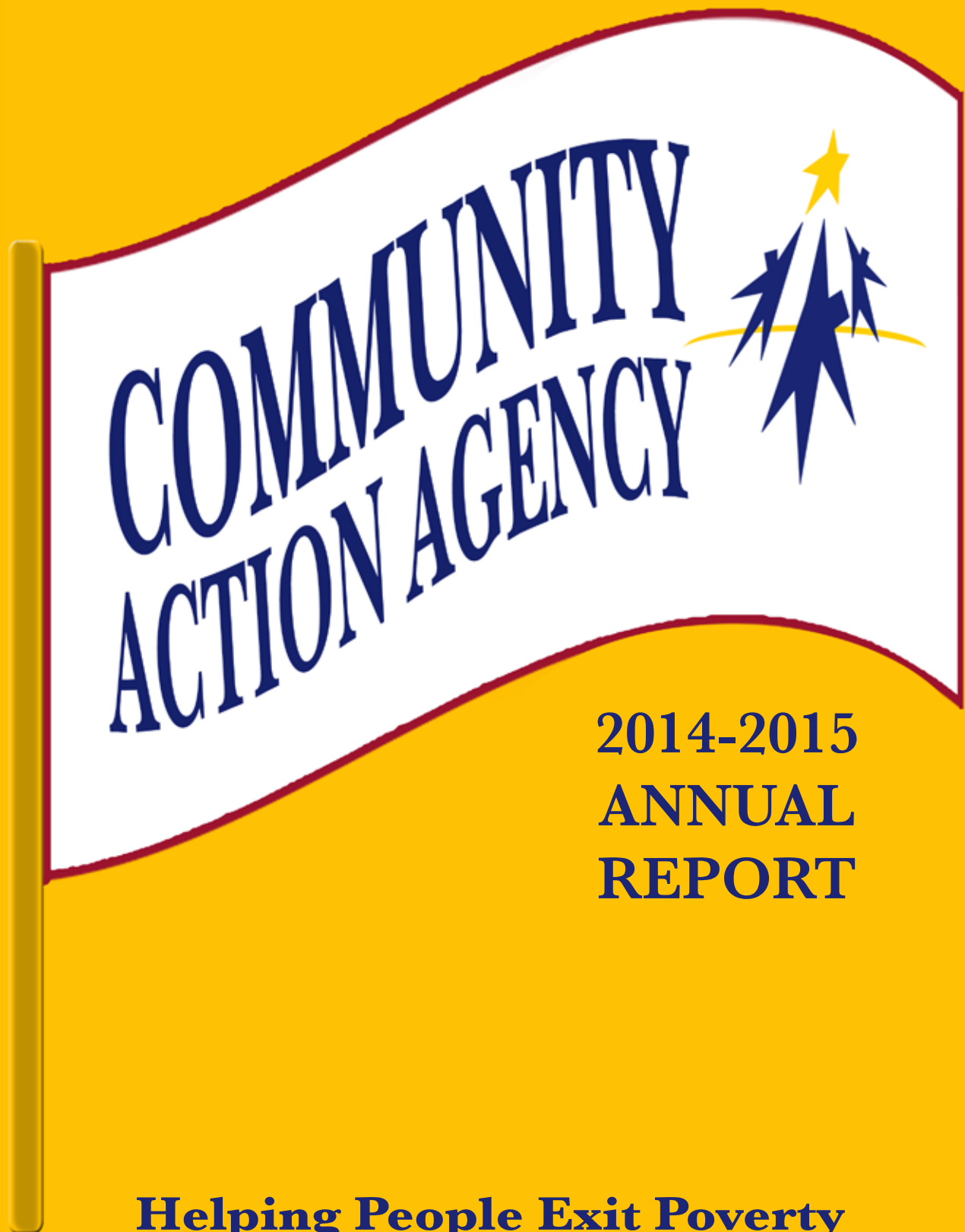


RAISING OUR FLAG HIGHER



2014-2015
ANNUAL
REPORT

Helping People Exit Poverty

RAISING OUR FLAG HIGHER

There is no such thing as a small relationship;
just a big one in the making.



