



Helping people  
**Changing  
lives**

Community Action  
**leads the way**  
to eliminate conditions of poverty  
and creates opportunities  
for people and communities  
**to thrive.**





Dear Supporter,

At Community Action, we believe in the potential of each and every human being. And we know that for far too many people, poverty holds them back from reaching that potential. This is what guides our work every day - and in every way.

We understand that in order for people to be on a path to exit poverty, they must first be meeting their basic needs for food, housing, and healthcare. From here, it's possible to shift from simply survival to longer-term goals around education, employment, and building social connections.

At Community Action, we provide services along this entire range of needs and goals. You will see from the stories that follow, we work to meet people where they are. While some need only short-term assistance to overcome a challenging situation, others benefit from long-term support with a network of services.

With the right combination of wrap-around services, we empower individuals and families to build better lives for themselves and their children.

The vision of living in a community where every adult and every child has what they need to truly prosper is the vision that motivates our entire staff. And we could not do it without generous supporters like you.

Thank you for your support of this vision and for your steadfast commitment to fostering the potential of every individual in our community.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kemp". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Kemp Shuey  
Executive Director

## Pregnant and facing prison, Krystal knew she needed to make a change. Thanks to donors like you, she found the help she needed to become the mom she was longing to be.

When Krystal found out she was pregnant, she was in a bad place. She had been battling addiction for years and was now facing criminal charges.

*The pregnancy was her wake up call. The first thing she did was turn herself in knowing that incarceration would keep her clean during her pregnancy.*

She was sentenced to 30 months at the Coffee Creek Correctional Facility and was transported to a hospital for the birth. Her newborn son, Grayson, then went to live with his grandmother, and Krystal was transported back to prison.

It was rough. Due to the pandemic, Krystal was required to quarantine upon her return to the facility. She spent her next 14 days postpartum completely alone in a cell, grieving and worrying.

Was Grayson getting good care? When she is released, will he know her? Will she be able to develop a bond with him that late in his young life?

*After a few months of emotional despair, she received information about Community Action's Coffee Creek Early Head Start program.*

This innovative program provides an opportunity for incarcerated moms to bond with their young children, learn about parenting and child development, and supports their transition upon release. The children come twice a week to the early childhood classroom located at the correctional facility where the babies and moms spend time together in an educational setting.

Krystal jumped at the opportunity to join the program. She was longing to have time to bond with her son, and she also wanted the support she knew she needed to "be the parent that Grayson deserves."



That first day that Grayson and Krystal spent together in the classroom was difficult. Krystal held her four-month-old son, but he cried and cried. She felt rejected and worried that this was all too upsetting for him. But the Head Start staff were right there encouraging her not to give up.

*After 45 minutes of walking with her crying baby, she stepped outside onto the patio, sat on the swing, and he fell asleep peacefully on her chest. The outside swing became a regular source of consolation and bonding over the next year of the program.*

As Krystal and Grayson spent regular time together, the Head Start staff were invaluable resources about how to best support his healthy development. She learned how to encourage the development of his attention span and support his natural exploration of his environment.

Krystal was released last November when Grayson was about 14 months old. She is now living in a two-bedroom apartment where Grayson has his own room. She is still actively engaged in out-patient treatment because she knows that battling addiction is a life-long commitment. And her son is still her biggest motivation.

*When asked if she thought she had met her goal of becoming the mother that Grayson deserves, Krystal says, "If I'm not, I am real close."*



**Solving the homelessness crisis  
must include a focus on prevention.  
With your help, eviction prevention  
strategies are making a difference.**

With the rising costs of rent, many hard-working families in our community are only one financial setback away from becoming homeless. That is why our emergency rent assistance program is so important. It prevents families from becoming homeless.

*Prevention is key because after someone is evicted from their home, it is much harder and more expensive for them to get back into housing. In addition, the trauma and stress caused by losing their home has lasting impacts - especially on children.*



We know that the people most imminently at risk of becoming homeless are the people who have been summoned to court with an eviction notice for non-payment of rent. But how do we reach these families in time to help?

