

YCAP

Fall 2017



Yamhill Community
Action Partnership

Client Services and Housing staff dedicate themselves every day...

to serving those experiencing homelessness.

On January 25, 2017, YCAP along with partners and volunteers conducted a “Point-in-Time” Homeless Count across Yamhill County. We identified 1,066 individuals experiencing homelessness that very day.

Our Client Services and Housing team works to bring essential housing services to those experiencing homelessness in Yamhill County. We operate a spectrum of housing programs to provide the right service at the right time. The service may be payment of rent to prevent eviction, help with deposit, a shelter stay for someone who may otherwise be on the streets, or long-term rental assistance coupled with supportive case management for households with housing barriers or disabling conditions.

Meet three of our recent clients who illustrate the work of our Client Services and Housing team:

Terrance, a 70-year old homeless veteran had been sleeping in a tent when we placed him in our shelter. While in shelter, he learned that he qualified for a Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) voucher to ensure long term assistance. He secured a beautiful apartment, telling his YCAP case manager when he moved in “I felt that someone finally cared about me, other than my family.” Terrance is also a bike lover and enjoys working in the YCAP Spoke House. He donates 15-20 hours a week there, working to fix donated bikes so we can get them back out into the community. He says it’s his way of thanking YCAP, and giving back.



Terrance working at the Spoke House

Next, meet Lisa and her beloved dog, Snoopy. She had been homeless for EIGHT years when she came to YCAP. They had been living most recently in her truck and Lisa told us that at night, she would cover herself and Snoopy up with blankets so nobody would notice them sleeping there.



Lisa and Snoopy

Working closely with our staff, including our Housing Specialist, Lisa was finally able to secure her own apartment - despite having many housing barriers. There was a lot of joy that day when we were able to present her with her own “Street-to-Home” kit, full of essential

household supplies! She reported “finally being able to feel safe” in her new home. Lisa is now focusing on her artwork and reconnecting with the community. Recently, she was able to start up her favorite hobby, making jewelry.

Finally, Thearl and his wife Sheila came to us seeking housing. They were sleeping in their car in the heat of summer. They qualified for YCAP’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program and worked with their Case Manager on finding an apartment. After many applications, YCAP secured them an apartment through one of our landlord partnerships.

(Continue to next page...)

They are now successfully paying their own rent and have stabilized, after rental assistance and supportive case management services. They give back to YCAP now by speaking regularly about their own experiences from homelessness to housing at our “Landlord Luncheons” in an effort to help recruit new landlord partnerships around Yamhill County.

“Home” should not simply be a notion or wishful thinking...



Thearl and his wife Sheila

“Home” should not simply be a notion or wishful thinking. Persons throughout Yamhill County experiencing homelessness can benefit from the types of services supported by programs offered at YCAP. Ending homelessness requires a coordinated, community-based strategy which includes housing options for a broad range of populations, combined with the types of supportive services individuals like those you’ve just met receive through our Client Services and Housing Department.



A letter from our Executive Director

Dear Friend of YCAP,

I recently dropped in again on “Piecing Community Together,” a unique event each month at the McMinnville Cooperative Ministries. This inspirational gathering offers a free meal, music and activities to bring the community together and learn from those who live with unstable housing. Joined by Mandy Gawf and Cassie Dandy of YCAP and City Councilor Kellie Menke, we spent time talking to Israel, a leader among the peaceful downtown homeless population. His story, like so many of ours, is a kaleidoscope of challenges, crisis, and hope. I admired his perseverance through his own tumultuous life, his dedication to his “brothers” and “sisters” on the streets, and his strong stance to protect those who are victimized. When I was growing up there were times my family didn’t have much, but we always had a roof over our heads. I can’t pretend to know what life is like for Israel.

Homelessness in Oregon has garnered a great deal of attention during the past couple of years. Our annual Point In Time Homeless Count indicated a decrease in the number of homeless in Yamhill County from 2016 to 2017. More were in shelters and over half as many were unsheltered at the time. However, there remained 1,066 individuals that day without stable housing. In particular, the number of unaccompanied youth is unacceptably high.

