Community Action Center Builds Resilient Communities

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
2018

2018 by the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,981</td>
<td>1,981 pounds of unserved food rescued from WSU and distributed at Community Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,437</td>
<td>4,437 people served from Community Food Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>181</td>
<td>181 people learned cooking, nutrition, and food management skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>51 homes weatherized for energy efficiency and comfort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,557</td>
<td>1,557 households helped to stay warm and pay for energy through Energy Assistance programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>42 homeowners had their furnaces serviced, repaired, or replaced</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>626</td>
<td>626 individuals or households helped with eviction prevention or rent assistance to prevent homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175</td>
<td>175 people received emergency shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84%</td>
<td>84% of everyone helped with housing solutions stayed out of homelessness for 2 years or more</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Needs, Local Solutions

Community Action Center believes all Whitman County residents should have access to healthy homes and nutritious food.

We promote...
- The self-reliance of individuals and households
- Cooperation among communities
- Greater awareness of the causes of poverty and effective solutions

Community Action Center
Board of Directors • 2018-19

Glenn A. Johnson, Chair
Alana Inlow, Vice Chair
Bill Skavdahl, Secretary
Troy Henderson, Treasurer
Peter Holland, Board Member
Tom Johnson, Board Member
Annie Pillers, Board Member
Melanie Schaefer, Board Member
Francene Watson, Board Member

RESIDENT

“Our water pipes broke the first winter we lived in our 1912 house. My winter energy bill was $350 per month yet we would still be freezing. I could picture all that money pouring out those old windows. Thank you, Community Action Center, for making our home nice and cozy! After weatherization, we have not needed to use our space heaters. We save $200 per month on our winter energy bill. I am investing the money saved in my business!”

– Karena Wilcox, Community Housing Resident

BOARD MEMBER

“We tend to disconnect ourselves from those who are not like us. Serving on the board isn't about me, it's about building a community that cares for one another and believes all humans have a right to live without the anxiety of wondering if they'll be able to make ends meet tomorrow.”

– Alana Inlow, Board Member

STAFF

“Our cooking class series is about learning kitchen skills. But it is also a social event. Making food together creates a fun opportunity to learn about other ways we can meet the needs of our community.”

– Joe Astorino, Gardens and Nutrition Specialist

Your Investment in the Community

- Low Income Weatherization, 36 homes with projects: $668,017
- Rental Housing Vouchers, ~300 households/year: $1,540,000
- Emergency Housing & Needs, Transitional Housing, 850 households/year: $707,584
- Affordable Rentals & Housing Development, 256 households/year: $1,530,713
- Energy Assistance, 1,591 households/year: $738,021
- Community Food–Food Banks, Gardens & Kitchen; 7,000 visits/year: $236,744
- Facilities and Admin Support: $522,854

1981: Whitman County Regional Planning Council launches small office in Colfax for rental assistance, weatherization, and energy assistance.
1982-1988: Regional Planning Council responds to diverse urgent needs including offering computer classes, tutoring, and food help from the Colfax office.
1988: Community Action Center founded as a nonprofit and takes on services from the Whitman County Regional Planning Council. Whitman County Regional Planning Council dissolved.
1990: Community Action Center moves to 105 W Main Street, Pullman. Bellevue Duplexes become our first affordable housing complex.
1990s: CAC programming includes dental services, job training, and literacy skills.
Year in Review

Community Food
Palouse Tables Project, a regional Community Food Assessment, gathered input from 274 people to help design the next era of community food projects and partnerships. The final report is available online at www.cacwhitman.org/palousetablesproject/ and is currently serving as a foundation for new staffing positions and capital projects.

The Community Kitchen opened for rentals with commercial kitchen availability for business and community food services.

Weatherization Work
Fifty one households were served with energy saving improvements, providing work on 16 single family homes and 8 multifamily homes, for a total of 24.

In August 2018, Community Action Center Weatherization Program received generous funding from CEEP (Community Energy Efficiency Program) through Avista Utilities. This funding provides energy conservation measures in multifamily residences, and allowed us to install energy saving measures in several CAC affordable housing properties, as well as some privately owned rentals for residents with low income.

Energy Assistance
1,557 households received Energy Assistance. This includes 529 families threatened with shut-off notices, 57 Senior & Disabled households, 42 homeowners whose furnaces were repaired or replaced, and 50 households who received deliverable fuel.