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MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR

Community Action Agency has a rich history of supporting individuals and families exit poverty here in Marion and Polk counties. Since inception nearly 50 years ago, Community Action Agency has invested in the lives of our citizens through basic need supports, housing initiatives, early childhood development, positive youth development programming, and more. Each of our partnership efforts has helped to strengthen our citizens, and these efforts make our communities healthier place to live. Over this next year we will be advancing our efforts and raising our flag higher, sharing our clients' successes along the way. On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff, stakeholders, friends, and partners of Community Action Agency, I am honored to share our 2014-2015 outcomes and invite you to be part of the movement as we work to make poverty a thing of the past and prosperity the future.

Commander Jeff Wood
Marion County Sheriff's Office



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tri-Partite Board of Directors – Federal regulations require that our board have three sectors of our community represented: Elected Officials/Designee, Low-Income Representatives, and Other Representatives of our community. All positions represent the geographic areas of Marion and Polk counties.

- Jeff Wood, Chair
- Herm Boes, Vice Chair
- Pegge McGuire, Secretary
- Nathan McClenny
- Glyn Arko
- Pam Deardorff
- Holly O'Dell
- Jennifer Wheeler
- Erika Lanning

LEADERSHIP STAFF

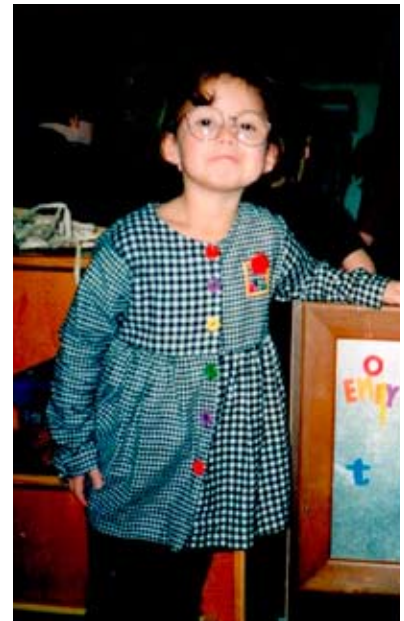
- Interim Executive Director/CFO – Nancy Cain
- Deputy Director – Cyndi Astley, CCAP
- Child Care Resource & Referral – Shannon Vandehey
- Head Start/Early Head Start – Jon Reeves
- Community Resource Program – Amber Reeves
- Energy Services – Traia Campbell
- Weatherization Services – Rogelio Cortez
- HOME Youth & Resource Center – Tricia Ratliff
- Nutrition First – Sue Maxwell



STUDENT BECOMES THE TEACHER

Being the child of a Head Start teacher, my life was off to a good start. That became only truer when I became a student at Head Start with Teacher Mike. During the two years I spent in a Head Start classroom I learned to appreciate books, to engage in conversations and, begrudgingly, how to share and consider the feelings of others.

Now as an adult I am fortunate enough to be an employee at Head Start. Due to the high value that Community Action Agency places on education, I am able to continue my college education even while working here full time. This opportunity allows me to work with the children and families in this community and allows me to give back to the place that gave me that great start as a child. Each day I come to work I get to spend time with the most amazing and dedicated people I know and together we serve the families of this community that need us the most.



*Emily Plata, student
(above) and Assistant
Teacher (below)
Head Start*

Gov. Brown visits Head Start (below)



★ HEAD START ~ 914 CHILDREN ★ EARLY HEAD START ~ 136 CHILDREN
★ EARLY HEAD START CHILD CARE PARTNERSHIPS ~ 41 CHILDREN

ABANDONED MOM FINDS HELP & STRENGTH



Imagine having no money, no family, and limited language skills in a foreign country. My Lan faced this desperate situation when her husband abandoned her and their five-year-old twin girls in the United States.

Though her English was limited, this Vietnamese mother found a job and applied for child care assistance through DHS. However, communicating with DHS and her child care provider created obstacles that caused lapses in payments for child care.

My was very concerned about losing her job until Community Action's Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) program became the middleman. Communicating through our language line, CCR&R worked with DHS's Direct Pay Unit to resolve the payment issue. We also coordinated with the Early Learning Hub for emergency funds to help pay a portion of child care during the lapse in DHS subsidy payments.

Grateful for the help of CCR&R, My was able to maintain her job, keep her daughters in a safe day care environment, and move forward as a strong, stable, single mother of two.

