

# WASHINGTON COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ORGANIZATION NEWS

Volume 2 Number 1

Spring, 1987

## Mardi Gras Ball meets goals!

Nearly 350 revellers gathered at Loehmann's Plaza February 28 to celebrate Mardi Gras, Washington County style, while lending their support to the many causes WCCAO serves.

Guests arrived in everything from colorful masks and costumes to black-tie and party clothes, and were greeted with traditional Mardi



Gras toss beads and the authentic sounds of the Portland Rose Dixieland Jazz Band.

The Eatery, at Loehmann's Plaza, was transformed into a Mardi Gras fantasy with giant masquerade columns, balloon trees, harlequin banners, and a twinkling pavillion over the dance floor.

Portland's popular Cajun Cafe furnished a spread of authentic Cajun food. Frances Webber carved two 320 pound ice sculptures which adorned the buffet table.

A silent auction of over 80 items attracted a great deal of interest. Al Foltz walked away with a pheasant hunt, Norm Monroe successfully bid on lodging at Mt. Bachelor, dinner at the Cajun Cafe, champagne brunch at El Torito, and a fishing pole. Carole Moore will enjoy a lunch and tour of the Capitol with Senator Nancy Ryles.

The goals of the event — to "spread the



word" about WCCAO, provide an enjoyable evening, and earn money for WCCAO programs — were all met. The event was a success largely because of the hard work of the Mardi Gras Team, under the direction of Steering Committee Chair Karen Whittle and Honorary Chair Gary Conkling.

The generous donations of time, goods, services, and money showed tremendous support for WCCAO programs and a unique event. Thanks to all of those donors whose efforts combined to make the evening a success. (More photos and donor list on page 4.)



## Executive Director's Message

Jerralynn Ness

### Long-range strategic planning underway

Spring is here! And with the tender shoots, green leaves and new buds, Spring brings us all the hope of new growth and rejuvenation. The excitement generated by this season of renewal and new beginnings lends a perfect backdrop for WCCAO as we embark on a strategic planning

process which we hope will revive and give new direction to our organization.

Private, non-profit agencies often feel that they cannot afford to develop a long-range plan. The WCCAO Board and management staff feel that we cannot afford not to have a plan. With shrinking resources and emerging social concerns, we cannot take on the challenges of the future in providing human services if we don't know what they are. And without a plan to map out our direction, we have little hope of reaching our goals.

A long-range plan will provide to WCCAO an identification of needs, establishment of goals based on needs assessment, a means to best utilize our finite resources, and a basis for refining our organization.

During our planning process, there will be opportunities provided for input from the community at-large. Your input is valuable — and we hope to hear from you.



### WCCAO Spring Calendar

- \*WCCAO Board Meetings, May 20, June 17, and July 8. Call 648-6646 to confirm time and place.
- \*Fair Housing Workshops, April 16, 9:00 a.m., Cade's Restaurant, Hillsboro; May 19, 9:00 a.m., Community Room, Beaverton City Library.
- \*Brown Bag Distributions:
  - April 24, 12 noon to 6 p.m., Livingwork Fellowship, 1927 Pacific Avenue, Forest Grove;
  - April 27, 12 noon to 6 p.m., Cornelius Baptist Church, 198 S 16th, Cornelius;

— Second Friday of Each Month, 1 to 6 p.m., St. Bartholemew's Episcopal Church, 11265 SW Cabot, Beaverton;

— Third Friday of Each Month, 1 to 7 p.m., American Legion Hall, 285 West Main, Hillsboro.

\*Public Hearing on WCCAO 1987-88 Goals and Objectives, May 20, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in room 402 of the County Administration Building.

\*USDA Food Commodities Distribution, May 21 and July 16. Call the Tualatin Valley Food Center for sites confirmation and income eligibility.

\*WCCAO Volunteer Reception, May 28, 3 - 5 p.m., Calvary Lutheran Church, 937 NE Jackson School Road, Hillsboro.

\*Pacific NW Community Action Association's 5th Annual Conference, June 10, 11, and 12, Hilton Hotel, Portland. Call 648-6646 for more information.

\*Centro Cultural's 15th Birthday Celebration, June 26, 1110 N. Adair, Cornelius.



