

UNLOCKING SUCCESS



COMMUNITY ACTION

2012-2014
BIENNIAL
REPORT

Helping People – Changing Lives



UNLOCKING SUCCESS



Strength and courage aren't always measured in medals and victories. Strength is measured in the struggles that have been overcome. The strongest people aren't always the people who win; they are the people who don't give up when they lose.

~ *unknown*



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Message from Board Chair:

Commander Jeff Wood

Marion County Sheriff's Office



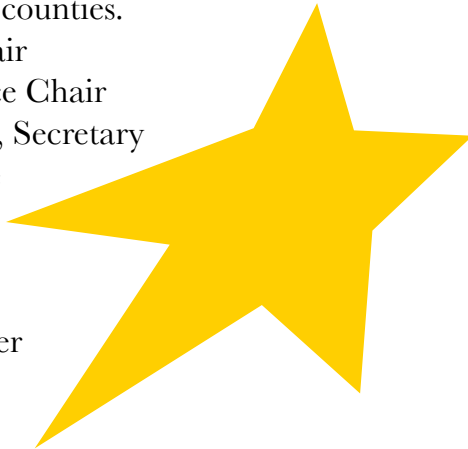
Community Action Agency is a large but virtually unknown entity in our community quietly changing lives for the last 47 years. Our programs have a common thread of providing support to individuals and families struggling with poverty. Through our services we assist clients as they move out of poverty to a position of economic stability. As a member of the law enforcement community, I am honored to serve on the Community Action Board of Directors as I see firsthand the direct correlation between Community Action's services and maintaining community safety. When people are supported and basic needs met, people stabilize and become stronger. Strength of all our citizens makes our communities a healthier place for all of us to live, work and play.



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
- Samantha Raye
- Glyn Arko
- Pam Deardorff
- Holly O'Dell
- Jennifer Wheeler
- Erika Lanning



Leadership Staff

- Executive Director – Teresa Cox, CCAP
- Deputy Director – Cyndi Astley, CCAP
- Child Care Resource & Referral – Shannon Vandehey
- Community Action Head Start – Jon Reeves
- Community Action HandsOn – Khela Singer
- Community Action Reentry Services – Mike Mayes
- Community Resource Program – Amber Reeves
- Energy Services – Traia Campbell
- Weatherization Services – Rogelio Cortez
- HOME Youth & Resource Center – Peggy Kahan
- Nutrition First – Sue Maxwell

Services for

● Between 2012 – 2014, **Head Start** educated **1,824 children**. Our services include part-day school services, full-day school year services, and full day/full year services for children 4 and 5 years of age.

● In 2012-2013, **Head Start** financial support staff to obtain **credentials** and **degrees**. During this time:

- 22 Teacher Assistants received their **Child Development Associate Credential**.
- 4 Teachers attained an Associate of Arts degree in **Early Childhood Education**.
- 1 Teacher attained a **Bachelor's Degree**.

● In 2012 -2014, we saw **1,428** different **youth** access **HOME** day-shelter more than 18,000 times.

● Meal services consists of lunch, snack and dinner, and during this time **HOME** served **25,213 meals**.

● **1,342 families** received child care **referrals** and **education** on quality child care.

● **7,958** (duplicated) Child Care Practitioners received **Safety Set Trainings**, as well as training for professional development and/or license renewal requirements.

● **1,342** Safety Set and Professional Development **trainings** were held in all ten Core Knowledge Categories, such as Health, Safety and Nutrition; Human Growth & Development; Understanding & Guiding Behavior.

● In 2013, **7 Hispanic providers** who belong to Tlaneci Polk Provider Network each completed 120 hours of **training**, the first step toward working for their CDA (Child Development Associate).

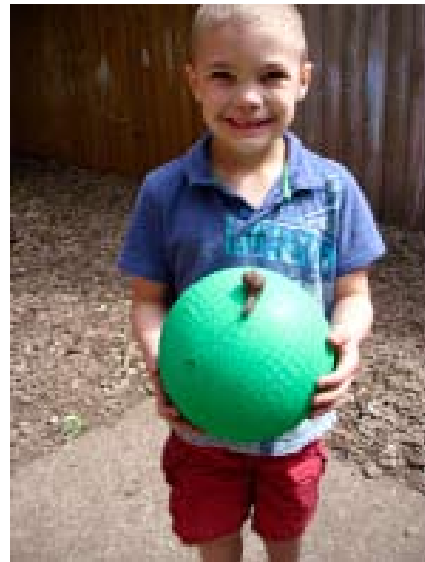


Children



Nutrition First, our USDA food supplement program, was the only in-home child care program in Oregon chosen to receive a Wellness grant.

