

Annual Report
2018-2019



Community **Action**

Helping people. Changing lives.



Every Board of Directors meeting I like to close with a mission moment by reading some recent comments submitted by our clients. These comments give me the chance to ground all of us to the impact Community Action has on the people and community we serve. It's moments like these that I will miss tremendously as I retire following 29 years at Community Action. While the working chapter of my life closes, I am truly excited for the beginning of a new one filled with travel and time spent with my three beautiful grandsons and their parents.

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

With a background in early childhood education, I started at Community Action in 1990 managing the Child Development & Parenting program. When I took my first job here, I was happy, but I felt it would be temporary until I got to know Oregon better and could find the “perfect” job. The longer I stayed, the more I fell in love with Community Action – both with the important work we do and with the amazing people I have worked alongside over these many years. In each leadership position I held, I have always been proud to say, “I work at Community Action!” The reason is that no matter what door a client may come through, a thoughtful and empathetic staff member is ready to meet them, listen to them, and help them. Time and again, our clients tell us that after meeting with our staff, they feel seen and heard as a person, not as a problem or a number. I’m proud of so much here at Community Action, but I am most proud of how we work with and respect the people we serve.

My level of excitement for Community Action’s next chapter is sky high. The financial health of the organization is stronger than ever. The bench of talented leaders, both current and future, is deep and solid. Community Action is focused on the future, searching out ways to improve how we serve clients and deepen our impact in Washington County.

I am also excited because I am handing the keys of the organization over to our new Executive Director, Kemp Shuey. Kemp has been with Community Action for four years as our Director of Resource Development, and he is someone I trust to lead the organization into the future. Leading Community Action is a big task, and in my time working with Kemp I know he has the thoughtfulness, vision, and passion to carry the work forward. I believe in his ability to steward our culture and challenge the organization to continue finding ways to grow and improve.



Community Action is a place where I always felt that I belonged. As a supporter, I hope that you feel this way too. As you will see in this year’s report, there is much to be proud of. The stories we share here are a small sample of the influential impact we have made in Washington County. This is because of you. We see your contribution and we treasure it. Your generosity has been a driving force for hope, help and change, and for that I am forever grateful.

With gratitude,

Renée Bruce
Executive Director

With Support, a Mother Realizes a Future Beyond Incarceration



Growing up, Jessica was always at the center of things. She played catcher on her high school softball team. She did hair for her friends and teammates, dreaming of someday becoming a stylist herself.

With a tightknit and supportive family, everything seemed in place for her to succeed in life. But as she entered adulthood things started to get off track – a life centered on partying, an introduction to drugs that led to addiction, and a burglary that ended with a six-year sentence to Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. The idea of the next six years in prison was frightening to Jessica but was made even more so given one significant factor – she was five months pregnant.

Jessica gave birth to her daughter Silver four months later. They only had 17 hours together before Silver was given over to the family friends who were to be her caregivers while Jessica served her sentence. Over the next ten months, her caregivers and family brought Silver for visits 3-4 times per week. “That time was really hard,” recalls Jessica. “The visits were short – only two hours – and my interactions with Silver were limited.” She treasured the brief moments with Silver, but also struggled with the uncertainties that come with being a new parent. “My biggest fear was how this arrangement would affect Silver. I kept wondering if this was the right decision, or if it would have been better to give her up for adoption.”

Upon hearing about our Head Start program based at Coffee Creek, Jessica had reason for hope. The program helps incarcerated mothers of young children develop nurturing bonds critical to their child’s healthy, long-term development. Jessica’s first day in the program was an emotional one. “You’re overwhelmed with happiness, sadness, fear, frustration, gratitude – it’s a lot to take in at once.” She was finally able to have time, outside of a visitation room, to do the normal tasks that most parents take for granted. “Silver was 10 months old and I finally get to change her diaper. She did not want me to do it because we hadn’t built that level of

trust yet. But Carmen [the lead teacher] was there to help, whispering advice and encouraging me.”