ACTION NEWS is the newsletter of the Washington County Community Action Organization (WCCAO), published quarterly by the WCCAO Administration, 245 SE Second, Hillsboro, OR 97123.

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, Exec. Dir.)	648-6646
Energy Program (Pam Banks, Director)	640-8811
Heating Assistance (December through March)	640-8951
Youth Employment Program (Saul Shapirc, Director)	648-6646
Head Start Program (Cathy Wise, Director)	648-6646
Volunteer Center (Linda Davis, Director)	642-3236
Shelter & Housing Services (Cheryl Hilbert, Dir.)	648-0820
Paralegal Assistance	648-0513

## "Oregon's Night Inn" focuses on homeless, hungry

Around 50 people gathered at WCCAO's Emergency Shelter House on a cold Wednesday night in February, and for a couple of hours, this cross-section of concerned citizens were united in song, talk, and prayer. "Oregon's Night Inn," a statewide effort to increase public awareness of homelessness and hunger, was commemorated in Washington County on February 25.

WCCAO Executive Director Jerralynn Ness opened the evening by discussing current political and economic trends, helping to put the problems of homelessness and hunger into perspective in the County.

Adam Zealot, a former Shelter resident, spoke about his personal experience with homelessness. Cathy Baker, a mother of seven, followed with her personal testimony. Cathy and her husband, Paul, with their children, lived at the Shelter until they could locate employment and permanent housing. Both Adam and the Bakers are now stabilized in the community, employed and beginning to achieve their long-term goals.

Those gathered listened and joined in song led by Bonnie Byron and Valerie Nordberg, from

the Shelter. Father Tim Hoyt closed the vigil with poignant thoughts about the plight of the homeless.

Dedicated volunteers made the Shelter's candlelight vigil a success. Thanks to Winnie, Bev, and Dottie Waltz of the Forest Grove United Church of Christ, Mary McIntyre and Mr. Lyon of the Cedar Hills Community Church, and



the generous people at Centro Cultural, there was plenty of soup and coffee for all. Bread was provided by the Tualatin Valley Food Center. Additionally, thanks go to Louise Steppens, Sylvia Cortez, June Blank, and the Shelter staff for all of their efforts to make the evening a memorable one.

"Oregon's Night Inn" was promoted by the Oregon Coalition of the Homeless and Hungry, through the Hands Across America funds that came to Oregon.



## Operation Brown Bag distributes food

Tualatin Valley Food Center is coordinating a new food distribution program called Operation Brown Bag. It is the first of its kind in the state of Oregon. Operation Brown Bag is a unique self-help program that provides supplemental, donated food to needy people. The program is modeled after a successful program in Santa Clara County, California.

This food distribution is different because participants actively become part of administering the program. To be eligible, participants must meet the same income guidelines as for USDA food commodities

distribution and pay a membership fee of \$12 per year. This fee entitles them to the monthly Brown Bag food distribution, a monthly newsletter, access to special workshops, as well as the opportunity to participate in all aspects of program operations.

One specific day each month, Brown Bag members go to the distribution site where they present their membership card and receive one bag full of perishable food items such as bread, yogurt, pastries and potato chips, as well as surplus non-food items such as panty hose and charcoal. All of these items are distributed on an availability basis.

The Brown Bag program is currently operating in Forest Grove and Cornelius. Plans are underway to start the program in Hillsboro and Beaverton. It is hoped that there will be Brown Bag sites throughout Washington County.

Implementing a program like Brown Bag has a significant effect on food banking. Brown Bag provides an effective way of preventing food waste by supplying supplemental food to people who can really use it and utilizing the resources of the Food Center in a more efficient manner.

For further information about Operation Brown Bag, or if you are interested in helping coordinate a Brown Bag site, please contact Tualatin Valley Food Center at 642-3236.

