



# Community IN ACTION

Newsletter October 15, 2007

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

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jerralynn Ness  
Executive Director

Many of you are aware of the story surrounding our main office building in Hillsboro. In the early 1990's, the Community Action board and staff created a vision for a multi-service center to house programs that previously had been scattered in five different locations. It was a massive undertaking for our agency to raise the money and oversee the design and construction of the facility.

We moved into it in 1995 and had a wonderful grand opening celebration. While the building has served us well, in 2004 we discovered some serious problems that had been slowly developing but were invisible to us. That winter an ice storm caused major roof damage and water leakage. During the repair process we noticed that the windows looked damaged so we made plans to replace most of them in the summer. Much to our surprise, as we began the replacement process we found that a substantial portion of our building's internal structure had been damaged by dry rot and decay. We learned that this was due to faulty construction (that had passed inspection) that had been

*Continued next column*

*(Cont. from Director's Corner)*

allowing moisture to seep into the interior structure for nearly nine years and wreak all kinds of havoc. We had no choice but to immediately put in place a major building restoration and fundraising plan that had to be completed by the winter of 2004. Jeri Alcock led the fundraising and John Russell led the restoration. Funds were raised, bank loans received and the building was practically rebuilt...and saved!

During construction we continued to serve our clients. We ended up with a solid building along with costs that we should not have had. So we approached a law firm that specializes in construction claims and they agreed to take our case on contingency, meaning that only if we won would we have to pay our attorney costs. This was great news. And I am thrilled to report that this month we achieved an excellent settlement in mediation. We will be able to recover most of our loss and finally bring closure to our 2 ½ year building lawsuit.

Many kudos go to **John Russell** for his diligence in managing our building issues and maintaining excellent documentation!

## COMINGS & GOINGS

### Welcome to:

Ramona Conklin, Teacher II  
Dalia Nunez, Teacher III

**Sadly we say goodbye to:**  
Sam Widmer, IS Manager

## NEWS OF NOTE



On Friday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have a potluck goodbye lunch for Cilicia Burrell in the Café at the main office. Please stop by and wish her the best.

She has accepted the position of Accounting Department Manager for the Children's Museum.



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Safety Meeting	11/05
Board Meeting	11/15
Building Meeting	11/20
Head Start	
Policy Council	11/20
Fall All Staff	12/07

## LOOKIN' FER WORK ... ...IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

Job Openings may be viewed at  
Common/Agency Info/HR  
Resources/Job Postings

\*NOTE: Please check this address weekly for current information and details. We have many jobs in development that will be posted before the next publication and we will take applications as each job is posted.

## Month 2007 BIRTHDAYS



Dalia Nunez	01
Martha Guel de Luna	02
Darlene Dacey	03
Yangchin Topgyal	04
Ruzica Djurdjevic	05
Erika Early	06
Margarita Hernandez	06
Manuel Jose Alcaraz-Navarro	10
Pat Rogers	11
Aponlonia Diego-Sebastian	14
Vanessa Popa	18
Sonia Espinoza	19
Shauna Hanson	23
Kimberly Foesch	24
Yesenia DeLaPaz	25
Erin Saint Romain	25
Sara Andersson	26
Brenda Neri	29

## IMPORTANT: PLEASE NOTE THESE CHANGES TO THE HOLIDAY FOOD BASKET PROGRAM.

There are further changes this year as the Oregon Food Bank-Washington County transitions away from providing the Holiday Baskets for Washington County residents. The Salvation Army will be the primary coordinator and **there will be NO paper applications available at libraries, schools, service agencies, etc. this year. They will do "In person" and "online" registrations only.** In-person registration will be held for one week only from October 29th through November 3rd at specified locations only. Beginning Monday, October 22, 2007 people can register online to receive a food basket or sign up to sponsor a family. Go to the website <http://www.help4holiday.org> on, or after October 22 to complete the application process online. More information is available from your Program Coordinator or by contacting Community Action's Information & Referral Program at ext 238 or 224.

### October is:

Adopt a Shelter Dog Month  
Celebrate the Bilingual Child Month  
National Caramel Month (Yum!)  
Celiac Sprue Awareness Month  
National Breast Cancer Awareness Month  
Vegetarian Month  
National Bake and Decorate Month



### Holidays in October

Vegetarians Day -- October 1  
World Habitat Day -- October 6  
Yom Kippur -- October 8  
National Kick Butt Day -- Oct 13  
National Grouch Day -- Oct 15  
World Food Day -- Oct 16  
Mother-in-Law Day -- Oct 26  
**HALLOWEEN**  -- Oct 31

It's nearly time to start planning for those Thanksgiving leftovers!

Thanksgiving Panini  
2 slices country-style bread, each 1/2 inch thick  
Olive oil for brushing  
1 Tbs. mayonnaise  
2 Tbs. cranberry relish  
2 or 3 slices roasted turkey  
1/2 cup leftover cooked dressing  
1/4 cup turkey gravy, warmed

Preheat frying pan. Brush one side of each bread slice with olive oil. Lay the slices, oiled side down, on a clean work surface. Spread the top of one slice with the mayonnaise. Spread the top of the other slice with the cranberry relish. Arrange the turkey on the mayonnaise. Top with the dressing, then top with the other bread slice, oiled side up. Place the sandwich on the preheated pan and weight down with a plate topped with a can, or in closed panini press until the bread is golden, 3 to 5 minutes. Transfer the sandwich to a cutting board and cut in half. Serve immediately with the warmed gravy for dipping. Serves 1.

