

YCAP NEWSLETTER

Quarterly newsletter for Yamhill Community Action Partnership.

■ Anniversary Edition 2020



HONORING 40 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ACTION IN YAMHILL COUNTY: From the Desk of Executive Director, Alexandra Hendgen

As YCAP begins its 40th year of service to the community, we honor the work of those who came before and are committed to their legacy of tackling the challenges ahead. YCAP's founders in 1980 realized the need for a strong, local non-profit social service agency to give a hand-up to struggling families. They wisely chose to connect to a nationwide effort, Community Action, which creates opportunities for all people to thrive, builds strong, resilient communities, and ensures a more equitable society.

The Promise of Community Action:

"Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other."

Over the years, YCAP has embodied this promise and grown with our community. At times, our programs such as Head Start and the Yamhill County Transit have been strong enough to become their own non-profits

and expand their work beyond anything imaginable 40 years ago.

As 2020 begins, YCAP looks to the future. We know the alarming challenges facing not only Yamhill County but also the nation include affordable housing and connecting people to healthcare, mental health services, and addiction treatment. While these issues are not new, they are increasing at a rapid rate and impact our entire community. Balancing focus on these vital areas while not losing sight of those who depend on the Food Bank, Energy Services, and Youth Outreach is the task before us today.

At YCAP we are honored to walk arm in arm with the many dedicated community members of Yamhill County, both from our past and present, to step into this work. This is what it takes to fulfill the Promise of Community Action and help people help themselves and each other. Please take a moment to enjoy a few memories from some of YCAP's courageous leaders, whose innovative work paved the way for a future full of hope and possibilities.

2020 YCAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

YCAP BOARD OFFICERS:

Ryan Connor, Chair
Beth Wytoski, Vice Chair
John Larsen, Treasurer
Arlene Worden, Secretary

Lindsay Berschauer
David Case
Gary Dawson
Jon George
Mary Starrett
Carrie Zimbrick



How has YCAP been there for you?

Are you one of the many people who has partnered with or received assistance from YCAP? If so, we would love to hear your story! Over the last 40 years, YCAP has had the honor of working with thousands of Yamhill County citizens and businesses, and we hope to continue doing that good work far into the future. Do you have a story about your experience with us that you'd like to share? Please take a few moments to tell us how YCAP has made a difference in your life, the life of a family member or friend, or in your community. Your story matters to us! **Please email your submissions to development@yamhillcap.org**

THE BEGINNING OF YCAP: An Interview with a Founder, Ted Lopuszynski



Ted in his McMinnville home, December 2019

Ted Lopuszynski first learned about community action programs in the mid-1970's, when he worked for the Salem School District and was in charge of federal projects. He worked closely with the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (MWVAA) during that time, and the agency served Yamhill County through government food distribution and information and

referral services. He was also aware of the Washington County Community Action Program, which was operated by the county. During his early years as Yamhill County commissioner, Ted felt the need for something similar in Yamhill County, so when the area became eligible by population (greater than 50,000 citizens) he opted to help form a private, non-profit, community action organization to serve Yamhill County citizens specifically.

On December 5th, 1979 (under Ted's direction) the Board of Commissioners formed Community Action Agency for Yamhill County (later called YCAP), to be located in McMinnville. They also established an Interim Board of Directors for the newly formed Community Action Program and held their first board meeting on December 13, 1979. In early 1980, by-laws for the program were enacted and YCAP opened its doors at 341 North Baker Street.

YCAP's First Year in Action: 1980

Gleaners (formerly affiliated with MWVAA) moved under YCAP with four gleaning groups in Yamhill County, and YCAP was designated as Regional Coordinating Agency for Oregon Food Share, the statewide food distribution network. By late 1980, YCAP had established the Weatherization Program and the foundation for the Low Income Energy Assistance Programs, both funded by the U.S. Department of Energy.

During that first year, Gleaners distributed 12,443 pounds of fresh produce, the YCAP Food Bank distributed 21,324 pounds of food and the YCAP Weatherization Program completed 29 homes in Yamhill County. The YCAP Youth Education and Employment Program began in 1981 and worked with 204 clients and 67 potential high school dropouts that same year.