Nutrition First staff worked with Shelly Campbell, a home-based child care provider in Keizer to implement the wellness grant program. Shelly purchased seeds, shovels, fruit trees, aprons, and more for her child care program. The children then had fun planting, growing, learning, and eating their own produce.



This nutritional education was carried forward as children took information home to their parents. Shelly now acts as a mentor to other child care providers so this initiative can grow in our region.

**“Life isn’t about finding yourself.
Life is about creating yourself.”
~ George Bernard Shaw**

Individual & Family

● **Energy services program** supported **25,312 households**

with utility payments. This included more than 4,000 disconnected clients to reconnect to their services and over 18,000 to remain connected and prevent disconnection.

● Over **1,000 households** received **vital assistance**

with housing, case management, emergency financial assistance, and tenant education through Community Resource Program services.

Elderly Woman Avoids Shut Off with Energy Assistance

Eleanor came to Community Action's Energy Services office with a pending shut off notice. While an intake worker was verifying her information, Eleanor explained that she only receives Social Security and food stamps and that her monthly bills exceed her limited income. To help she choose not to have "extras" such as phone and cable TV. Furthermore, she explained that she turns her heat off at night and keeps her home around 58° to save money. These extra efforts were not making a difference so Eleanor sold her stove and was eating only cheap microwavable meals such as pizza pockets.

Energy Services was able to prevent her utility disconnection with a client payment and enrolled Eleanor to our Energy Education workshop where she received valuable tools (compact fluorescent bulbs, water saving kit, temperature gauges, etc.) and information on how to conserve energy and reduce her monthly bills. Finally, Eleanor was connected to other community services to improve her quality of life including Meals on Wheels for healthy home food delivery.

Patrick Clancy Soars Toward Excellence



As part of Marion County Reentry Initiative, Patrick came to Community Action for housing assistance. In 2011 he entered the Tenant Based Assistance program and upon exit

in 2013, Patrick made outstanding progress in achieving his personal goals.

Working with his case manager, he not only completed his education goals and

obtained his associate's degree in human services, he paid off his court fees, moved off of supervision with Marion County Parole and Probation, graduated from Student Opportunities for Achieving Success (SOAR) program, and obtained stable housing.

Today Patrick mentors others who are coming out of incarceration, is active with the Marion County Reentry Initiative speaking at many community events, and is attending school working on his bachelor's degree to become a counselor in the human services career field.



A New Home & a New Baby

Community Action Agency partners with many organizations. These partnerships leverage each organization's strengths and resources, allowing for better client outcomes. Salem Interfaith Hospitality Network, a faith based housing stabilization program, recently partnered with ARCHES, Community Action's housing program, and together we helped a family move from homelessness to economic stability. This is their story.

A young family reached out to Interfaith for housing supports. They had been evicted from their home and had nowhere to go. Interfaith had an opening within their program for the family and realized this family was soon to have another member – Myisha thought she was about 6-7 months pregnant with their third child.

Immediate steps were taken to support the family as they transitioned into Interfaith's emergency housing program. Additionally, supports wrapped around the husband preparing him for his job interview the following day. Interfaith worked with Mason to polish his resumé and interview skills. With this support, Mason landed the job and began work immediately.

● **CRP** staff responded to **33,743** requests for information and referral (14,072 in 2013 and 19,671 in 2014).

● **Weatherization** program successfully weatherized **244 households**, helping a total of 532 people save energy, stay warm, and improve the health and comfort of these homes.



Interfaith then began working with the family on housing and reached out to Community Action's ARCHES program for a permanent housing placement. With the two programs working together, they were able to leverage each other's resources and find a housing placement and needed household and baby supplies for this family just in time for the arrival of their new daughter.

This collaboration between Interfaith and Community Action expanded the support, allowing us to work with the family and meet their needs as they found employment, built structure for their three children, enhanced their capacity to be a better parents, and celebrated the joy of moving into their own home.

● The **ARCHES Day Center** provides a safe environment, shower facilities, laundry facilities, hygiene supplies, sack lunches, hot meals, telephone access, and a mailing address. On average, **43 homeless individuals** come to ARCHES **each day**, equating to 21,888 visits from July 2012 – June 2014.

Opening New

Community Action continues to open new doors, meeting the needs of Marion and Polk counties

A Grant for New Idea

Maps Community Challenge – Maps Community Foundation, the charitable arm of Maps Credit Union, awarded Cyndi Astley, deputy director of Community Action Agency, a mini-grant due to her idea to reduce youth homelessness.