Over the next four years, the relationship between Jessica and Silver flourished, and Jessica’s doubts about whether she made the right decision faded away. “A big moment came when Silver started asking me specifically for help – like getting a toy off a shelf. That was a big deal because I knew that she trusted me!” In the Spring of 2019, Jessica finished her sentence and was reunited with Silver full time. The reunification is a delicate time for everyone, but Jessica feels like they were both prepared well for the moment. “In many ways, I feel like I’ve always been there as her mom.”

Life is starting to look more like the version Jessica envisioned for herself all those years ago. She has a job as a hairdresser, and her relationship with Silver continues to grow as they enjoy simple activities like cooking together and riding bikes. Jessica says it is impossible to imagine life without Community Action Head Start and the caring staff who supported her all the way. “They made me feel like I belong – that I deserved to be a mom.” As Silver enters kindergarten this fall, Jessica is focused on ensuring her daughter has the strong, tightknit support she had from her family growing up.



*“Thanks to Community Action,
I have a relationship with my daughter.”*

—Jessica

Major Renovation for Beloved Shelter



In the heart of Hillsboro sits a 113-year-old American Foursquare style home that has served as our Family Shelter since the late 1970's. Serving forty plus families annually it has, not surprisingly, received a fair amount of wear and tear.

Thanks to a tremendous partnership led by the Home Builders Foundation-HomeAid Portland this old house received a welcomed renovation. In all, the project included a full remodel of the kitchen, the incorporation of a bathroom in the basement to serve the Children's Program and the addition of a new building to expand the capacity of the Emergency Food Pantry. The goal of these improvements was to enhance the experience of the shelter residents and expand the capacity of services offered there.

The Home Builders Foundation-HomeAid Portland not only awarded Community Action with a leading gift for the project, but also leveraged the generosity of its membership providing over \$35,000 in donated materials and labor. Joe Robertson, owner of Hillsboro based Shelter Solutions LLC, served as the "building captain" and donated his time as the contractor for the project. Additional community support for the project generously came from the Baker Family/Baker Rock Resources Fund of the Hillsboro Community Foundation and the Richard B. Siegel Foundation.

The generous support enabled us to make improvements to the existing space with a client-centered design. Previously, multiple families shared limited counter space and one stove for all their meal prep and cooking needs. Now there is ample space for creating meals with a large central island and two designated cooking spaces. Separate sets of cupboards and drawers were added to the kitchen, allowing families individual storage space for their food and cooking supplies.



Another element of the shelter project was the construction of a food pantry for distributing emergency food boxes to the community. Formally housed in the basement, the pantry is now located in a brand-new building adjacent to the shelter. With more storage capacity and improved accessibility, the Emergency Food Pantry is equipped to serve more, higher quality food boxes to community members facing a food emergency.

Individual families can stay at the shelter for up to six weeks, and while there they receive assistance from Community Action staff to find permanent housing and address other needs that will support their efforts to maintain stability. Additional services found at the shelter include the Children's Program which provides after school support and enrichment activities for the children staying at the shelter, and the Emergency Food Pantry, Washington County's only food box program open during evenings and weekends.



"This project has transformed how we serve residents staying at the shelter, and clients who rely on us for other services like the food pantry. This expanded capacity is helping us make a deeper impact in the lives of our clients."

— Corie Jensen,
Shelter Coordinator

Overcoming Barriers

Our Family Development Fund provides resources for clients to overcome barriers and sustain progress toward stability when other funding sources fall short. Wholly supported by the generosity of our donors, the Family Development Fund enables us to change lives one person at a time. This year over 50 people were helped by the fund – what follows are two stories of hope, help and change.



Anna's Story

After losing her driver's license 12 years ago, Anna believed she would potentially never be able to get it back. Over a decade before, she received several speeding tickets on a frantic commute between Beaverton and Woodburn. Pregnant and financially insecure, Anna's speeding tickets went unpaid and the fees continued to add up. Anna was summoned to appear in court for her traffic violations but upon the day of her hearing, she went into labor with her son. Missing her day in court resulted in Anna losing her license – and facing \$3,000 in fines that had to be paid in full to have it reinstated. The fees went unpaid, her priority was taking care of her children. “I put myself to the side,” said Anna. “My kids were more important. I just went along with life.”