THE BIG MOVE: by former Executive Director, Lee Means

Was it really only seven years? We accomplished so much together from June 2007 to June 2014, as we moved into a new era in the midst of the "Great Recession". YCAP programs had outgrown the building leased from the county located on 2nd Street in McMinnville; so, the Board had started the early planning stages of a multi-million dollar capital campaign to build a new home- a real challenge for a small agency in a small county!

Fortunately, YCAP had a solid reputation, extensive community support, and a strong group of staff and volunteers. County Commissioner and former Board Chair, Mary Stern, pulled together a small but powerful cadre to lead the capital campaign. Board

Finance Director, Mark Davis, oversaw the building budget, and with the help of Waldo Farnham and Lee Vasquez, the construction of the building. With the recruitment of a grant writer, we were well on our way!

Community members really stepped up to help YCAP move into the future. They served on committees, held campaign meetings, recruited other

volunteers and secured pledges to support fundraising for the new building. Staff took on campaign duties in addition to their regular jobs. In four short years, we raised the money, built the new structure and moved into our new home. It was the most amazing collaboration of volunteers, staff, and community I have ever experienced!



YCAP's current location, The Lee Means Campus, on Dustin Court in McMinnville

THE MELT DOWN



February 1-29

DELUXE EDITION



2020 YAMHILL COUNTY GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH CHALLENGE

BENEFITS YCAP FOOD BANK



The Restaurants and Bonus Stops:

1882 Grille • 3rd Street Pizza • The 411 Eatery & Lounge
 American Legion Post 21 • Bad Dog Bakery • Barley & Vine Tavern
 Bellevue Country Store • Bierly Brewing • Bistro Maison
 The Blue Goat • Blue Moon Lounge • Boho Yoga • Brooks Winery
 The By-Pass Bar and Grill • Carlton & Coast Tavern • Carlton Corners
 Chehalem Valley Brewing • Coleman Vineyards • The Common Cup
 The Conservatory Bar • Coyote Joe's • The Diner • Dundee Bistro
 Elk Cove Vineyards • Firehouse Subs • Fort Hill Public House
 Gerald's • Golden Valley Brewery • Grain Station
 Great Harvest Bread Co. • Harvest Fresh • Hawaii Five O Three
 The Horse Radish • Hunny Beez • J's Family Restaurant & Lounge
 Jem 100 • Laughing Bean Bistro • Liberty Belle Cafe at the Museum
 Local Flow Health Bar • Lonestar BBQ • Mac Daddy Doughnuts
 McMenamins Hotel Oregon • Morning Thunder • Newberg Bakery
 The Newburgundian Bistro • The Oak • Peirano & Daughter's Market
 Pulp & Circumstance • Red Hills Kitchen • Republic of Jam • Ribslayer
 Ruddick Wood • Sandwich Express McMinnville • Sandwich Express Newberg
 Social Goods • Sokol Blosser • Souper Sandwich Hut • Southern Pacific Grill
 Storrs Smokehouse • Third Street Books • Trade Street Tap House
 Trellis Wine Bar & Kitchen • Valley Commissary • WildWood Cafe
 Wildwood Hotel • Yamhill Bar and Grill • Yamhill Valley Dry Goods





YCAP OPEN HOUSE: January 22, 2020

sponsored by

**WELLS
FARGO**

YCAP's Article of Incorporation was approved on January 22, 1980. In honor of YCAP's 40 years of community action in Yamhill County, we invite you to join us for light refreshments and a tour of our facility on **January 22, 2020 from 3pm to 6pm**. Please join us while we share YCAP's history and thoughts for the future. This is a great time for you to visit with our staff and let us know how YCAP can continue to work with you or your business. We look forward to connecting with everyone who has helped make a difference in our community!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP)
Main Campus
1317 NE Dustin Court
McMinnville, OR 97128
503-472-0457
Office Hours: M-F 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m

Youth Outreach Center
719 E First Street
Newberg, OR 97132
503-538-8023
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—9:00 p.m.
YCAP is an equal opportunity provider and employer.