***Working with the Oregon Law Center, we now have a member of our emergency rent team at the eviction docket at the courthouse. On the spot, our staff are doing intakes and accepting rent assistance applications.***

We faced a problem with this eviction prevention strategy, however, when some property owners were refusing to accept rent assistance payments. Why was this happening? Current Oregon law puts a cap on rent increases for current tenants. Since there are no rent restrictions when bringing in new tenants, some property owners saw eviction as an opportunity for more revenue. Pursue eviction, get new tenants, and increase rent.

This threw a wrench in our ability to use rent assistance as a way to prevent evictions. Paying off back rent and a few months of future rent was not enough to convince some property owners to drop the eviction in the face of the potential for increasing revenue.

Fortunately, the legislature saw the problem and took action. In March 2023, they passed legislation requiring property owners to accept rent assistance payments. Now, when a property owner is evicting someone for non-payment of rent, they must accept rent assistance payments to correct the problem. We now see the system working well again. Property owners are made whole and tenants can keep their home.



Solving complex problems like homelessness takes complex solutions. It takes support from donors like you to keep these vital programs going. And it takes commitment from our elected leaders to identify problems and find solutions.

***This may seem like a small victory, but to the families facing the prospect of getting forced out of their homes, it is huge.***

**The housing crisis is especially difficult for vulnerable seniors. See how your support makes a life-changing difference.**

Rising housing costs are pushing many vulnerable seniors to the brink of homelessness. Living on fixed incomes, they are having trouble affording necessities - including rent.

***When a senior faces eviction, the stakes are high as they often have age-related limitations and health issues. But thanks to your support, we are helping vulnerable seniors who are facing homelessness through our eviction prevention programs.***



Margaret was 90 years old when she came to a frightening realization - she could no longer afford the rent on her apartment. Her pension had run out, and her social security wasn't enough to keep her afloat.

When she got behind on rent, she was served with an eviction notice. As she headed to her court hearing, she was scared, "I didn't know what would happen. I assumed that if things did not go well, I'd be on the street living in my car... And I am old. I'm 90 years old."

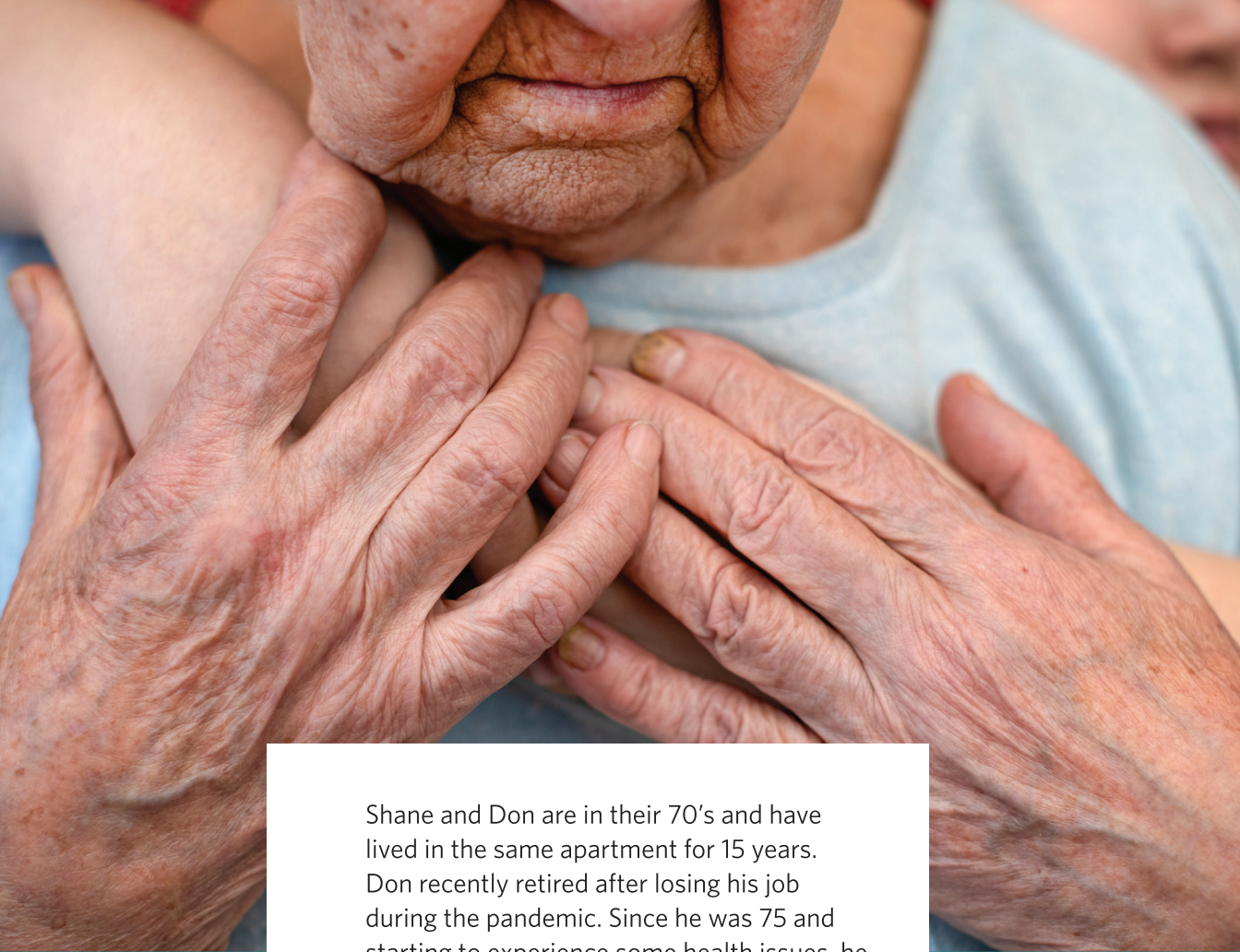
But thanks to donors like you, Margaret found help through our innovative eviction prevention program at the courthouse. Our housing specialist met Margaret at eviction court and helped her apply for emergency rent assistance right there on the spot.

