



Community INACTION

Newsletter December 22, 2005

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director

The spirit of the season, the spirit of giving, caring and sharing, is what Community Action is all about twelve months of the year. And yet when December arrives, the needs of families in our community and the generosity of people wanting to help, becomes so poignant. We know the sacrifices that families make throughout the year to keep food on the table and electricity on, and that December can be one of the most difficult months for them. Each day our receptionists and Community Resource staff are receiving hundreds of calls. And each day dozens of families are being served with energy assistance, bringing them comfort and hope. Our Shelter Home is always full and there is a waiting list each month of over 200 homeless people hoping to find shelter space. And homeless children are receiving the support they need to stay in school. Our weatherization staff are tackling more homes than ever to assure that families are warm and safe with less costly energy bills. Working families are finding quality, affordable child care so that they can hold onto their jobs and know that their children are safe and secure. Pregnant women have every reason to believe that their children will be born healthy and will thrive, and they do.

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New parents are learning the skills needed to prevent child abuse and neglect. Hundreds of pre-school children are being prepared to enter school ready to learn. And everyone in our community has access to information about the social service resources available to people in need. And that isn't everything that is going on at Community Action. But it is because of *you*, our staff, that the spirit of giving, caring and sharing is alive and making a difference for more than 12,000 families annually in Washington County. I am so proud of you and the work we do. And I know it isn't easy. So here's to another very good year and a very heartfelt thanks to all of you. Have a very joyful and peaceful holiday season; you deserve it.



NEWS OF NOTE

Our holiday party was a big success. The cookie contest winners were as follows:

Karen Henkemeyer, best overall, Joan Ellen Jones, best flavor and Jimi Smith, best presentation. Great job ladies!

Our dessert potluck was delicious and full of calories. Thank you all for your luscious contributions.

Then there was the white elephant gift exchange. If you have never participated in this before you have really missed out. These people are vicious, but very fun loving. Just don't take their gifts, even Jerralynn lost her gifts a couple of times, which she thought nobody would take. (Give them a challenge and watch out.) It was all fun.

Thanks to the Program Assistants for planning a great party.



UPCOMING EVENTS!

Safety Meeting	1-9
Building Meeting	1-17
Head Start Policy Council	1-17
Board Meeting	1-19
Martin Luther King, Jr	1-16

WHAT'S DEVELOPING?

Resource Development has been working hard to recruit new donors and keep existing supporters engaged. Our work is showing results. Overall, charitable giving is UP this year. Community Action's holiday appeal has reached 75-percent of our goal. There's even better news! Our agency has received a \$100,000 estate gift, the largest cash gift to our agency from an individual.

You may have noticed the Do the Math kiosk in front of the reception desk. Please donate used cell phones and inkjet cartridges. Community Action receives a percentage of proceeds from recycling. Kiosks are also located at Hanks in Cornelius and Hillsboro, and at Albertsons.

This year's holiday Adopt-A-Class program has been very successful, bringing in 12 new sponsors who purchase "wish list" gifts for children in Head Start classrooms.

COMINGS & GOINGS

Goodby to Jenny Hauser

CHECKS & BALANCES

Sorry no news at this time.

MORALE & WELLNESS

Holiday Tips



The greatest Joy... Giving

The greatest asset... Faith

The worst thing to be without... Hope

Topics – *Ways to avoid pesky colds and viruses*

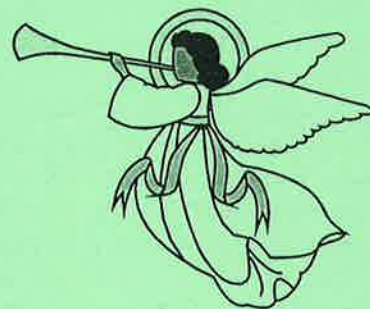
- ★ Eat delicious and healthy foods that boost your body's immune system such as fresh fruits and vegetables, edible exotic mushrooms, green tea and garlic.
- ★ Drink several glasses of water a day
- ★ Wash you hands frequently
- ★ Get enough sleep
- ★ Exercise regularly
- ★ Keep a lid on stress

Recipes

Wonderful Fudge! (*I love making this fudge!!*) ~Beth

2 Cups Semi-Sweet Chocolate Chips
1 Can Sweetened Condensed Milk (NOT evaporated milk)
1 ½ Tsp Vanilla
1 Cup Chopped Nuts (Optional)

Over medium heat, in a heavy sauce pan, melt chocolate chips into the sweetened condensed milk, stirring often. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and nuts. Pour into 9x9 dish lined with wax paper or foil. Chill 1hr or until set. Cut into 1" squares. Yummy!!