Cyndi's innovative idea is to build skills within our most vulnerable teen clients by creating the Culinary Arts Food Skills Program. This program will offer paid positions for at-risk and homeless teens to work alongside a chef and oversee HOME's food service on a daily basis. With budding partnerships with Marion Polk Food Share, the faith community, and local chefs, these culinary arts positions offer youth an opportunity to expand their skills, have a paying job, work with adult mentors, and establish a work history and change their trajectory for the future.

Bottom line:

Education + Caring Adult = Skill Development,
Skill Development + Financial Resources =
Stable Foundation to Grow,
Stable Foundation Grow + Opportunities =
Stable Future

Pictured: Jill Nowakie (center),
Maps VP of Development, with
Cyndi and Matthew Astley.



Early Head Start

Head Start began Early Head Start in January 2014. The Early Head Start program offers services for children birth to 3 years of age through home visits. Program elements include early childhood education, nutritional meals, connection to comprehensive health care, mental health services for children with behavioral concerns, services for children with identified disabilities, and parent education and family services.



New Location for DeMuniz Center

The DeMuniz Center, which offers comprehensive case management for individuals coming out of incarceration, has moved to a new location at the Marion County Work Center located on Aumsville Highway. The new location provides a better access to clients because its location is steps from the Marion County Work Center and Probation/Parole Offices. The new location also allows us to expand our working relationship with the Parole and Probation

department, which will result in an alignment of our efforts for the benefit of clients and the community.



Community Collaboration

Community Action continues to lead community collaborations such as the Community Homeless Connect event and Warming Center activities. The goal of Connect is to conduct a resource event in which providers come to one location to deliver needed services, resources, and referrals to people who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. As the critical needs of individuals differ, having 50+ services in the same location provides a unique type of triage, connecting

people quickly to the most appropriate services and providers, thus improving the quality of their lives. Warming Centers are activated when the overnight temperature dips below 27° and current shelters are at capacity. Warming Centers provide warmth and safety during times of frigid temperatures. Both community collaborations are essential to our communities, and Community Action is honored to play a leadership role.



New Child Care App

Parents have a new app to make finding child care easier. Child Care Resource & Referral brought this new technology to Marion, Polk and Yamhill counties in November 2014. The app allows parents to enter their location, child's age and other details to find the local providers with openings, daycare quality ratings, and more through the use of a smartphone.



Goodbyes

After years of service to Community Action Agency, two members of our leadership team have stepped down: Teresa Cox, Executive Director, and Peggy Kahan, Program Director of HOME Youth & Resource Center.

Teresa Cox came to the agency first as a board member, then was hired in 1999 as the third Executive Director in our agency's history. Over Teresa's 14-year tenure, the agency evolved and grew exponentially, providing vital services to meet the needs of our communities. In 1999 Community Action was a seven million dollar agency. With Teresa's leadership we grew to a 22 million dollar agency with 97% of funding coming from Federal, State and local governmental funding streams.



Teresa was recognized as a local leader, serving on many boards and commissions in Marion and Polk counties. Due to her local advocacy for poverty program advancements she was voted onto the National Community Action Partnership board as the Region Ten Representative, representing the interests of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Alaska Community Action Agencies.

Community Action Agency, our Board of Directors, and over 300 staff would like to thank these two women for their leadership within our agency and our communities. We are greater and stronger due to your service.

Peggy Kahan was an advocate for youth long before she came to Community Action. After seeing a need in our community for a safe place for at-risk and homeless teens to congregate, she started HOME Youth & Resource Center in 1994.



In 2003, HOME became part of the Community Action family. Peggy was steadfast in her resolve that at-risk teens needed a safe, supportive environment where their immediate needs could be met while having an opportunity to reconnect with family, school and community.

HOME quickly became a place where teens knew they could access help, find caring adults, and reconnect. With the stability of Community Action, HOME grew and is now recognized as a leading program addressing at-risk and homeless youth needs and service delivery.