***Because of your support, we were able to pay the back rent she owed and provide her with long-term rent assistance to keep her secure in her apartment for years to come.***



Margaret is grateful as she reflects on this help that came at such a critical time, "I'm sure it's extended my life by months if not years."





Shane and Don are in their 70's and have lived in the same apartment for 15 years. Don recently retired after losing his job during the pandemic. Since he was 75 and starting to experience some health issues, he decided to retire and collect social security. But the transition was abrupt and the sudden decrease in income caused them to get behind on their rent.

***When they were served with an eviction notice for non-payment of rent, they were terrified. At their age, how would they physically pack up the last 15 years of their life, and where would they go?***

Fortunately, they found our Rent Assistance program. Their back rent was paid, they kept their home, and they are now able to make their monthly rent payments on their social security income.

Shane is so grateful. She recently told us:

***“Community Action saved us. I don’t know what we have done. We would have had to leave with a change of clothes and some toiletries... If you hadn’t stepped in, we would have just been another one of the homeless. And I never thought I would ever say that in my life.”***

## After living in a car for two months, Alicia knew she needed to find help for her and her family. Thanks to you, she found Community Action's Family Shelter.

Alicia had been supporting her family for years working as a caretaker in a nursing home. But when her hours were suddenly reduced, she couldn't make her monthly rent payments, and they lost their home.

*At first they were able to live with family and get help from friends. Soon though, that support ended and her only option was to live in a friend's car.*

She was scared and stressed as she did her best to create normalcy for her kids. Her nights were sleepless. She had no way to cook meals, and it was challenging to give the kids the stable environment she knew they needed.

*"Without Community Action, we wouldn't be where we are today."*





*Thanks to donors like you, Alicia found relief at our family shelter.*

Our family shelter is a haven providing a safe, supportive living space for families and partners them with a housing navigator to start the journey back to permanent housing.

With a safe place to sleep, a kitchen to cook in, and a stable living environment, Alicia was able to turn her energy toward finding a long-term solution.

With the help our housing navigator, Alicia received rent assistance and secured permanent housing.

Her time at the shelter also inspired her to change careers. We are thrilled to be the lucky employer to hire Alicia. She is now working at the shelter where she is helping families the way she was helped.