# 1987 Mardi Gras Ball!

## Mardi Gras donors recognized

WCCAO extends a heartfelt thanks to the following for all their caring and generous support for the First Annual Mardi Gras Ball:



- Susan S. Vosberg  
R.L. & Bev Johnson  
S. Steven & Ann Foster  
Bruce Berning  
H.R. Kutschin  
Larry Keltner  
Beaverton Bakery  
KUIK Radio  
White River Hunting &  
Conservation Preserve  
A & A Welder Supply  
(Jon Miller)  
Bob's Big Boy  
Linetter Lemke  
Beaverton Police Reserves  
Dolores Wittingstad  
Gov. Neil Goldschmidt  
Famous Amos Cookies  
St. Bartholomew's  
Episcopal Church  
Rainy Day Flowers  
The Coat Rack  
Insurance Associates  
Forest Grove High School  
Service Club  
The Williwaw  
The Cajun Cafe  
I. Magnin  
Lawrence Bruce Olson  
Photography  
PGE  
Rivergate Bakery  
Francis Webber  
Amie Reichart  
Schuyler C. Wells  
Glencoe HS Art Students  
Mi-Ru Flowers & Bridal  
Wayne Faligowski  
House of Flowers  
Bob Schultz  
The Panda Restaurant  
Jolene Segal  
Sandy Alto Design  
Type Studio  
Northwest Printing Co.  
Anonymous  
Judy Sheppard Jazzercise,  
Loehmann's Plaza  
Granite Graphics  
(Fred Bass)  
Wilcox Chiropractic Clinic  
(Dr. Kent. Wilcox)  
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Sandra Keen  
Sue Dodge  
Sattva  
Al Taylor's Tire Factory  
Bacascos Academy of  
Kung Fu  
Rep. Al Young  
Design Linens  
Laurel Acres Kennels,  
Hillsboro  
Dan Rogers  
Captain Video  
Powells Book Store  
The Idea Factory  
Popper Supply  
TWA  
The Wine Master  
Teddy Bears Picnic  
Saylor's Old Country Kitchen  
Linetter Lemke
- Peggy Melvin  
Schuyler C. Wells  
Garden Party  
Copies Plus  
Dan & Shirley Harper  
Dr. Kent. & Nancy Wilcox  
Michael & Carol Dowsett  
General Telephone  
Tim & Linda Nelson  
Columbia Wire & Iron  
Canine Creations  
Chuck Kleier Properties  
Nick's Value Giant (Nick &  
Sara Nussbaumer  
Red Lion Motor Inn—  
Lloyd Center  
Bales Thriftway  
Peggy Melvin  
Hillsboro Methodist Church  
Uncle Chen's Kitchen  
Rep. Les AuCoin  
Hotel Motel Sales  
Oregon City Liquidators  
Photo Memories by Harvey  
Miller Brands  
Howard's on Scholls  
Oregon Roses  
Helen's Pacific Costumes, Inc.  
Electro Scientific Industries  
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Hazel's Crafts  
Beaverton Arts Commission  
"JJ" Promotions  
Willamette Cable  
Nike, Inc.  
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Tektronix  
Valley National Bank  
Hollywood Lights  
Hillsboro High School  
Mike Bennett  
The Party Place  
Anthony's  
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NFL, Inc.  
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Karen Jones Whittle  
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Sarah Atkins  
Ann Johnson  
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Pam Banks  
Cathy Wise  
Linda Cox  
Carole Moore  
Kathy Heisler  
Barbary Gregory  
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Trudy Foltz  
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Nancy Gann  
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Bruce Ruminski  
Nancy Monroe  
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Holly Freeman  
George E. Coville  
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McDonalds, Hillsboro  
The Idea Factory  
Innervations  
Mt. Bachelor Village  
Budget Car Rental  
Beards Frame Shoppe  
(Walt Hunt)  
Hall Street Bar & Grill  
Beaverton Foods  
Parker Furniture  
R.B. Furniture  
O'Callahans, Beaverton  
Neil Goldschmidt  
Western Fitness  
Raquet Club  
Jim Bosley  
El Toritos  
Round Table Pizza, Aloha  
National Video, Aloha  
Frame Gallery  
(Yuen Lui)  
Mary Starrett  
Vancouver Aviation  
L'Auberge  
Max Chance Design  
(Jennifer Chance)  
Kelly Services  
Portland Water Bureau  
Hawaiian Shop  
Tropical Island Tanning Salon  
"Doo-Dahs" (Hillary Barsky)  
Sunshine Pizza, Aloha  
Video U.S.A., Aloha  
Up Against the Wall  
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Freeman Brothers Yard Care  
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Photography by Gauger  
Graffiti's, Forest Grove  
Initially Yours Monograms  
Piano Studio  
(Christie Smith)  
Last Act Bakery  
Larry's Sporting Goods  
Software Guild  
Wold's Loft & Gallery  
Elfie Wise, RN/RM  
Rich Davenport  
Bill Zum Mallen  
Paul Hubbard  
Stage 4 Hair Design  
(Jacquie Ryan)