★ **856 PARENTS
RECEIVED CHILD CARE
REFERRALS**

★ **503 TRAININGS
FOR PROVIDERS ~
4,718 PROVIDERS
PARTICIPATED**

★ **81% OF ALL CHILD
CARE PROVIDERS
SUPPORT LOW INCOME
FAMILIES**



GROWING HEALTHY KIDS...AND A GARDEN

Dan and Jamie Murphy run a certified child care home in Salem. They have been in business since the 80's and, in fact, were the first home Sue Maxwell, our Nutrition First Program Director, ever visited.

Dan and Jamie have a wonderful day care home. One of many great things the Murphy's provide is an award-winning garden. Sowing seeds, weeding, watering and picking fresh fruits and vegetables are activities that all the children partake in. Then comes the most delicious activity – eating the fruits and vegetables. Children really do like to eat what they grow, and the lessons they learn from watching plants grow is extended to their siblings and families.

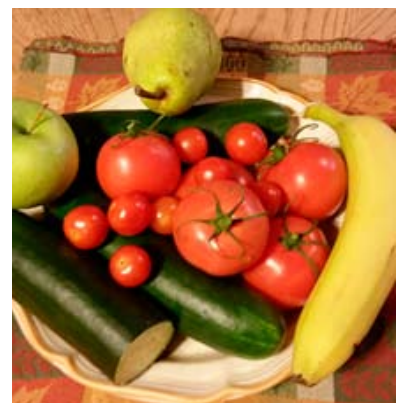
Children learn all sorts of things while in child care; growing and eating healthy food is a huge bonus that will remain with children as they grow into adults. Dan and Jamie, thank you for the wonderful care you provide – and that great garden!



From seed...



...to table.



★ NUTRITION FIRST ~ 405 CHILD CARE PROVIDERS SERVED
★ NUTRITION FIRST ~ SIX COUNTY REGION

FROM HOMELESS TO SMALL TOWN COMMUNITY

After years and years of farm work, “Aaron” simply could not do this physical work any longer. With only limited social security income, this elderly, single father and his nine-year-old daughter could not afford housing and were living at St. Joseph Shelter in Mt. Angel.

Determined to find stable housing for himself and his daughter, the father completed the Community Action R.E.N.T. Program, a tenant education curriculum, while at the shelter. The Shelter referred him to the Community Action ARCHES Project for case management services that focused on his housing search. He identified an apartment available through the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation (FHDC) that charges rent on a sliding scale, which made it affordable on his limited income. It was also located in Stayton, providing the smaller community atmosphere he desired in which to raise his young daughter.

His next hurdle was putting together move-in costs. The Community Action Marion County Resource Center provided him a partial first month’s rent payment and deposit assistance to make the final step into permanent housing. St. Joseph Shelter was able to furnish the apartment through donations, and the father and daughter moved into their new apartment. Due to the well-developed partnerships between shelters and the housing support programs at ARCHES, this family was able to move from homelessness into stable, permanent housing. Later, the client called the Resource Center to let them know how happy his family was with their apartment and thankful for the help they had received.

★ **COMMUNITY RESOURCE
PROGRAM RESPONDED TO
35,149 REQUESTS FOR
INFORMATION AND REFERRAL
FROM MARION AND POLK
COUNTY RESIDENTS**

★ **7,668 TOTAL VISITS ~ ARCHES
ADULT DAY DROP-IN CENTER**

★ **6,602 NUTRITIOUS MEALS
WERE SERVED**



★ **494 HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED
VITAL ASSISTANCE WITH HOUSING**

A COHESIVE COMMUNITY OF RECOVERY

The Jail Reentry Program recruits incarcerated men and women and assists them to overcome the challenges of incarceration and substance abuse. Individuals choose to serve out their jail sentence or join this rigorous 90-day program. Individuals volunteered to be part of this program where they would be faced with hard questions about their lives; where they've been, where they are and, most importantly, where they want to be in the future.

The Jail Reentry Program is a collaborative effort involving the Marion County Sheriff's Office, Bridgeway Recovery Services and Community Action Agency's DeMuniz Resource Center. While the staff of these partners is important, the real work is what the participants put forth. They form a cohesive community of recovery and commit to hold each other accountable while encouraging each other toward success.

Cohort 5 is on the verge of moving to the second phase of the program and they are committed to be the first group to complete the program with no drop outs. Congratulations, gentlemen!



