

YCAP NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Newsletter for Yamhill Community Action Partnership

■ Summer Edition 2023

HOUSING STABILIZATION: Turnkey Program Helps Build Better Futures



You make it possible for families to move from homelessness into housing. During the last 50+ years, Billy's life has not been easy. He has experienced homelessness, a substance use disorder, learning differences, and justice involvement. *"From a young age, I was exposed to street and domestic violence that shaped the way I saw the world. My mother helped to guide me, but I didn't always make the right decisions. My first time being charged was for burglary at 18 years old. I made a lot of mistakes. I was an*

addict, missing meetings, falling deeper into the drug world." Despite all of this, he never gave up. He knew that he had the potential to turn his life around, but he needed help to do it.

Billy was fortunate to secure assistance through YCAP's Turnkey Program. With a dedicated case manager's support, Billy overcame his challenges. He shared how the program changes lives: *"Follow the rules, first and foremost. Accept the help, Turnkey has simple guidelines to follow that's only to benefit you. I wouldn't change a thing. It is set up for success. Why do I say this? First of all, if you can't follow this simple set up with free room and board then you won't be successful in an apartment and that's what this is about. Believe it or not, this program really helped me to understand who I am and to get comfortable with myself because at first, I was not comfortable. I had money in my pocket, I had a job, I had a car, a free roof over my head, but I was anxious to go...nowhere. I wasn't comfortable with myself, at first. It took me months to get used to myself and just stay home and cut out all unnecessary activities and it freed me to just sit alone and really get to know myself and love myself because of YCAP's help. Positive thoughts started happening, placing bills first, compartmentalizing the important things ahead of the miscellaneous stuff. It does work. It worked for me. I am not in a hurry to go anywhere fast anymore without it having meaning."*

"It has been a long road and has taken me going through a lot of fire to understand how beautiful life is and how to live life as a purer human being. Thankfully, I feel I have my life together and have been trying for years to build the kind of stable foundation needed to be a good neighbor, renter, new grandfather, father and son."

Today, Billy is employed and living in his own apartment. We are grateful for the opportunity to help Billy on his journey to build a better future and are thrilled to see him in his new home!

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HOUSING: Yamhill County Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN)



The Yamhill County BHRN was formed in 2022 and is a result of Measure 110 which is designed to address substance use disorders through health-based approaches rather than justice involvement.

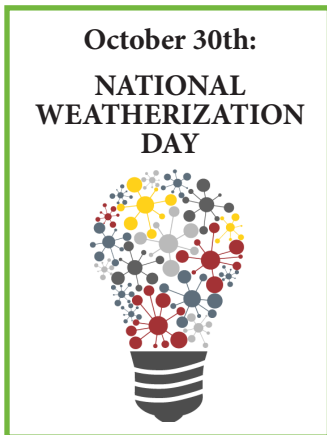
Funding for the programs is through the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) who helped structure regional BHRNs to be groups of organizations working together to provide comprehensive, community-based services to people with substance use disorders. Each BHRN is

responsible for providing trauma-informed, culturally specific and linguistically responsive services such as screening for health and social service needs, screening for substance use disorders, individualized intervention planning, low-barrier substance use disorder treatment, harm reduction services, peer support services, housing support, and referrals to appropriate outside services.

YCAP serves as housing support in the Yamhill County BHRN and works closely with the other BHRN partners: Encompass Yamhill Valley, Providence Newberg Medical Center, Provoking Hope, Recovery Works NW, Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center, and Yamhill County Health and Human Services.

As of 2023, 42 BHRNs comprised of 160 partner agencies exist across Oregon. According to reports by OHA, measure 110 funding has reached more than 60,000 Oregonians during these early phases of implementation. Significant increases in the number of individuals helped through BHRNs has been tracked quarter by quarter. Recently, the number of individuals treated for substance use disorder increased by 44%, provided housing services increased by 125% and supported employment services increased by 136%. As these programs become further established in our community, more individuals experiencing substance use disorders will have the support they need to build a better future.

ENERGY: October is Energy Awareness Month



Energy Burden: Almost one-third of U.S. households have reported difficulty in paying energy bills. Weatherization improvements such as insulation and door, window, and furnace repair or replacement help lower utility burdens by making homes more energy efficient.

Energy Equity: Low-income families are more likely to live in housing with heating/cooling issues due to inadequate insulation. Energy-efficiency programs address household equity and improve community resilience. By making energy more affordable, low income families can sustain affordable housing.

Weatherization and Energy Assistance: The average YCAP weatherized household will see a savings of 56% on energy bills (according to diagnostic tests run before and after weatherization) which helps families afford basic necessities like food, medicine, and housing.

LIHEAP: Nine out of ten LIHEAP households have at least one child, senior, or person with a disability. LIHEAP provides weatherization, equipment repair/replacement, and energy payments and education.

Sources: [CommunityActionPartnership.com](https://www.communityactionpartnership.com) & [Energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov)

FOOD BANK: Filling the Need



Your help is needed to fill the shelves in the YCAP Food Bank so that partner pantries and meal sites have food available for families in need in our community!

Unfortunately, due to a variety of external factors, YCAP has seen significant reductions in USDA food distributions, local produce donations, recovered food from grocery stores, and donated items through food drives. These reductions coupled with increased demand due to recent cutbacks in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance

Program (SNAP) benefit amount and rising inflation has resulted in a persistent, substantial gap between the amount of food available and the need for food in our community.

As a result, YCAP has been purchasing additional food which costs 30% more than last year. Typically, Food Banks have paid \$0.59/lb for food, and currently the average is \$0.77/lb. For YCAP to purchase 100,000 pounds of food, the cost is now \$77,000 instead of \$59,000. On average, YCAP collects, purchases, and delivers 2 million pounds of food each year to families facing hunger in Yamhill County.

As a result of this crisis, the Food Bank has been unable to completely fill the orders from partner pantries and meal sites this summer, and we need your help to make sure we are able to fill those requests for food this fall and winter. A gift to the Food Bank made now on-line at <https://tinyurl.com/YCAPFoodBank> or in the envelope provided will help secure the additional food needed for children, adults, seniors, and the disabled in our community.

Please read the story below about how youth, businesses, and the Yamhill County Youth Livestock Auction answered YCAP's call for help in securing more high quality food for families in need.

FOOD BANK: Livestock Donations Feed Families



The Yamhill County Youth Livestock Auction broke records this year! Thanks to incredibly generous and supportive community donors, a total of 23 hogs, 2 lambs and 1 steer were donated to the YCAP Food Bank! In addition, Emma Matthiesen with the Country Critters 4-H Club pledged to donate the funds raised from her award winning goat after the auction. Emma raised an amazing \$2,068 with her Reserve Grand Champion Market Goat, and we are humbled by her generosity.

The livestock auction is an amazing combination of supporting the hard working youth in our community and providing quality protein from the donated livestock to help feed families in Yamhill County. We are so thankful for the outpouring of support for the YCAP Food Bank and the continued partnership with the Yamhill County Youth Livestock Auction!

