UNLOCKING SUCCESS

COMMUNITY ACTION

2012-2014 BIENNIAL REPORT
Helping People – Changing Lives
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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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.

Message from Board Chair:
Commander Jeff Wood
Marion County Sheriff’s Office

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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
• 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).
*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
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 chooses 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 58º 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 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.

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.

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.

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.
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.
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.

**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.

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.

“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
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.

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%)
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 (as shown below), and follow the form instructions.

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