Affordable Housing: Property Management
Over 200 households lived in our 14 Whitman County properties. We also offered affordable housing to individuals with disabilities who need supportive housing.

Housing Solutions
In 2018, there were 831 households looking for help to move out of homelessness, or to prevent homelessness. Of all those seeking help, over 430 moved into permanent housing, while some 16% receiving emergency shelter moved away or remained homeless. When we work to prevent homelessness for an individual or a household, 97% remain permanently housed.

Housing Choice Vouchers
The Whitman County Section 8 program faced severe challenges in 2018, due to a funder’s “freeze” on adding folks who needed housing assistance to the program. The freeze has ended, and we are working hard to get Housing Choice Vouchers to the many people who were waiting for this critical help. Those who are seeking this assistance are being helped as rapidly as possible, and we look forward to maximizing the total vouchers used in the county in 2019, which means stable housing for more people who need it.

The second annual Chef’s Challenge in March raised $13,000 for Community Food. Competing chefs sourced Community Food Bank ingredients to create nutritious, inviting dishes. Chef’s Challenge is the largest fundraising event for Community Food.

VOLUNTEER
“No matter how small you might feel in a crowd, anyone can make a difference when it comes food security. Whether it be food justice, sustainability, or education, we each have a part to play. The difference lies in whether or not one chooses to play it. You never know just how much you know, until you are able to teach someone something new.”
– Robyn Glessner, AmeriCorps VISTA, Pullman Community Action Center

River View Apartments
A new development of 56 homes for people with extremely low income, and for homeless, seniors, disabled, and veterans to be built in 2019.

Community Action Center has entered into a tax credit agreement with the investor group, R4, to help fund this Low Income Tax Credit Housing development. Breaking ground in spring of 2019, RiverView will start leasing housing in early 2020. This much-needed housing in Pullman will be close to services, transit routes, grocery stores, and both medical and dental providers.
Our 2019 Goals

- Work with Whitman County Health Network to report the 2018 Community Needs Assessment in Whitman County (Health, Social Services, Housing, and Food) and convene Community Conversations to address highest needs
- Work with partner agencies to expand county-wide “mobile” services program
- Continue expansion of restaurant food rescue program to local food businesses
- Expand cooking classes and nutrition education
- Continue delivery of SNAP-Ed nutrition education with three Whitman County school districts and begin to work with others to create opportunities
- Maintain year-round availability of fresh produce in the Community Food Bank
- Continue civil legal service referrals for seniors and people with low income, and further strengthen this service in the County
- Continue to build on the statewide Rural Home Repair Revolving Loan Fund to invest in improved rural housing
- Close financing, build out, and begin leasing of 56 units at the Riverview Apartments, housing for residents with low & extremely low income, and with other housing barriers
- Encourage more low-income households in Whitman County to apply for energy assistance, and remind households you do not need to have a shut-off notice or a disconnect notice to receive assistance
- Reduce or lessen the stigma of getting any kind of food, housing, or energy assistance

On September 4th, our Maple Street Apartments, housing vulnerable residents, was gutted by fire in one unit, and severely damaged the three other units in the building. Thanks to the Pullman Fire Department and CAC staff members Tim Connell and Bill Roberts, all of the residents were housed in hotel rooms immediately, with emergency food bank access to help with diapers, supplies, and emergency food.

With quality repair work completed by Interstate Restoration in March 2019, the total cost for recovery was over $400,000, but will provide for an essentially new residence for those who will move in April and May.

There’s still time to donate to 30-for-30

Give $30 to celebrate Community Action Center’s 30 years on the Palouse. Go to www.cacwhitman.org/donations/30-for-30/ for more information or to give.

Message from the Director

While 2018 was filled with both challenges and successes, we look to the coming year ready to serve Whitman County households to help each individual, family, and household reach their full potential—and to do so while providing hope for the future. Whether through food or nutrition education, housing assistance, or making connections to other community resources, please join us in the efforts to move people and communities to a positive future throughout Whitman County!

– Jeff Guyett, Executive Director

Our deepest thanks for private community support totaling $151,260 from foundations, corporate donors, community members, and partners. Community Action works, thanks to your generosity!