But life wasn't easy – and Anna found herself struggling with her finances, mental health and addiction. Determined to chart a different path for her and her family's future, Anna entered an intensive recovery program. Anna also connected to Community Action and worked with a Family Advocate to help achieve her goals of becoming financially stable and self-sufficient. Anna's Family Advocate was aware that Anna commuted by public transit and at times, turned to friends and neighbors to help transport her children. As the two worked to establish short and long term goals that would

help Anna and her family to thrive, reinstating Anna's driver's license became an important objective. Recognizing Anna's demonstrated commitment to meeting her goals we utilized the Family Development Fund to pay for her traffic fees. She was overcome with emotion when she learned of the news. “When I got that call...I couldn't speak. And it takes a lot for me not to speak,” Anna said with a beaming smile.

With a reinstated drivers license, Anna has found a renewed sense of independence and capability. For the first time in their young lives, Anna is able to transport her children to and from school. She is able to attend her appointments and offer rides to others who need them. “If a friend is in need to go grocery shopping, I always tell them, I'll come get you!”

As she looks forward, Anna envisions a future in which she has a job as an addiction recovery counselor. She recently enrolled in a program that will make this dream a reality – a requirement to participate is a valid driver's license – which was out of reach without the assistance she received from the Family Development Fund. Reflecting on her journey, Anna shared, “I made a promise that if I could get through this, I'm going to help people. It's my time to give back.”



“This has changed my life a lot. I have more freedom, and I'm able to help other people.”

—Anna



Tina's Story

Tina is a single mom striving to maintain a stable, nurturing home for her four young boys, one of whom is a child with special needs. In addition to the daily responsibilities faced by most parents, Tina balances a busy schedule of appointments to support the health and wellbeing of her children and herself; occupational therapy, speech therapy, trauma therapy and counseling.

Last December, Tina discovered that her vehicle needed over \$2,000 in repairs – money that Tina simply didn't have. Without a reliable car, Tina found herself confronted with a daily struggle to ensure the safe and timely transportation of her children. "Trying to schedule everything and make it there on a bus would have been almost impossible," reflected Tina.

Between schedule conflicts and a lack of adequate car seating, turning to her support network for help also proved challenging. "Family and friends are so great and wonderful, but it is hard to find somebody that has the room to pack us all in!"

Knowing how critical a dependable source of transportation was for Tina and her children, we recognized that the Family Development Fund could cover the cost of her car repairs. When she received word that Community Action would help, Tina was elated. "I have tears now when I think about it," Tina shared. "If I hadn't gotten that fund...I just don't know what I would have done. Now we are safe on the road, we are able to get from point a to point b, and all the therapies."



"It's hard to reach out. It's hard to humble yourself. It's hard to ask for help. But when you do, and people are so willing to help...it kind of breaks you and builds you back stronger than you were before."

—Tina



Thank you to our donors who are vital partners in our work. Your generosity and belief empowers us to deliver hope, help and change to the thousands of individuals who turn to Community Action each year.

All gifts listed were made between July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

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*Kemp & Robyn Shuey
Mjere & Jeff Simantel
Robert & Barbara Simons
Andrew Singelakis

Tai & Consuelo Star
Damon Starnes
Sheila Starr & William
French Jr.
Donna & James Stecher
Scott & Donna Steele
Mary Stein
Dick Stenson & Doreen
Naito Stenson
Tracy Stepp
Nancy Stetson
Brian Stock
Janan Stoll
Diana Stotz
Gabriela Suarez-Pedroza
Neha Subramanyam
Brian & Debbie Sullivan
Barbara & Von Summers

