant contribution in the field of homelessness.

Continued page 2



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Goodbye potluck for Marilyn Harrison	3-29
Safety Meeting	4-02
Building Meeting	4-17
Head Start	
Policy Council	4-17
Board Meeting	4-19
Head Start Pre-K	
Spring Break	3-26/30
Celebration of Community	
Spirit Dinner	05-02
Wellness Day	05-04

April 2007 BIRTHDAYS



Lolis Martyniuk	
Miriam Pleitez	
Silvia Campuzano	
Mary Jones	7
Heather Ross	8
Mika Nukaga	10
Vilma Banek	13
Ileana Lopez-Gonzalez	13
Heather Roberts	15
Doris Harris	16
Gloria Enciso	20
Jessica Sloan	21
Janina Tabor	21
Kristen Long	22
Jennifer Scheib	22
Makana Kim	24
Winnie Althizer	25
Veronica Padilla	25
Chris Kuran	30
Serena Villafana	30

April 2007 ANNIVERSARIES



Vicki Ware	21 years
Maria Rodriguez-Perez	7 years
Gordon Eaton	6 years
Trisha Thomsen	4 years
Alicia Perez	2 years

Continued from New of Notes

On April 4, 2007, the Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) will be presenting their Harvest of Hope Community partner awards. **Marilyn Harrison** has been nominated for her tireless endeavors as a partner, colleague and collaborator and for her exemplary achievement in the welfare of the children and families that OCDC serves. BRAVO to Kristin, Pat and Marilyn.....we are so proud of you!

MORALE & WELLNESS

April is

National Autism Awareness Month www.autism-society.org
National Child Abuse Prevention Month
www.preventchildabuse.org

Passover begins April 3
Good Friday is April 6
Easter Sunday is April 8
April 15-21 is National Library Week
www.ala.org/ala/pio/factsheets/nationallibrary.htm

Spring Cleaning Tip



Make a great all-purpose window cleaner by combining 1/4-cup vinegar, 1/2-teaspoon liquid soap or detergent, and 2 cups of water in a spray bottle. Combine in a spray bottle. Shake to blend.

HOT SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, partially thawed
- 1 (14 ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and chopped
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 2 (16 ounce) containers sour cream
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- garlic salt to taste



Melt butter in a large saucepan over medium heat. Stir in the spinach and artichoke hearts. Cook until tender, about 5 minutes.

Mix cream cheese and sour cream into the spinach mixture. Stir in Parmesan cheese and garlic salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until thickened, 10 to 15 minutes. Serve warm.

WHAT'S DEVELOPING?

The Annual Celebration of Community Spirit dinner is scheduled for May 2, 5:30 to 8:30 at the Oregon Zoo Ballroom. Head Start will be the focus of this year's program. For more information, contact Scott at x 254.

Please make sure all volunteer time sheets are turned in to Resource Development so your volunteers can be properly recognized during April, which is National Volunteer Month.

Reminder: all volunteers for Community Action (except Head Start parents) are required to have their contact information, confidentiality agreement, and Oregon Child Care Division Criminal History Registry certification (if required) on file with Resource Development. If you are uncertain about whether these forms are on file for your volunteer(s), please call Scott at x254.

Very large size (2x, 3x) Community Action T-shirts (as were given to staff at Wellness Day 2 years ago) are available. Please e-mail Scott or visit Resource Development if you would like one.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

It is time for me to say a fond farewell to Community Action and its wonderful Head Start program. After 24 years I am making a change! Here at Community Action I learned about collaboration, leadership, organization, planning, and handling crises. Now I am being called upon to take my skills to Nike to help them expand their corporate-sponsored early childhood programs.

I am not going far, and expect to be able to stay in touch. As I prepare to leave, I am continually reminded of the amazing qualities of Community Action. We are genuine, dedicated, skillful, values-oriented people. Our priorities are on straight because we know that everybody matters, and everybody has something to contribute.

Farzana Siddiqui has been recommended to the Board and Policy Council as your new Head Start director. You can count on her to do a wonderful job. Please give her your full support as you always have given it to me. Happy trails and good health to you all.

-Marilyn



CHECKS & BALANCES

Fiscal – IT -

Question: Should I turn off my computer at night or put it to “sleep”?

Answer: Unless you have software or network hookups that require your PC to be on constantly, turn your computer off. The sleep mode cuts energy use by 70 percent, but using the off switch reduces it even more and turning off the power strip stanches the flow entirely. Computers in the business sector alone waste more than \$1 billion worth of electricity a year.

