

FG Chamber told

Community Action plays advocacy role

Washington County Community Action Organization is essentially for advocacy at the individual, community and national levels, Nancy Gann, director of Head Start, told Forest Grove Chamber of Commerce Monday noon.

Introduced by Ora Faye Thogerson who has served as Forest Grove's representative on Tri-County Community Council for many years, Mrs. Gann explained that at the individual level help most often is given in emergencies such as lack of food, housing, utilities, etc. At the community level efforts are made to let the public know the needs of the elderly and low income (wood gleaning and food gleaning have resulted), and at the national level have been successful efforts to change certain laws. She cited current efforts to give tax deductions to farmers who allow food gleaning on their land. This has been approved at the state level, she said.

Community Action always tries to work with local government and is learning to listen and talk more, to lock horns less, said Mrs. Gann. She cited

current efforts to help the City of Cornelius obtain a HUD grant for a community center. This could be used for Head Start classes, for migrants summer day care, for craft classes and for Youth Services Center counseling, in addition to other community uses.

In discussing the shelter house in Hillsboro which provides temporary housing in emergencies, she noted that Washington County has budgeted \$12,000 toward this project and Hillsboro \$7,000. Efforts are underway to seek another HUD grant.

Another of the CAO projects is the Rural Tribune, a bi-lingual monthly publication reporting on issues and events affecting low income and minority Washington County communities. It is described a newsletter instead of newspaper since it cannot accept advertising. Many of the articles are written by local contributors and workshops and classes are held by the staff dealing with writing techniques, press relations, press releases, researching and different styles of writing. Current campaign of the Rural Tribune is to ob-

tain upgrading of the migrant labor camps in the county. A CETA project is being sought but this may not "fly" because it would involve improvements to private property, she said.

CETA workers are used wherever possible by CAO, according to Mrs. Gann. Last year \$285,000 in CETA funds was expended; budget for next year will be \$340,000.

Community Action now has a \$1,100,000 annual budget and a staff of 90 to 100 at full strength when Head Start is in session. Its original purpose was to fight poverty, but it discovered this was an impossible task. Biggest need now is for trained administrative officers for the various new programs. Mrs. Gann has been accepted into the master's program at Portland State University in public administration.

Some other aspects of Community Action are: bi-lingual, bi-cultural programs, translator service, welfare hot line, food stamp advocacy and outreach, community food and nutrition and emergency services.

Volunteer programs include VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) whose young people have helped in the

Washington County Cooperative Library, Loaves and Fishes, Centro Cultural, Head Start, 4-C, Forest Grove Youth Services, Hillsboro Senior Center, etc.; Retired Senior Volunteer Program which matches retirees with jobs in the community needing to be done; and a weatherization project.

A class in basic auto repair and maintenance has been dropped, Mrs. Gann said, because of lack of interest. A services exchange, green pages of social services and emergency listings in the telephone directory and a dentureship program are being pushed.

Moving on to her number one interest, Mrs. Gann showed colored slides of Head Start which has been in operation for 12 years. She said it has been discovered that unless parents are involved, most of what Head Start gives a child is lost after three years.

Head Start has helped start three food co-ops in the county, providing seed money. The present center is in the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church on Cornell Road. A second center will open next fall in Cornelius Methodist.

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PUBLIC NOTICE SPECIAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held on June 22, 1978, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the City of Forest G

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOREST GROVE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION ZONING AND PLANNING MATTERS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

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