



COMMUNITY

Thank you for being a part of our family at the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency. Because of you, we have been able to put **Compassion in Motion!**
Welcome to our newsletter **community!!**

In with the New



If you haven't checked us out lately, click on over to see our updated website! Here at Community Action, we have created comprehensive programs to assist local low-income Oregonians of every age, at every stage, helping them lead healthier, happier lives. We have assembled some of the brightest, most passionate individuals, and partnered with the most capable, innovative groups in our community and we are excited for you, our community of donors, to be on this journey with us.

#2kSteps42kYouth

On August 29th, HOME Youth Services hosted a virtual movement event to help bring awareness to the thousands of youth without safe & stable places to call home. The HOME team raised over \$5,000 in donations, through 30+ participants, and were able to educate those who participated about youth homelessness within our community. It was great to see people come together (virtually) and move for our friends on the street, move for those who don't know when their next meal is, and move for those who don't have a safe home.



The Tanner Project



Community Action's ARCHES Project has been awarded a Veterans Affairs grant! They have been hard at work implementing the Tanner Project, which will offer a safe place for veterans to live for up to 24 months and will provide on-site supportive services addressing mental health, substance use, permanent housing and re-integration. In the coming weeks, volunteers and staff will be painting, cleaning, and assembling furniture getting this community ready for move-in. Donations can be made at <https://mwvcaa.kindful.com/>

Evacuated Family Fuel Fund

The recent wildfires have created widespread devastation in our region and across our state, leaving many unhoused and in need of assistance. In an effort to assist displaced families keep mobile and return to safety, Community Action partnered with Marion County to provide gas cards to those in need. It is because of you that we were able to reach our goal of \$3,000. In times like this, it is important for the community to come together to show strength and support. Thank you for your ongoing support of Community Action!

THANK YOU to our
community and the United
Way of Mid-Willamette
Valley for helping us to
reach our goal!!

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Community Spotlight



"We emphasize community in our child care. To us, our child care is an extension of our family. We want every parent, child, and sibling to feel that way too."

Renee Wehrend is a home child care provider that participates in our Nutrition First program. Children tend to their own raised bed garden and visit larger local gardens and orchards. You can read the entire article featuring Renee for her commitment to excellence at <https://www.cacfp.org/>

A Message from Our Board of Directors

The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency acknowledges that in 2020 our Country and State are in a moment of reckoning over our collective racist history and racist present, a reality that initially treated Black lives and bodies as property and then as a fraction of a person, that Oregon's Constitution literally excluded Black persons from existing in Oregon, that Black Americans in the United States and in Oregon have been and continue to be negatively impacted by laws and policies that result in disproportionate access to healthcare, housing, employment, and education and disproportionate rates of poverty, incarceration, and illness.

Thereby, in line with the Vision of MWVCAA that all people are respected for their infinite worth and are supported to envision and reach a positive future, the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency recognizes unequivocally that Black Lives Matter.

Community Action During Covid-19

During these trying times, we want our community partners to know that we are still here, working every day to strengthen our community. Our focus has been, and always will be, to create positive social change by addressing our community's most pressing needs. While our approach may have been altered to adhere to necessary safety precautions, we continue to meet challenges head on. In April and May, Head Start opened its doors for emergency child care for essential workers, providing free child care to 34 children. Services to Head Start children resumed in June, and a new school year is about to start with classes capped at 8-10 and numerous COVID safety protocols in place. Since May, the ARCHES Project has provided services to over 350 households, utilizing \$2.4 million in assistance. Our team at HOME Youth Services has served 239 unique youth, distributing 1,765 clothing items, 1,033 meals, 140 food boxes for help at home, and 1,759 basic need items such as sleeping bags, blankets, tents, pillow, showers, and laundry. Now more than ever, it is important that we come together as a community to unite against the ever evolving challenges we face. Thank you for being a part of our family here at Community Action. We are deeply grateful for our community partners. It is you who keeps our mission alive and well in the community. Stay safe. We look forward to the day we can all come together again.