**“Strength is letting go, when you want to hold on.
Courage is moving forward, when you fear what’s ahead.
Wisdom is listening, when you want to be heard.”**

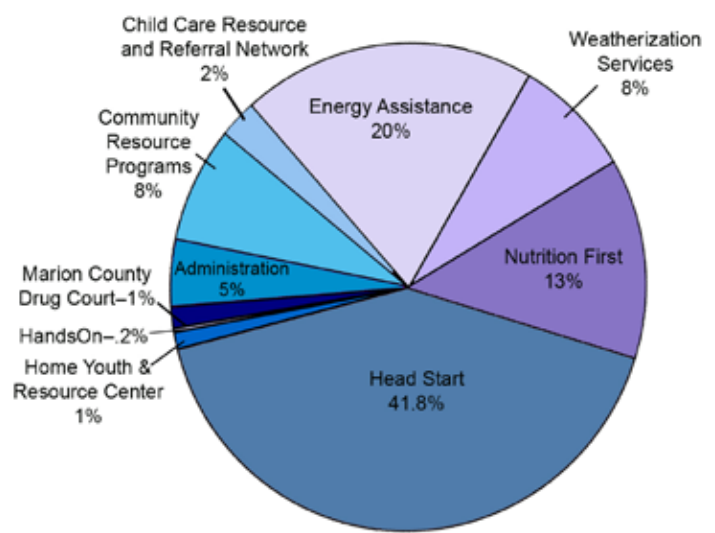
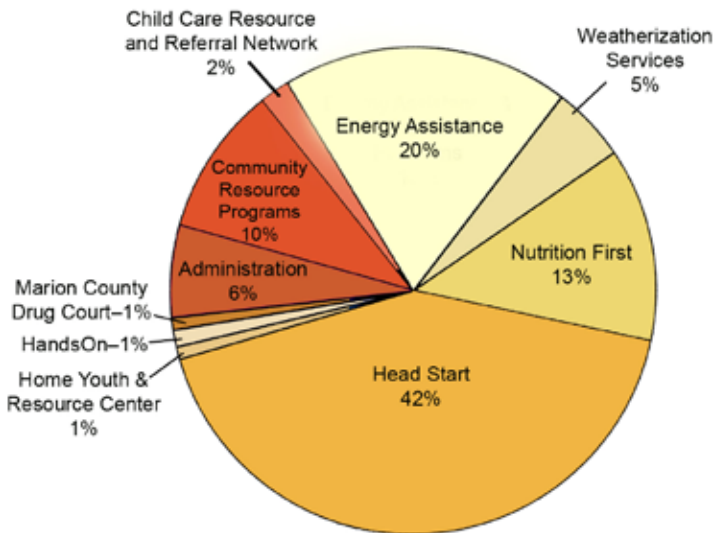
~ Phyllis Arnett

Financial

Although the overall agency budget increased over the biennium, one program experienced a devastating cut. Community Action HandsOn received news that funding was not going to be renewed 60 days before the start of fiscal year 2013-2014. Community Action, with no resources for staff, was forced to downsize the program.

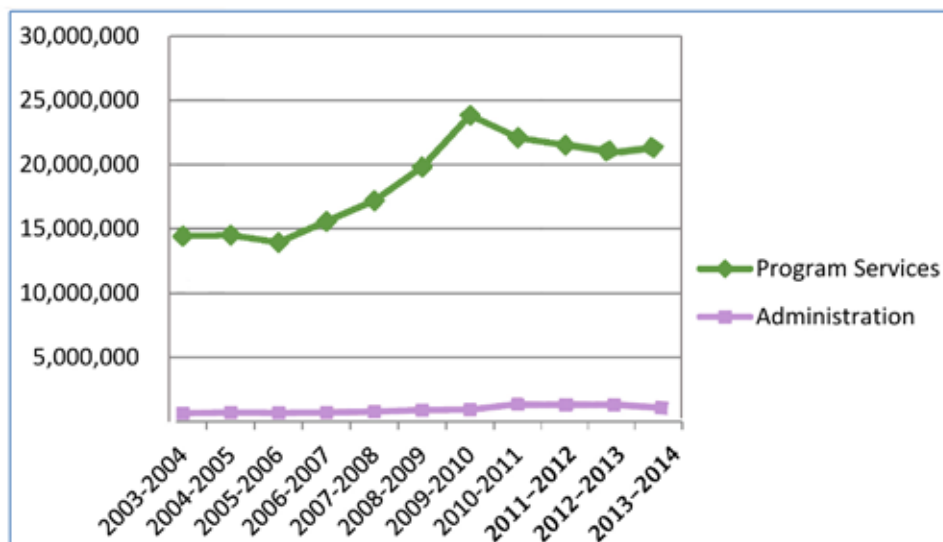
FY 2012-13 Total Expenses: \$21,944,352

FY 2013-14 Total Expenses: \$22,113,919



94% of CAA's budget is program expenditures, with an agency average of 6% covering administration. (% based on 100+ grants with administrative rates from 0-15%)

Biennial 2012-2014 Revenue





**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 to
Community Action,
please go to our website
<www.mycommunityaction.org>,
click the Donate Now button
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Secure donations through
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