It's the  
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**MARDI  
GRAS**



## Medical equipment available to seniors

The Washington County Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) provides a lending library for medical equipment. Walkers, canes, crutches, bath benches and commodes are available at no charge to Washington County residents through RSVP at the Washington County Volunteer Center. There is no charge for this service. However, donations or contributions are welcome to offset some of the costs of repair and cleaning of the equipment.

There are no restrictions concerning the length of time a particular piece of equipment may be loaned. The only requirement is that the equipment be returned to RSVP clean and in good working condition when the item is no longer needed.

RSVP is a federally legislated grant program through the Domestic Volunteer Service Act, and is administered through the federal ACTION agency to the local sponsor, Washington County Community Action Organization. RSVP

provides a variety of volunteer opportunities for people 60 and over to share their experience and skill in their community.

Thanks to a local care center and several senior centers in the county, their donations of medical equipment make it possible for RSVP to provide this much needed service to people in the community who could not obtain this service by any other means.

To learn more about this program call Elaine Wells, RSVP Director, at the Volunteer Center, 642-3236.

## Tri-Met grant geared to special needs of seniors

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program has received a \$18,953 grant from Tri-Met to operate a Volunteer Transportation Program for Washington County seniors and handicapped persons. The program is designed to enhance, not duplicate, the existing special needs transportation system in effect through Broadway Transportation. It will provide funding to operate the existing RSVP van and a Tri-Met van. The grant began April 1, and will extend through June, 1988.

The priorities of the program will target: 1) Early morning and late afternoon rides for medical and one-day surgery appointments; 2) shopping; and 3) volunteer work.

Volunteer drivers and dispatchers are needed for this exciting project. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, call Elaine Wells at 642-3236.

## Energy Coalition works for phone bill assistance to low-income

Have you ever wondered what the \$2 "Interstate Access Charge" on your monthly phone bill means?

Thanks to the deregulation of the telephone industry, nothing is clear and simple anymore. Too often, the changes hurt low-income people most, which the Washington County Energy Coalition tries to balance.

"The Oregon Telephone Assistance Program (OTAP) currently exempts four dollars from monthly phone bills of senior citizens receiving food stamps," said Bill Fields, VISTA volunteer working with the Energy Coalition. "We (the Energy Coalition) would like to see all low income telephone customers get the exemption." OTAP is funded with the "Interstate Access Charge" levied by the Federal

Communications Commission (proposed to increase soon by 75%) and a surcharge on interstate rates. Those senior citizens who are interested in the program should contact the Public Utility Commission at their toll free number: 1-800-522-2404.

The Energy Coalition makes a difference because it combines the efforts of individuals. Fields cites the example of the much acclaimed Phone Forum that turned out over 100 concerned citizens last year at a phone rate hearing. "Public officials notice 100 angry citizens."

Members of the Energy Coalition say they are trying to repeat the success of the forum in other areas, such as amending utility shut-off regulations. The Energy Coalition plans to organize senior centers and other area organizations having energy concerns while the legislature is in session this spring.

Education workshops explaining the legislative process, citizen participation and how to make a difference can be scheduled by calling the Energy Coalition at 591-5425.

## Fair Housing workshops offer information to housing providers

As part of WCCAO's commitment to provide fair housing education and outreach to the community, the housing program has scheduled two free workshops to be held this spring. The two-hour trainings are targeted to those involved in the sale or rental of housing.

The first workshop will be held April 16, at 9:00 a.m. Cascade Room at Cade's Restaurant, Hillsboro. Guest speaker will be John Vandermolen of the Department of Housing and

Urban Development, Region X in Seattle.

The second workshop will be May 19, 9:00 a.m., in the Community Room of the Beaverton Library. Featured speaker will be Barbara Stroughter, Investigative Supervisor with the Oregon State Bureau of Labor Industries, Civil Rights Division.

