

YCAP NEWSLETTER

Quarterly newsletter for Yamhill Community Action Partnership.

■ Summer Edition 2020

Who would have thought in January that YCAP's 40th year of service to the community would be so momentous! A mere six weeks after YCAP honored the organization's founding, we were quickly forced to adapt to a new reality. Early days of the pandemic were filled with uncertainty as YCAP received daily briefings from local, state and federal agencies and information flooded in with guidelines changing by the hour. From day one, our team was committed to decision making that would provide **the highest degree of protection around essential services to Yamhill County residents** and be **proactive in our community action calling** as we forecasted upcoming needs.

Food access rapidly became a concern and one of the first visible impacts. Early decisions were made to keep our Regional Food Bank warehouse free of the virus, volunteers safe, and the food supply secure. To do this, the number people who could enter the Food Bank was limited to only a handful, and a second warehouse was established with a second Food Bank team in case the main warehouse needed to close temporarily. As food disappeared from grocery store shelves, the most vulnerable in our community could not stock up. Fortunately, the community stepped up in a big way and bridged the gap! Please take a minute to read the story about how you helped the Food Bank respond to COVID-19 and kept food on the table for families in need.

A difficult early decision was to close the front lobby of YCAP. To ensure the safety of our Regional Food Bank, clients, and staff, it was necessary to switch to virtual appointments via phone and online as much as possible. **These changes took some adjustment, but YCAP's Housing Stabilization team is now helping more people than ever with Rent Relief, case management, veteran support, and the new Motel Shelter Project.** The emergency Motel Shelter Project was launched very quickly in March in response to requests from local health providers for a safe place for people who were homeless and who were particularly susceptible to COVID-19 due to age or an underlying medical condition. Read more about the inspiring successes of this wonderful project in the pages ahead and on the YCAP Facebook page.

YCAP's Youth Outreach Drop-in Center in Newberg was also forced to close its doors due to COVID-19. The YO team employed incredible ingenuity and went to extraordinary efforts to support at-risk youth through phone, texting, and online communications. The two shelter programs run by Youth Outreach, the Transitional Living Program, and the SafeShelter Host Home Program

continued. Staff maintained close contact with the youth to ensure they were safe and to connect them with counseling resources. It has been imperative for the Youth Drop-in Center to reopen, in a new normal, and we are pleased to announce it reopened to youth on September 1st.

The Weatherization Program had to be put on hold briefly because of the risk of entering client homes, but we are thrilled to say the team now has appropriate PPE and prevention protocols and is able to serve clients in their homes again as of late July. **Fortunately, the Energy Assistance program was already operating on an innovative mail in model so the team was immediately able to start distributing CARES Energy funding to those who had been impacted by COVID-19 and who needed help paying overdue energy bills.**

While COVID-19 has challenged YCAP in every way possible and pushed us into new territory, the community rallying as one to help each other has lifted our spirits and sustained us in countless ways during this difficult time. We know the ramifications of this pandemic will be far reaching and felt in the coming years. YCAP will be here to serve because of your intentional engagement and incredible heart for all of your Yamhill County neighbors. **You are all truly the embodiment of community action, and we are honored by the gift of your continued trust and support.**

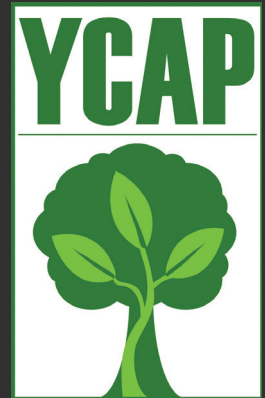
Alexandra Hendgen
Alexandra Hendgen
Executive Director, YCAP

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FOOD BANK: 1,340,364 Pounds Distributed From March-August



YCAP has seen a tremendous increase in the number of people who need help getting food during COVID-19. Fortunately, the community has stepped up and donated in record

amounts! YCAP's warehouse is currently stocked thanks to your generosity, and more than 1.3 million pounds of food has been distributed during COVID. This massive effort meant that people were able to feed themselves and their families. Even before COVID-19, more than 16% of children in Yamhill County were food insecure, and those numbers have increased significantly this year.