Mike Tyres
Nikolaos Tzannetakis
Catherine Ulmer
Claudia Umanzor
Ingrid Unterseher
*Val Valfre
Rick & Cheryl Van Beveren
Reed Van Beveren
Leonard Vanasse
Mary & David Vaux
Alberto Vega-Andrade
Patty Verzani
Leticia Vitela
Brad Volchok
*Mary Von & John Nevius
Dan & Joan Wahlin
John Richard Wallin
Dottie & Loren Waltz
Michael Arjun Waney
Allan & Cassie Warman
Pam Warner
Dawna Warren
Dianne Wasson
Shane & Allison Weston
Virginia Wetzell
Diane & Rick Whidden
Sherrie & Michael White
Patrick & Jeanne Wieber
John & Michelle Wiitala
Chris & Katie Wiley
Sharon & Marty Wilkins
Jerry & Judy Willey
Sandra Whitney Wilson
Shannon & Micah Wilson
Marty Wine
Sean Winter
Susan Winterbourne
Vincent Winters
Timothy Won
Casey Woodall
Robert & Mary Anne Woodell
Jeffry & Dianne Yake
Lynne Yale
Jason Yamamoto &
Mariel Combs
Gary Yates



Dresden Skees-Gregory
Marianne & Bruce Skerry
Kate Slayton
Martha & Bradley Sleeper
Leslea Smith
Shirley Smith
Karen Smith
Heather Smith
Jeanine Smith
Andy Smith
Jason Snider
Amber & Justin Snodgrass
Megan Snow
Sister Angeline Sohler
*Teresa Solano
Monica Solano-Molina
Beth Sommers
Lacey Soriano
Michelle & Landy Sparr
Charles Spear
Homer & Nancy Speer
Vinay Sriram
Mindy Stadtlander
Victoria Staley

Lynne Swanson
Erica Tafoya &
Javier Martinez
Tim & Cortney Tassone
Lisa Tattersall
Susan Tayor
Danial Taylor
Bradford Taylor &
Linda Stiles Taylor
Joe & Robin Ten Broeck
Taylor & Will Theis
Megan Thom
Debbie Thomas
Courtney Thomas
Cathy Thompson
Jennifer Thompson
Ralph Thompson
Julia Thunker
*Julie Titus
Jeremy & Krista Toevs
Brendan Tran
Pam & Marty Treece
Pete & Pat Truax
Nicole Tuite

OUR PROGRAMS

CHILD CARE RESOURCE & REFERRAL - Providing training, professional development opportunities, and coaching to anyone involved in early childhood education, ensuring high quality child care experiences to the families they serve.

EARLY CONNECTIONS - Linking pregnant women and new parents to communities of support.

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

ENERGY ASSISTANCE - Keeping families safe and warm with utility assistance.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT - Helping families increase their assets through education, coaching, and advocacy.

FINANCIAL SERVICES - Helping people build wealth and reach their financial goals.

HEAD START - Preparing children for kindergarten and beyond with high-quality early childhood education and comprehensive services to children ages birth to age five and their families.

HOMELESS SERVICES - Helping homeless people and families quickly find housing and getting them the supportive services necessary to maintain long term stability.

RENTER SUPPORT - Supporting people who rent avoid homelessness through emergency payments, longer term assistance, and tenant education.

WORKFORCE TRAINING - Working with clients to identify career opportunities that lead to living wage jobs.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Ronald Sarazin, Olympic Performance, Inc