All area landlords, apartment managers, lenders and other interested individuals are cordially invited to attend. Those interested in attending should contact Donna Butler at 648-0829 for reservations; seating is limited.

Funding for the program has been obtained through HUD and provided through the Washington County Community Development Block Grant Program.



## WCCAO programs need equipment, volunteers

The donation of needed items helps WCCAO stretch its budget to provide more direct services. Please scan the following and contact the person listed if you can help.

Housing and Emergency Services needs: good copier; stove; coffee maker; blankets; playpen; baby gates; hot pad; microwave; refrigerator; infant crib; towels; infant stroller; and cold mist humidifier. Call Sylvia Cortez, 648-0829.

Volunteer Center needs: typing stand; bookcase; coat rack; stove; button maker; clothes racks; shelves; hanging file folders; conference table; microwave; refrigerator; washer/dryer; display cabinet; and pencil sharpener. Call Sherri Wells, 642-3236.

Tualatin Valley Food Center needs: pallet puller; scales; shrink wrap; freezers; mop/bucket; garbage cans; plastic gloves; colored paper; door sweeps for overhead doors; dry storage space; fork lift; hand trucks; refrigerators; broom/dustpan; answering machine; work gloves; vacuum cleaner; and combination projector/audio tape player. Call Val Donly, 642-3236.

Several WCCAO programs are also in need of volunteers. WCCAO's central office needs a typist/records clerk and phone receptionist. Tualatin Valley Food Center needs drivers for their distribution program and warehouse workers to unload food and repack it for distribution. The Shelter home needs a receptionist and clerk/typist. If you can help, please call the program needing assistance, phone numbers listed at the bottom of page 2 in this newsletter.

## WCCAO welcomes new employees

WCCAO Programs annually hire over 90 employees to carry out the organization's mission. Each of these employees has a valuable role to play in helping WCCAO respond to the various human service needs in our county.

In recognition of our staff's importance,

WCCAO Action News will publish a quarterly "Welcome Aboard" to our new employees. Welcome to:

Energy Program: Wendy Larson, Weatherization Secretary; Carrie Kristensen, LIEAP Screener; David Rosenak, LIEAP Data Entry.

Head Start: Cindy Schmeltzer, Driver; Gina Cornelio, Substitute.

Housing and Emergency Services: Robyn Aaberg, Grant Writer; Gordon Brunswick, Laborer; Robert Freeman, Nightwatch; Ina Marie Nosack, Nightwatch; Ramon Lucero, Nightwatch.

Volunteer Center: Sherri Wells, Secretary.  
Youth Employment: Angie Guerrero, Office Aide.

# Youth Employment

## Summer youth program to offer wide range of vocational training

"Beginning May 1," WCCAO Youth Program Director Saul Shapiro says, "More than 325 Washington County youth and young adults, ages 14 to 21, could be eligible for summer jobs." This program is funded by the Multnomah-Washington Private Industry Council.

Eligible participants will be prepared for employment by training and testing. In many cases, youth seeking particular types of employment opportunities, or young adults who have existing skills or talent in a particular area will be linked to an employer who can provide employment in an area chosen.

Participants in this summer's program may choose the wide range of vocational exploration

efforts available, ranging from building construction to retail sales, nursing, marketing, and promotions.

Youth program sites include the youth service centers in Beaverton, Forest Grove, and Tigard; the Oregon Human Development



Corporation in Hillsboro; and Banks and Forest Grove High Schools.

In other Youth Program news, the development of alternative school sites continues. This effort is a partnership between the Private Industry Council, the Educational Service District, and Hillsboro and Tigard High Schools.

Your input is needed as the Youth Programs begin to plan for services they might provide which are currently not met, or only partially met. Please contact Saul or Susan at 648-6646 with your input.

**Washington County  
Community Action Organization**  
245 S.E. Second  
Hillsboro, OR 97123  
(503) 648-6646

### WCCAO Executive Committee:

Shirley Harper, Chair  
Jim Sehon, Vice Chair  
Nancy Monroe, Secretary  
Al Young, Treasurer  
Jerry Arnold, At Large  
Joan Johnson, At Large  
Jerralynn Ness, Executive Director

### Inside ACTION NEWS:

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