January 2006



BIRTHDAYS

Alisha Stoecklein	1
Melissa Baca	3
Claudia Gutierrez-Garcia	4
Martha Knapp	4
Carol Bump	6
Larry Hauth	7
Leslie Tylanishia Quintanilla DeJimenez	7
Margaret Blaylock	8
Michael Connor	9
America Morales	9
Rosy Quiterio-Rodriquiz	11
Kathleen O'Neill	12
Barb Dame	17
Lucia Guerrero-Perez	18
Linda Bourdeau	21
Blanca Blanco	22
Georgina Perevra	24
Adriana Perez-Hernandez	24
Joan Brown	25
Catalina Solis	25
Sonia Hurtado	31

January 2006

ANNIVERSARIES

Iris Smith	4 years
Carol Bump	12 years
Vilma Banek	7 years
Brooke Zimet	3 years
Jessica Sloan	1 year
Debra Palmer	7 years
Sally Reid	7 years
Brenda Rubio	3 years
Sonia Diaz	5 years
Manuel Alcaraz-Navarro	1 year
Sam Widmer	3 years
Tiffany Waltman	2 years
Susana Salgado	5 years
Shari Woolen	11 years
Blanca Silva	4 years
Amberlie Wiley	12 years
Brenda Neri	8 years
Rafael Aclaraz	1 year
Antonieta Narcio	1 year
Sally White	1 year



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Season Greeting to CAO staff:

The Head Start management staff really enjoyed visiting each of the classrooms to wish the staff 'Happy Holiday'. We saw children busy building, painting and socializing with their classroom friends. Children were reading to themselves, sharing a book with a friend, as well as listening to teachers read to them. What a strong literacy program we have! It was delightful to see so many parents volunteering in the classroom.

We are so proud of our staff. They are providing such quality learning experiences for the children.

Coffee Creek enjoyed a wonderful Family Holiday gathering. The moms had an opportunity to reunite with

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family members. One family had not seen each other for three years. Great food and many gifts for the children. Santa and Mrs. Claus stopped by for a short visit.

Head Start families have expressed their appreciation to the community businesses for sponsoring all of the classrooms, providing gifts for the children. Also, many thanks to the CA Resource Development department for organizing the donations. It was a lot of work.

Part-day Head Start classrooms are on winter break from December 16th until January 3rd.

Child Development Centers and Coffee Creek will be on break from December 23rd and return January 3rd.

We wish a safe and joyful holiday to all of the staff at Community Action!

Early Childhood Program Manager
Carolyne Westlake

HR - Ask Winnie Benefits, Diversity...

Sorry folks,
no information
for this for for this edition.



Pearls of Wisdom from Helen Keller

"Everything has its wonders, even darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content." -- Helen Keller

SAFETY

INCLEMENT WEATHER

If you feel you need to leave early due to weather conditions, be sure to obtain the approval of your Supervisor before you leave. Time will not be paid unless you choose to use accrued vacation.

HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

We also realize that weather conditions differ from one part of the metropolitan area to another. Additionally, our programs are very diverse and are located throughout Washington County. Therefore, each department may be guided by additional policies specific to their area. However, we have set out general policies to be followed during bad weather.

Local school district closures will guide the closing of all Community Action work sites. If the local school district is closed or adjusts its hours of operation due to hazardous weather or other conditions, Community Action sites in that district will close or adjust their hours of operation accordingly (including the main office). If hazardous travel conditions occur during a scheduled public school closure (winter, spring or summer break), each site Supervisor will determine if the site is closed and notify staff. All employees will receive pay for the scheduled work time missed due to site closures caused by hazardous travel conditions.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Community Action Fact or Fiction

More than one quarter of Washington County renters pay over 50% of their income for housing costs.

FACT- According to the Census-2003 American Community Survey, 26% of Washington County renters pay more than 50% of their income for housing

Community Action serves people throughout Washington County. However, the majority of clients served are from Hillsboro.

FICTION- Only 22% of our clients are from Hillsboro. The largest percentage of clients served live in the Beaverton/Aloha area.



THANK YOU TO VAL LAWS

While we were all home on Monday, snug in our beds (because of the snow storm), Val was here at work -- making sure each of us had our paychecks.

What a woman!



CAUTION WATCH YOUR STEPS



Don't forget it's wet and icy outside.

If you notice any door mats not laying flat, please take the time to fix them. We don't want to see anyone trip and get hurt.