In this newsletter you’ll learn more about our Client Services and Housing Department’s remarkable efforts to alleviate homelessness. Beyond our own programs, I’ve been representing YCAP on McMinnville’s Affordable Housing Task Force since its inception. I also serve as co-chair of its Homeless Housing Subcommittee. Alongside many local partners, public agencies, and compassionate individuals, we are dedicated to finding a solution to this tragedy.

YCAP remains at the forefront of addressing homelessness because it is at the core of what we do – to advocate for and assist persons toward self-sufficiency. Thank you for your interest in YCAP and support. Together we make Yamhill County a better place for everyone.

With Gratitude,

Jeff Sargent, Executive Director

His story, like so many of ours, is a kaleidoscope of challenges, crises, and hope.



Jeff and Volunteer Barb Johnson talking about homelessness issues and the Food Bank... (see page 4 in Food Bank Highlights)

Upcoming Events



Light The Fire will ignite on October 1st, 2017 from 5pm to 8:30pm in Newberg. This element themed event begins with a bubbly reception, followed by a three course dinner at Ruddick/Wood. Featured wines by Sokol Blosser and Union Wine Company.

Courses will be artistically created by Paul Losch of Ruddick/Wood, Sunny Jin of Jory and Dario Pisoni

of AGRIVINO. The sparkling reception is brought to you by Andrew Turner of Valley Wine Merchants.

If you can't join us for the reception and dinner, don't miss the street party at 6:30pm. It features street food from Red Hills Market, and drinks from Ransom Wine Co. & Distillery, Wolves & People Farmhouse Brewery, as well as an exciting new partner - Nineteen27 S'mores. This spectacle includes a burning heart sculpture, fire dancers, the Portland Unipiper, a wine wall and live music from Dance Hall Days.

Tickets are sold online at www.yamhillcap.org/lightthefire. Dinner tickets (including admission to the street party) are \$100. Street party tickets are just \$10!

Your support and attendance at this event will go to fund our Youth Services, based in Newberg, and our Food Bank services in Newberg and Dundee.

This event is made possible in part by a grant from Newberg Transient Lodging Taxes and the City of Newberg



Seasonal Drives

As the season changes, we have many partners that host drives to meet the needs of Yamhill County residents that need a hand up.

Please visit our website to learn more about how you can help!

General Drives

Book and Blanket Drive

Christmas Giving

Coat Drive

MHS Freshman Change Collection

Thanksgiving Boxes

Thanksgiving Turkeys

Feed Hope

(Previously known as 50-50-60)

A community effort to raise food and funds for the YCAP Food Bank—over 100 local drives!

Stuff The Bus

Community Cantata

Willamette Cares Food Share

Ton-O-Turkeys (Excell Fitness)

To find out dates and locations for drives visit www.yamhillcap.org/seasonalgiving (Available mid September)



Program Highlights



CLIENT SERVICES & HOUSING

We believe everyone deserves a roof over their head.

We offer a variety of services and resources to the community to support those in need of a hand up to achieve sustainable housing.

Point-In-Time Homeless Count Result

The nationwide Point In Time (PIT) Homeless Count takes place annually on the last Wednesday in January. This effort offers a snapshot of homelessness by recording the number of people in an emergency shelter or who are unsheltered on a single night of the year.

The surveys are completed with those who are living outside, with more than one family in a household, in a vehicle, in shelters, or motels. YCAP additionally counts those couch surfing—living with family or friends in a temporary status. This information is used to plan local and national service delivery to at-risk populations.

Overall, 1,066 sheltered, unsheltered, and precariously housed persons were counted that night in Yamhill County. YCAP will continue to provide and implement programming that combats this unfortunate number. Thank you to all volunteers, donors, and staff who helped and made this important event possible. You can view a more in-depth review on our website, www.yamhillcap.org/homeless-count.



Staff record homeless families and individuals



FOOD BANK

We believe everyone deserves a healthy meal.

For those times when circumstances leave little for groceries, we are here with the needed nutritious food and resources to get individuals and families back on their feet.