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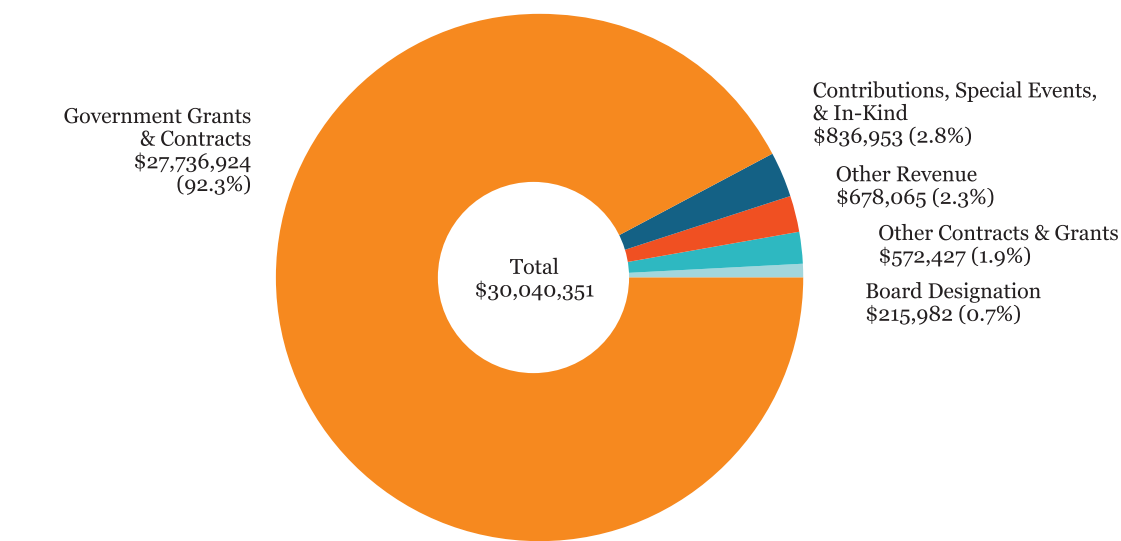
Pam Treece, Washington County

Peter Truax, City of Forest Grove

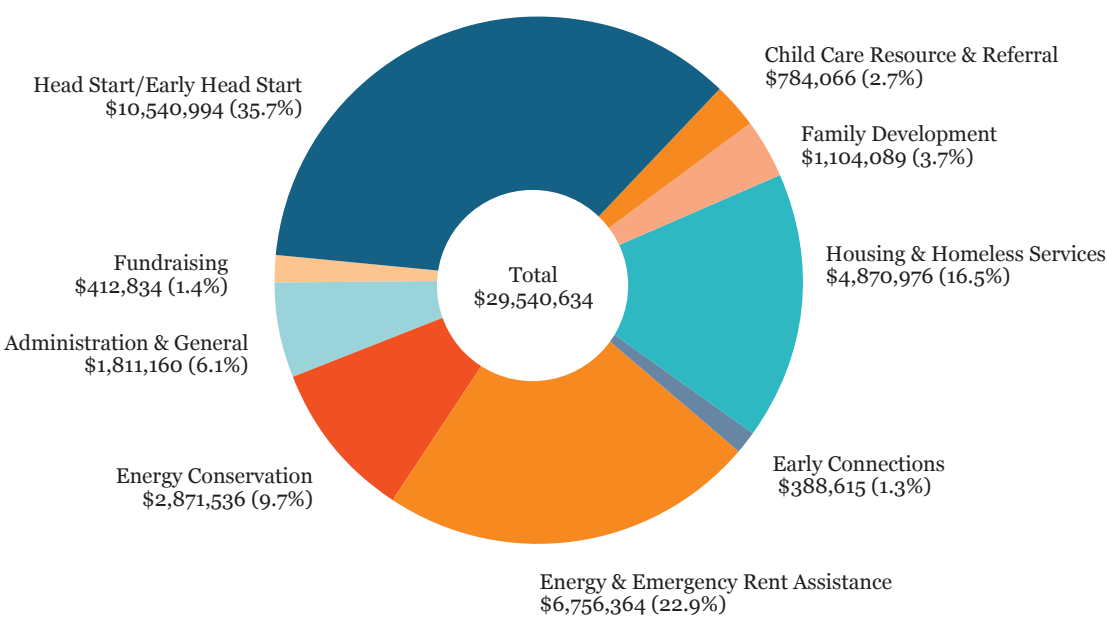
Jason Yamamoto, Swagelok NW

2018-2019 REPORT OF RESOURCES & EXPENSES

SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY ACTION



EXPENSES



This report is unaudited and has been prepared by Jerry W. Brown in his capacity as Director of Finance & Operations, and not in the practice of public accounting. It is based on program resources available and expenses during the year and is not intended to present activities in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Procedures (GAAP).



