



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Tom Hughes Named to Community Action Emeritus Board

**Hillsboro, OR, Friday, March 8** – Tom Hughes was appointed to Community Action’s Emeritus Board last month, becoming the twelfth person to receive the honor. Hughes served on Community Action’s Board of Directors for 17 years, first in his capacity as the Mayor of Hillsboro then as Metro Council President. Hughes was deeply involved with Community Action’s leadership during his tenure, serving as board chair from 2011-2013 and chairing nearly every other subcommittee.

Hughes’ presence on the Community Action Board of Directors was significant given the organization’s unique, tripartite board structure where board member representation is evenly split between elected officials, low income sector representatives and private sector representatives.

According to Hughes, “Being a member of the Community Action Board helped me understand the complex nature poverty has in our community. I learned that as businesses relocated to and grew within Washington County, there wasn’t necessarily a direct impact on our lower income community. Without access to adequate resources like education or job training, low income residents weren’t necessarily going to be the people getting those higher paying jobs.”

Emeritus Board Members maintain a policy and advisory level connection to the Board of Directors and qualify based on several factors including longevity of service and leadership involvement. A full list of Emeritus Board Members is available at ([https://caowash.org/about\\_us/people/](https://caowash.org/about_us/people/))

“I am thrilled by Tom’s appointment,” says Renée Bruce, Executive Director of Community Action. “Tom has been a champion for Community Action, and we are incredibly lucky to have him continue as an influential advocate for the people we serve.”

Hughes will be recognized at Community Action’s annual fundraising gala, Kaleidoscope, on Friday, April 12 at NW Events & Environments in Hillsboro. Individual tickets are \$150 and are available for purchase at <https://caowash.ejoinme.org/kaleidoscope19>

### **About Community Action**

Established in 1965 as part of Economic Opportunity Act, Community Action leads the way to eliminate conditions of poverty and create opportunities for people and communities to thrive. As a private nonprofit serving Washington County, over 26,000 families access the organization’s programs and services annually. We believe that when families can see a vision for their future and have access to the right services at the right time, they can successfully transition out of poverty.

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