

Seniors and Families Stay Safe and Warm

Two years ago Precilla Barbee decided to move to be closer to her children and grandchildren, who reside in Tigard. As a single retiree, Precilla's monthly income is only \$318 so buying a home was a big challenge. She felt fortunate when she found a 1972 mobile home for a mere \$100.

The previous owner wanted to sell the home quickly, but there was a catch: she had to agree to purchase it as is. She soon discovered the home didn't have a working furnace, the gutters leaked, and the windows didn't seal properly. Unlike a conventional house, she learned; manufactured homes aren't subject to the same inspections and rules of sale. Precilla's "good fortune" turned cold and costly when winter set in.



Community Action's weatherization program makes homes safer, warmer and energy-efficient.

Following the audit, Precilla set some goals. She agreed to use a low-flow shower head, shower timer, and compact fluorescent light bulbs. She was encouraged to keep her thermostat set at 68 degrees and wash her laundry in cold water to save both energy and money by reducing her utility bill. Through a PGE rate-funded program, Community Action contracted with George Smith Warehouse to replace the aging refrigerator in Precilla's home. An inspection revealed the worn out appliance was causing her electric bill to be twice as high as it should have been.

Precilla estimates her utility costs will decrease by \$400 this year, saving her a much needed \$34 dollars every month. Precilla is confident that no matter what the weather brings this winter or in future years, her home will be ready. "It's late September and I haven't turned the heat on once. It's like a miracle!"

Community Action prioritizes low-income seniors and disabled persons for weatherization services. If you or someone you know could benefit from this program, contact Serena Villafana, 503-648-6646 x689.

"It's late September and I haven't turned the heat on once. It's like a miracle!"

"My daughter found me two electric heaters. I ran them constantly but the home never felt warm and my monthly bill was so high," Precilla recalled. "I was trying to conserve energy— not running the heaters at night and wearing warm sweat suits— but I was never warm. I couldn't believe a home could be so cold."

In a county where housing costs are the highest in the state, aging mobile or manufactured homes provide a much-needed source of affordable housing for low-income seniors and families. In scattered pockets around Washington County mobile home parks provide an affordable housing option in a region

that lacks supply to meet the growing demand.

"I would estimate 1/3 of our clients live in mobile homes," reports Joan Ellen Swanson, Weatherization Manager, "Mobile homes are not the solution to affordable housing. Older units don't use energy efficiently and are drafty. In the worst cases, they can be dangerous. We make them as safe and warm as possible for the families who live in them. We extend their livability by 10 years."

In Precilla's case, her home's weatherization needs were extensive, so Community Action worked in partnership with Rebuilding Together (formerly Christmas in April) and PGE. Together, the three organizations accomplished more than Community Action could independently.

After qualifying for the program, families receive an energy audit by PGE to determine where energy savings could be made. PGE also contributes cash and volunteer hours to support the Weatherization program.

Community Action's

Energy Fair

October 18th

9am-3pm

David Hill Elementary
440 SE Oak Street, Hillsboro

Lower your heat bills and
learn about conservation.

For more information contact
Donald Shaw at 503.693.3232



Jerralynn Ness
Executive Director



Dan Aberg
Board Chair

A Letter to Our Friends—

As the summer transitions into a beautiful fall, Community Action's promise of hope, help and change is as strong as ever. We are reminded daily of the impact our economy has had on many families for whom the season of unemployment has not yet changed.

Each family's story is unique, but way too often filled with despair and hopelessness. We learn, for many, the journey to help and change can bring great frustrations, disappointments

and personal humiliation.

Community Action is dedicated to preserving the dignity and self-worth of all people as we partner with families to help them achieve their goals for a better life. In the end, we are reminded over and over again that it wasn't only what we did but how we made people feel that allowed them to move forward with renewed self-esteem and great hope for their future.

We are inspired by the resiliency of these families and the successes they achieve against great odds, and we are motivated to do our best because of the confidence you have in us and the support we receive from the community.

I welcome you to come and visit us and learn more about our work and the families we serve.