SURVIVAL & WELLNESS



## CHILD DEVELOPMENT

We began the year with a presentation from Tom Hunter at our Head Start All Staff meeting. Tom Hunter is a modern-day minstrel with a busy national schedule of conferences, workshops, school visits, and family concerts. For 31 years, he has been singing and writing songs, and exploring what songs do to help us learn, teach, celebrate, grieve, believe, play, and tell the stories of our lives.

Tom's presentation was on *Nourishing the Heart of our Teaching*. The core idea of his workshop was that our own vitality is the most important resource we have as teachers. He acknowledged the fact that we're living and teaching in a time that often drains us of that vitality. The question is: How do we fill ourselves up so we're drained as little as possible and so the children will benefit from our vitality? One answer to that question is to keep finding ways to *celebrate* the work we do each and every day.

Our Part day PreK program has met the challenges that come with expansion and a new school year. We have 32 new teachers working in our classrooms and four new PACs. Everyone appreciates the support from the "experienced" folks we work with daily.

*"You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts, acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits. When we all help one another, everybody wins."*  
*Jim Stovall*



# Happy Fall

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Community Action's Housing & Homeless Services is kicking off a new program called **Bridges to Housing!** This program is a collaborative approach to solving the experience of homelessness for families throughout the Portland Metro Area. Many partners from Washington County, Multnomah, Clackamas, and Clark County in southwest Washington have been working with the Neighborhood Partnership Fund for approximately three years to conceptualize this project. Each of these jurisdictions is kicking off their own versions of this program.

The partners in Washington County consist of representatives from Community Action, the Department of Housing Services, the Department of Human Services, and Community Partners for Affordable Housing, Tualatin Valley Housing Partners, local government and the Community Housing Fund.

The Bridges to Housing approach will represent a systemic change in the way we serve families who are experiencing homelessness. It is innovative, because it involves the use of a methodology to end homelessness known as "Housing First". Housing First is a strategy that takes into consideration that it is much less expensive to skip "shelter", and place a homeless family into "Housing First". Supportive services are then provided as the family stabilizes in their housing.

Alicia Perez of Community Action will be the Bridges to Housing case manager in Washington County. She will screen homeless families during their holistic assessments at DHS for program eligibility. Eligibility will be determined by criteria related to a history of high resource usage by the prospective family. After eligibility has been determined, Alicia will then guide the family through the application process for housing, and continue to work with them for a period of two years. It is our goal to have these families in their new apartments within one week of accessing services at their DHS branch. Bridges to Housing will serve 15 families in the start up phase.



# Community IN ACTION

Newsletter October 15, 2007

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

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Jerralynn Ness  
Executive Director

Many of you are aware of the story surrounding our main office building in Hillsboro. In the early 1990's, the Community Action board and staff created a vision for a multi-service center to house programs that previously had been scattered in five different locations. It was a massive undertaking for our agency to raise the money and oversee the design and construction of the facility.

We moved into it in 1995 and had a wonderful grand opening celebration. While the building has served us well, in 2004 we discovered some serious problems that had been slowly developing but were invisible to us. That winter an ice storm caused major roof damage and water leakage. During the repair process we noticed that the windows looked damaged so we made plans to replace most of them in the summer. Much to our surprise, as we began the replacement process we found that a substantial portion of our building's internal structure had been damaged by dry rot and decay. We learned that this was due to faulty construction (that had passed inspection) that had been

*Continued next column*

*(Cont. from Director's Corner)*

allowing moisture to seep into the interior structure for nearly nine years and wreak all kinds of havoc. We had no choice but to immediately put in place a major building restoration and fundraising plan that had to be completed by the winter of 2004. Jeri Alcock led the fundraising and John Russell led the restoration. Funds were raised, bank loans received and the building was practically rebuilt...and saved!

During construction we continued to serve our clients. We ended up with a solid building along with costs that we should not have had. So we approached a law firm that specializes in construction claims and they agreed to take our case on contingency, meaning that only if we won would we have to pay our attorney costs. This was great news. And I am thrilled to report that this month we achieved an excellent settlement in mediation. We will be able to recover most of our loss and finally bring closure to our 2 1/2 year building lawsuit.

Many kudos go to **John Russell** for his diligence in managing our building issues and maintaining excellent documentation!

## COMINGS & GOINGS

**Welcome to:**  
Ramona Conklin, Teacher II  
Dalia Nunez, Teacher III

**Sadly we say goodbye to:**  
Sam Widmer, IS Manager

## NEWS OF NOTE



On Friday, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> we will have a potluck goodbye lunch for Cilicia Burrell in the Café at the main office. Please stop by and wish her the best.

She has accepted the position of Accounting Department Manager for the Children's Museum.



## UPCOMING EVENTS!

Safety Meeting	11/05
Board Meeting	11/15
Building Meeting	11/20
Head Start	
Policy Council	11/20
Fall All Staff	12/07

## LOOKIN' FER WORK ... ...IN ALL THE RIGHT PLACES

Job Openings may be viewed at  
Common/Agency Info/HR  
Resources/Job Postings

\*NOTE: Please check this address weekly for current information and details. We have many jobs in development that will be posted before the next publication and we will take applications as each job is posted.