★ 1,072 CLIENTS SERVED

★ 294 CLIENTS OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT

★ 80 CLIENTS PARTICIPATED IN A LEGAL CLINIC
TO ADDRESS ONGOING ISSUES

RONNIE SUITS UP FOR ACHIEVEMENT WITH HOME

Ronnie lives in poverty and struggles emotionally, behaviorally, socially and academically. His exuberant personality (both positively and negatively) makes him a very recognizable youth who accesses our services daily. Over the years he has been involved in our peer groups, leadership team, and now Youth Empowerment Job Skills Program.

Working with HOME staff and case managers, this year Ronnie made tremendous strides in all areas of his life. Due to his hard work, he was honored by the Salem/Keizer School District with the Turnaround Achievement Award for his school. This award recognizes students who have made significant improvements in academics, attitude, attendance, and behavior.

Ronnie is extremely proud of his achievement and will tell you all about the suit he got to wear for the awards banquet. HOME staff are honored to support Ronnie and enjoy watching him grow in so many positive ways. Good job, Ronnie!





SALEM POLICE DEPARTMENT'S DOWNTOWN ENFORCEMENT TEAM BEGAN THE GLADIATOR FITNESS CLUB WITH YOUTH. EACH WEEK OFFICERS ENGAGE WITH YOUTH AS THEY TAKE THEM ON A WORKOUT AROUND TOWN.



A GRANT FROM SALEM HEALTH ALLOWS HOME DROP-IN CENTER TO BE OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK.

★ **11,287 MEALS WERE SERVED**

★ **518 YOUTH VISITED HOME 9,055 TIMES**

★ **606 SCHOOL SUPPLIES DISTRIBUTED**



SALEM DOWNTOWN ROTARY INVESTED IN HOME, WHICH LED TO A FULL REMODEL OF THE CENTER'S INTERIOR.



ROTARY PRESIDENT BARRY NELSON DEMONSTRATES THE ROTARY RIDES PROGRAM, WHICH ALLOWS STUDENTS TO BORROW A BIKE, HELMET AND LOCK TO GET TO WEEKEND JOBS.

ENERGY SERVICES KEEP FAMILIES WARM

Energy services continue to be the highest service request from individual and families calling 211 within Marion and Polk counties. In an effort to maximize our support dollars, our Energy program conducted a client survey of 2014 Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Oregon Energy Assistance Program (OEAP) recipients. This survey showed over 40% of households received both LIHEAP and OEAP assistance.

Using this data in an effort to assist additional households in Marion and Polk counties, we limited payments for clients to one per program year. In addition, if current clients were able to show they had experienced a crisis within the previous 90 days they were potentially eligible for an additional crisis payment. A crisis exists when a household faces a sudden or unexpected event that is beyond their control that results in their inability to pay household heating costs (i.e., medical conditions/medical certificates or essential equipment, domestic violence, sudden loss of job/benefits or other household income).

After implementation of our new procedures, Oregon Housing and Community Services confirmed that by March 2015 our Energy program had served over 40% new households.



★ **10,386 HOUSEHOLDS
RECEIVED ENERGY
ASSISTANCE, HELPING
32,600 INDIVIDUALS**

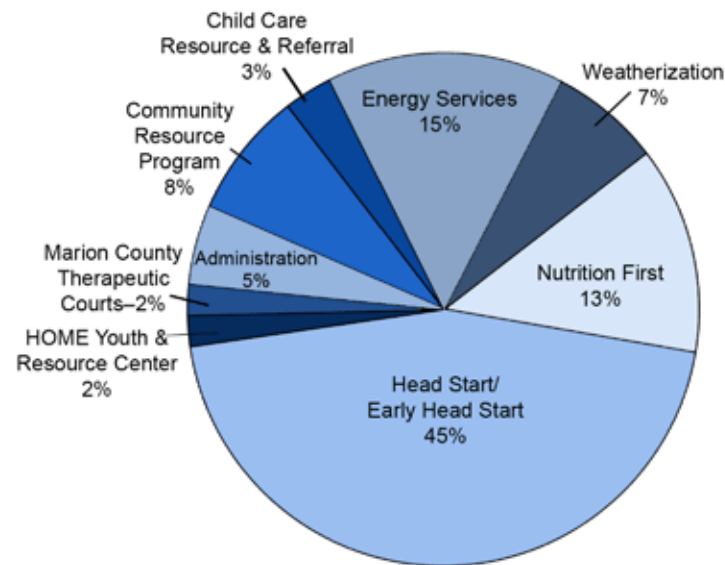
*I want to thank the
Weatherization Program and each
and every one of you. What a
wonderful job you all did. It
was so appreciated. I can't
express my thanks enough. All
of you were very neat and cleaned
up after all your jobs. I so love
my windows and everything you
put in. I have not had to start
up my wood burning yet. Thank
you, thank you, thank you!*