Alicia is so grateful. She has a rewarding career, no longer needs rent assistance, and her children are thriving.



## With your help, an immigrant family finds support for their three-year-old in our Head Start program setting her up for success in kindergarten and beyond.

Sam and Rose immigrated to the United States because their home country of Kenya did not offer them the kind of career opportunities they were looking for. And they wanted safer, better educational opportunities for their children.

With green card status secured, they arrived in Oregon in 2017 with their two children, aged three and nine. After working some temporary jobs, Sam was able to get a more permanent job in the tech field. But it was hard for Rose to pursue her career, because their youngest, Zoey, was not yet old enough for kindergarten.



***Things changed when a neighbor told them about our Head Start program, an early childhood education program for children prenatal - five years.***

They enrolled Zoey but were nervous because the three-year-old didn't yet understand English very well. But when they walked Zoey into the classroom that first day, they relaxed as they were greeted by a warm and understanding team of teachers.

The classroom teachers supported Zoey in learning English by focusing first on comprehension. The next step was building up Zoey's confidence to start speaking English. It became clear to her teachers that she was holding back out of fear. So they made it fun by encouraging her to speak through games and other interactive activities. Her confidence grew over the year and half she was in Head Start, and soon she was speaking and socializing with the other children in English.

Zoey is now a thriving second grader at Springville Elementary. She loves school and plays on a local soccer team.

Sam and Rose are so grateful. They can't imagine what it would have been like for Zoey to start kindergarten without those years at Head Start where she not only learned English, but also grew in her social and emotional development.

***Looking back Sam says, "We weren't worried about her transition to kindergarten. She was ready. She was used to other kids and was confident with the language because of her time in Head Start."***

Sam also credits Head Start with helping in other meaningful ways. Coming to a new country and learning how to navigate systems was difficult. But Zoey's Head Start teachers were a wealth of information about the community, the public education system, and how to be supportive advocates for their children in their new country. Additionally, with Zoey in the safe and enriching environment of Head Start, Rose had time to focus on her own career.

Today, Rose has a rewarding career in the field of Information and Technology. Sam is currently working in the field of Cybersecurity, is an avid volunteer in the community, and is working towards his MBA at the University of Oregon. They are both thrilled with the opportunities they have found for themselves and their children and are grateful to donors like you who helped make it possible.



## IMPACT

**8,068** families stayed warm and safe with utility bill assistance.

**2,239** families avoided homelessness through emergency rent assistance.

**1,528** local child care providers improved their quality of care through professional development trainings and coaching.

**1,252** new parents were supported through education and other resources.

**706** children from low-income families received a solid educational foundation in Head Start.

**258** homeless families got back into stable housing with short-term rent assistance.

**212** families received home-visiting support services helping them maintain a stable home.

**208** homes were weatherized making them warmer, safer, and more efficient.

**124** homeless children and parents got back on their feet while staying at our Hillsboro Family Shelter.

**53** people received career coaching.

# PROGRAMS

## **HEAD START**

Preparing children for kindergarten and beyond with high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive services to young children and their families.

## **CHILD CARE RESOURCE AND REFERRAL**

Providing training and coaching to early childhood care and education providers, ensuring high-quality childcare experiences for the families they serve.

## **HEALTHY FAMILIES**

Promoting child well-being through parenting support and skill development.

## **HELP ME GROW**

Providing pregnant moms and new parents networks of support.

## **FAMILY DEVELOPMENT**

Providing home visiting and case management to help families meet their goals, increase housing and income stability, and improve family functioning and parenting skills.

## **HOUSING AND HOMELESS SERVICES**

Providing shelter for families experiencing homelessness, helping them find housing, and providing support to maintain long-term stability.

## **EMERGENCY RENT ASSISTANCE AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION**

Preventing homelessness by keeping families in their homes through rent assistance.

## **ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

Keeping families safe and warm with utility bill assistance.

## **ENERGY CONSERVATION**

Weatherizing homes to make them warmer, safer, healthier, and more efficient.

## **WORKFORCE TRAINING**

Working with clients to identify career opportunities and support job training that leads to living wage jobs.

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