Volunteer Barb talks to us about YCAP food resources

Barb Johnson, an extraordinary volunteer, has helped YCAP since 2009. Her spunk and passion for volunteering is inspiring. Barb took the time to speak to us about her life, her commitment to YCAP, and her own struggles. As one of our weekly volunteers for

Harvest2Home she not only helps others in receiving produce and staple items, but she herself utilizes our food program to support herself .

“This program is what keeps us going, I volunteer because it is the only way I can pay YCAP for what I need. How could I NOT volunteer? I take what I need, but I always share. My garage is a mini Winco— I have families that come and pick what they need once a week. People don’t understand the value of YCAP”.

The Harvest2Home program brings produce and staple items to sites like the McMinnville Senior Center. You can see it’s value just by visiting at one of the locations—lines of individuals and families picking out healthy fruit and vegetables. It serves seniors, children, and families in need. We are lucky to have volunteers like Barb that help keep it going.



Barb and her Granddaughter



Outreach to Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Home Park in Newberg

This summer, two staff members from our Energy Department talked to community members in Nut Tree Ranch Mobile Home Park. They answered questions for services, and assisted individuals with applications. The event was held at the park clubhouse, which was a convenient walk for attendees.

All together 11 households signed up for energy services and weatherization. Bringing our staff to sites such as Nut Tree Ranch is imperative to supporting the community in their energy needs and education.

ENERGY SERVICES

We believe home energy is a necessary aspect of shelter.

Our Energy Assistance programs provide financial support to eligible households to offset energy costs. Our weatherization services help to bolster the energy efficiency of a home, reducing usage and lowering utility costs.



Energy Staff Aaron Kunnick teaches class about conserving energy



“You Matter” Sign Rally

Youth banded together this summer to share uplifting signs at the flag pole in downtown Newberg. This motivational weekly event brought many youth to join, and support the community.

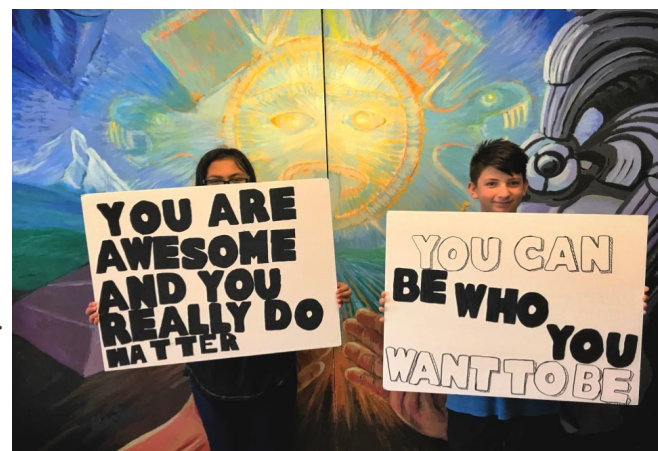
Teen suicide is a very real issue. The sign rally came about with the hopes that teens could shed light on the battles they and their friends face with mental health issues. They came together to share words of kindness and support, showing that they truly care and that they all matter!

The Youth Outreach Facebook says “So no matter what, talk to someone, especially if you are having any thoughts of harming yourself or others. Asking for help is the bravest thing you can do, and the very first step on your way to feeling better”. We are so very proud of our youth taking a stand for mental health.

YOUTH SERVICES

We believe that a community’s youth is one of its most valuable resources.

Through Youth Services, young people are nurtured by caring adults, given opportunities for education or work that builds their skills, supported and protected during challenging times, and are actively engaged in community activities.



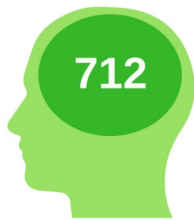
Youth make signs for #YouMatter Rally

A Snapshot of Accomplishments

YCAP is dedicated to the communities of Yamhill County. Here are some numbers showing our most recent accomplishments.

Payments to support clients
in need of energy assistance

661



712

Unique connections
with youth during Street Outreach

Produce Distributed
from June 17th to July 17th, 2017

40,244
lbs



736

Individuals evaluated for rental
support or housing
placement since the beginning of
the program in October 2016

Monthly Giving

Regular monthly donations are valuable because they are consistent and dependable. We can use these funds in the programs that need it the most!

\$25 a month—Buys two “Street To Home” Kits for those moving out of homelessness into homes.