Warmly,

Jerralynn Ness

Local Heroes Making A Difference

Random Acts of Kindness

It's a well-known fact that Head Start Children love pizza. Just ask Godfather's, Papa John's, and Round Table Pizza, who have all donated pizzas to these children for their events, meetings, and activities. No wonder these kids are growing so fast! Alphagraphics donated \$300 in printing and signage to help Community Action be more visible to our community. Thank you to all the Nike, Verizon, Synopsys and Bi-Mart employees who made a donation with the matching gift program! Linens 'n Things gave a generous donation of products valued at \$6,500. Integrated Management Resources donated \$900 worth of networking services to our administration department. Newland Communities, Henningsen Cold Storage, Merix Corporation, Morning Star Circle, A & I Paint, The Shoebox Pediatric and US Bank Corporation all made a surprise donation to benefit low-income children in Washington County. Community Action staff celebrated Wellness Day in April, taking a day off to focus on helping each other stay healthy and strong in times of stress. The

following businesses helped make this event a success:

- Healing Touch Massage
- Oregon Medical Massage
- Pacific Spirit Corp.
- Su Casa
- Sesame Donuts
- Donut Day
- Hall Street Yoga
- Hollywood Entertainment
- La De Sorrell
- McMenamins Pubs
- Oaks Park Association
- Oregon Ballet Theater
- Oregon Symphony Association
- Original Joe's
- Pizza in Paradise
- Subway

Drives to support the Community
Synopsys held a coat drive in preparation for the cold winter months ahead and donated over \$300 in new and quality used coats. Intel held a "Back-to-School" drive to help children be prepared for the first day of school. They collected school supplies and backpacks. Micro Power joined forces with Community Action to collect and donate canned goods for our Hillsboro Family Shelter.



Volunteers sorting donated items at Community Action's Play It Again clothing program.

Program Support

Many expectant mothers, participating in our Opening Doors Program, were surprised when NW Quilter's presented them with over 50 hand-made quilts and crib supplies for their new babies. The new mothers couldn't have been more thankful and appreciative. For years, the Target store of Beaverton, Back on the Rack, and Encore West have been providing Community Action's clothing program, Play It Again, with personal care items, cleaning supplies, and clothing.



Ways To Support Community Action

Help spread the news

Invite Community Action to speak to your civic, religious or community group. Find out what Community Action is doing in your community to support children and families facing uncertain economic times. Call 503.693.3254 for more information or to schedule a speaking date.

Volunteer

Various volunteer opportunities are available from assisting in the classroom to sponsoring a birthday for a child staying in our shelter home. Corporate groups welcome. Please call Jodi Davis at 503.693.3254 for more information.

Adopt-a-classroom for the holidays

Your business or community group can sponsor a Head Start classroom for the holidays. Three to five-year-old children in our Head Start program need books, clothing, school supplies and toys. For more information, please call 503.693.3254.

Get your business on board

Community Action is available to speak to business groups during their employee giving campaigns. We can provide human resource departments with guest speakers, brochures, and assistance in planning their campaigns.

Make a donation through United Way

Do you know that you can give directly to Community Action through your company's United Way campaign? Your company may also have a matching gift program.



Tickets for Community Action's 8th Annual Wine Raffle were on sale at Fiesta Latina.

Grapes Gone Good

Kristin Steger-Solares of Cornelius was the grand prize winner of Community Action's 8th Annual Wine Raffle coined "Grapes Gone Good." Kristin and her family were so excited, "For the last three years my husband and I have supported the raffle and this year, we were thrilled to win. At a time when our government seems to be less supportive of people in need, we really need organizations like Community Action." Other winners included Deborah Burrows of Tigard, Bill Pendergrass of Hillsboro, and Robert Senko of Banks.

Wineries that participate in the annual event are: Beran Vineyards, Ponzi Vineyards, Cooper Mountain Vineyards, Helvetia Winery, Montinore Winery, Oak Knoll Winery, Tualatin Estates Vineyards, and David Hill Winery

The wineries sold raffle tickets in their tasting rooms over the summer and worked hard to help promote the raffle. This year, the raffle raised over \$6,000 for our programs and services, thanks to the participating wineries and everyone who purchased raffle tickets!



Got Child Care?

Child Care Resource & Referral of Washington County helps families, care providers, and employers with their child care needs. CCR&R is a program of Community Action and a free service for all residents of Washington County.

971.223.6100

800.624.9516

crr@caowash.org/www.caowash.org

Call today to find a child care provider in your community.



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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 see our website: caowash.org

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You're Invited!

Community Action's

"People You Should Know" Complimentary Breakfast

Wednesday, November 19, 2003
Kingstad Center, 7:30–8:30am
15450 SW Millikan Way
Beaverton

*A fundraising event for Community Action serving
low-income residents of Washington County*

For more information call 503.693.3255