Wellness Day – May 4th

Your Wellness Day Committee is working hard to provide an exciting day for all of you. This is mandatory for staff to attend – it's great fun with amazing door prizes. Our wellness day addresses not only physical health, but includes emotional health (laughter), financial health, etc.

Opening Doors

MAKE PARENTING A PLEASURE!

Opening Doors is providing a series of 12 classes for parents, beginning Thursday, April 5, 2007, at the Beaverton Community Center located at SW 5th Avenue and Hall across from the Beaverton Public Library. This class is open to all parents' not just Opening Door clients. Topics include:

- Taking Care of Ourselves
- Understanding Stress
- Stress and Anger Management Techniques
- Nonverbal Communication
- Listening Skills
- Verbal Communication
- Child Development Basics
- Discipline: Laying the Foundation

Come and meet new friends, join interesting discussions and have fun with lots of interesting activities. Child care provided. For more information call 503-517-5798.

HR - Ask Winnie



I am enclosing a quick employee survey and would appreciate your taking a minute to complete and return it to me. This survey was originally conducted by LifeCare and included the employees at 1500 of their client companies. I was interested in knowing how our employees felt about the same issues. The question is –What do you anticipate will be your greatest work-life challenge in 2007?

Housing and Homeless Services

Community Action's Housing and Homeless Services recently conducted the 2007 "One Night Shelter/Homeless Count" during the last week in January. The annual count is mandated by the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), for all jurisdictions in the United States who receive funding from HUD, to provide services for the prevention of homelessness.

The data that is collected is useful to our county, in order to determine where there are gaps in our homeless services continuum. Then we use that information to support requests for funding from HUD that will provide services to specific homeless populations, or areas of need.

Each year we apply new strategies that will help us improve the accuracy of this important count. This year we worked with several churches in the county, the Oregon Food Bank, and about 35 volunteers, to provide hot meals, clothing and hygiene items to those who are experiencing homelessness. There were meal sites in Tualatin/Sherwood, Tigard, Beaverton, Cornelius, and Forest Grove.

We collected survey sheets from each of the meal sites, the street/homeless camp outreach volunteers, and all area service providers. As survey information came in, Katherine Galian our Grants Manager, began tabulating the data. As of 3/16/07 Katherine has completed that task, and preliminary results indicate that we contacted a total 1089 homeless men, women, and children this year. A 7% decrease from our 2006 survey.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES



I&R Updates

The Next I&R Breakfast Meeting: The Sexual Assault Resource Center

We will be holding our next I&R Networking Breakfast Meeting on the morning of March 29th from 8-10am in the Hillsboro office conference rooms. Erin Ellis from the Sexual Assault Resource Center (SARC) will be joining us to help explain what sexual assault is, and what it's not. She will help dispel some of the myths around sexual assault, and explain when someone should call for help, and what kind of help is available. This breakfast meeting is a week earlier than our normal schedule. Please join us.

Add Your Event to the Community Calendar!

Community Action's I&R program has added an interactive *community calendar* to the FIND section of the website. Anyone can submit events to be included in the calendar. We invite you to add your free and low-cost events for clients and service providers such as Job Fairs, Energy Fairs, Library Story time activities, etc. Or are you providing trainings for clients and their families such as parenting classes, Ready-to-Rent classes, ESL classes, etc? Maybe you'd like to add a workshop or networking opportunity for service providers.

Just look for the little calendar picture. Check out what's already posted, and start adding your own activities and events at <http://www.communityaction4u.org/find/calendar.php>

Housing and Homeless Services

Project Homeless Connect

The first Washington County Project Homeless Connect was held on February 28th at the Hillsboro Armory. The objectives of Project Homeless Connect are to; engage the community in the effort to end homelessness, connect homeless individuals in Washington County to needed services in a "one-stop" model, demonstrate broad community support to those experiencing homelessness and to provide human connections to people who feel, and are typically alienated.

The day was a success with approximately 150 households receiving services!

- More than 200 people were fed courtesy of NW Natural and Oregon Food Bank
- 18 showers were taken
- Roughly 250 sack lunches from OFB were given out
- DHS provided 25 people with food stamps and 1 family enrolled in the TANF program
- 27 children participated in children's activities
- Vision: 36 full eye exams were done on site
- 8 certificates for exams at Pacific University clinics were distributed
- Lens Crafters gave out 38 pairs of glasses and 2 certificates for their stores
- 13 HIV test were done
- Approximately 40 people received free, professional haircuts