*Sincerely,
Rose Kopp*

★ **162 HOMES WEATHERIZED, HELPING 430 PEOPLE**
★ **3,283 DISABLED INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED ENERGY ASSISTANCE**
★ **THE AVERAGE SUPPORT PAYMENT FOR ENERGY SERVICES = \$351.07**

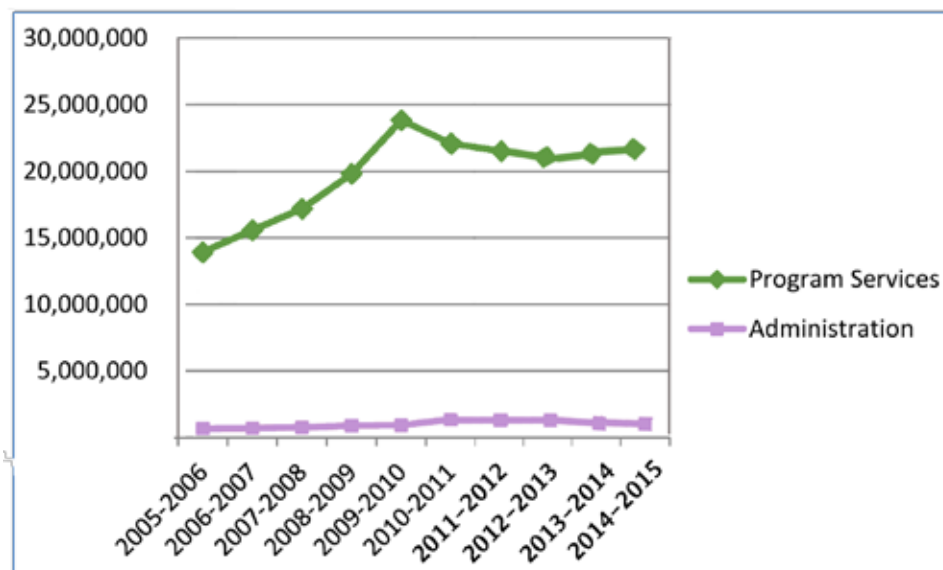
Community Action Agency is honored to support all of Marion County's therapeutic courts by providing linkages to the non-profit community sector for services and overseeing each court's financial resources. Courts include: Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, Fostering Attachment Treatment Court, and Supervised Treatment and Recovery Court.

FY 2013-14 Total Expenses: \$22,374,677



95% of CAA's budget is program expenditures, with an agency average of 5% covering administration. (% based on 100+ grants with administrative rates from 0-15%)

2014-2015 Revenue



JON REEVES NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



“The Board of Directors is excited to announce that Jon Reeves will be the new Executive Director for Community Action Agency. He has been part of our agency’s leadership team for 17 years and has the respect of staff, community partners, and state and national funders. Jon has been instrumental in our Head Start program’s growth and brings with him a depth of knowledge and experiences. Jon has the right dynamic mix of skills to guide Community Action Agency’s long-term strategic efforts as we help citizens exit poverty in Marion and Polk counties,” said Jeff Wood, Board Chair.

A NEW OFFICE FOR ENERGY SERVICES

Our Energy Services program, now located at 1850 45th Avenue NE, Salem, provides utility assistance payments and energy education workshops for low-income clients.





Mission:
**Providing vital services and resources;
meeting the needs of our community.**

The Promise of Community Action:

Community Action changes people's lives,
embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities,
and makes America a better place to live.
We care about the entire community and
we are dedicated to helping people
help themselves and each other.

To donate, please go to our website
<www.mycommunityaction.org>
and click the Donate Now button.



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