\$50 a month—Purchases almost 2,000 meals for hungry Yamhill County families.

\$100 per month—Pays for essential repairs to our Food Bank trucks, which travel 20 miles a day!

You can designate your donation to the program of your choice, or to the general agency where it will make the most impact. You can also give to a loved one in their honor or memory.

To start a monthly gift, go to www.yamhillcap.org/donate select the “Donate” button and choose the option “Recurring Donations”.

Planned Giving

Charitable gift planning is a great way for you to express your personal beliefs and values for the programs YCAP provides. Planned gifts also allow you to utilize valuable tax benefits, and even an additional source of income for life.

To learn more, contact our
Executive Director, Jeff Sargent at:
jeffs@yamhillcap.org/503-883-4172

FY 2017-18 YCAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gwen Jernstedt, *Board Chair*
Ryan Connor, *Board Vice Chair*
John Larsen, *Treasurer*
Arlene Worden, *Secretary*
David Case
Gary Dawson
Tonya Gleason-Shepek
Bernt “AL” Hansen
Ann Scott
Mary Starrett
Beth Wytoski
Carrie Zimbrick

*We will miss you
Jon George!*

AGENCY DIRECTORS

Jeff Sargent, *Executive Director*
Kate Stokes, *Adult and Youth Programs Director*
Kraig Ludwig, *Energy Services and Food Bank Director*
Debra Hanson, *Finance Director*
Alaina Bergan, *Human Resources and Office Director*

YCAP welcomes the following new staff members
who have joined us since May 2017

Felipe Almeida
Christina Cortez-Bannick
Johanna Cuevas
Cassie Dandy
Jennifer Norris
James Olson
Karen Campbell

Looking Back



Signature Sponsors



WINGS & WAVES
— WATERPARK —

Key Sponsor



We Raised The Barn

RAISE THE BARN, our newest Signature Event, was a fantastic collaborative effort with the goal of raising funds for our Friday Family Food (FFF) program, Street To Home kits and funding our Housing Specialist position. FFF provides elementary students and their families quality produce and staple items over the weekend. Our “Street-To-Home” kits provide hygiene and home essentials to clients moving out of homelessness. Our Housing Specialist position partners with local landlords to provide sustainable housing to our homeless clients.

With compassionate volunteers, dedicated chefs and restaurants, and spirited donors and sponsors. We RAISED THE BARN with a live music, raffle packages, fantastic food, specialized cocktails and wagon rides! We are excited to say that many attendees loved the space, food, music, and mission. Thank you to our event chair Chelsey Nichol, the planning committee, volunteers, sponsors, donors and staff!

Biggest Turkey winner!

The 2017 Biggest Turkey competition hosted by the McMinnville Chamber of Commerce was a great success!

Diane Longaker, our Resource Development Coordinator for the YCAP Regional Food Bank, participated as our Biggest Turkey Candidate. Diane impressed us all with her dedication to the mission and flare for raising funds to benefit our Friday Family Food program. When asked about her Big Turkey Candidacy, she says

**Over \$72,000 raised by
the 3 organizations.**

“I decided to join the Biggest Turkey to increase awareness of all three of our organizations (McMinnville Habitat for Humanity and American Legion Post 21) and raise funds to keep doing the work we do. I love the friendships, the energy, the teamwork, and the success of this event!

Biggest Turkey was a fair share of hard work and I felt at times that I was driving everyone crazy! However, the support and patience that came through from start to finish from the community and the other two candidates was nothing short of spectacular. Thank you so much to everyone for all your care and support!”





Our Mission:

To advocate for and assist persons toward self-sufficiency.

Our History...

YCAP was founded in 1980 as part of a nationwide network of social service agencies designed to help improve the lives of low-income people and strengthen communities. We assist the residents of Yamhill County, diligently focusing on four primary service categories: Client Services and Housing, Energy Services, the regional Food Bank, and Youth Services. We are inspired every day by the stories of those who want to have a better life for themselves and their families. We are honored to support our neighbors in need.



Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP)

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Youth Outreach Center

719 E First Street
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503-538-8023
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.

www.yamhillcap.org

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