COVID-19 brought other changes to the YCAP Food Bank. The Food Bank has always operated with the help of a group of wonderful volunteers, who made up 70% of YCAP's Food Bank workforce and who are primarily seniors. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the virus, most of these volunteers had to take a step back from the Food Bank for safety. As a result, the Food Bank has been operating with a very small, dedicated crew of YCAP staff.

The lack of volunteers, paired with the rising demand for services, led to the creation of a more streamlined process; so, necessity truly is the mother of invention! One of the most significant changes is at the partner meal sites. Partner meal sites had to switch from dine-in meals to meals to go to keep in-person contact to a minimum.

Instead of being able to sit down and enjoy the meal at partner sites, people now pick up meals to take with them.

YCAP also started creating supplemental food boxes. Creation of food boxes for rapid deployment to partner pantries that saw an unanticipated spike in need was assisted by the addition of two warehouse spaces. First, Mac Market generously donated their space, and when that was outgrown, MV Advancements allowed their warehouse space to be used. YCAP also received donations of tens of thousands of boxes from local wineries to use for food and produce boxes.



In addition to changes in how the Food Bank distributes food, YCAP limited food donations from people's homes to help keep the warehouse virus free. Food donations were still accepted from individuals who purchased food online and had it shipped directly to the YCAP Food Bank from the stores. The plan is for food drives to restart in the fall, but that is largely dependent on the status of the virus. Please watch our Facebook for more details on upcoming food drives. YCAP is devoted to the health and safety of the community, and every precaution is being taken to ensure everyone has access to the food that they and their families need.

ENERGY AND WEATHERIZATION: COVID Energy Funds Available

COVID-19's impact on Energy and Weatherization services to seniors, people with disabilities, and individuals that are homebound have been significant. Normally, weatherization conducts in-person inspections, data collection, and workshops; however, to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the program had to be restructured to ensure contractors, clients, and staff remained safe.

Weatherization service delivery was redesigned to ensure staff and contractors comply with all current CDC guidelines. If clients were comfortable and safe, contractors continued working on the homes this summer, and YCAP staff are now in the process of inspecting the work and closing the projects.

In order to continue providing energy education, YCAP has been working on converting these in-person educational workshops to an online alternative that clients can access from their home computers. In addition to online education, clients receive a bag with energy-saving items such as shower timers, LED lights, faucet aerators, etc. that were donated by Lowe's.

Energy Services has also recently received additional funding to help pay the client's outstanding balances on energy bills. To be eligible, the household income must be at or below 80% of the Area Median Income. If you know anyone who may need this assistance, please have them visit www.yamhillcap.org/energy for additional information and to print the application forms.

Household Size	Annual Gross Income*	Monthly Gross Income*
1	\$51,600	\$4,300
2	\$59,000	\$4,920
3	\$66,350	\$5,530
4	\$73,700	\$6,145
5	\$79,600	\$6,635
6	\$85,500	\$7,125
7	\$91,400	\$7,620
8	\$97,300	\$8,110
9	\$103,200	\$8,600
10	\$109,100	\$9,095
11	\$115,000	\$9,585
12	\$120,900	\$10,075
Each Additional Member	\$5,896	\$495

Income Eligibility Guidelines for Energy Assistance Coronavirus Relief Fund (EASCR-20): 80% of Area Median income by Household Size (Clackamas, Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill)

CLIENT SERVICES: Rapid Response

As COVID-19 spread around world and to our community, YCAP responded quickly to keep serving those most in need during the pandemic. Since March, YCAP has seen a 20% increase in individuals experiencing homelessness in Yamhill County and a 60% increase in calls from families trying to keep their homes. Through the struggles brought by the pandemic, our community has never faltered. Key partners have helped YCAP ensure the safety of your friends, neighbors, and coworkers. In response to the virus, YCAP's Housing Stabilization team created new programs, expanded current programs, and kept people informed.

One of the most well-known and successful new programs has been the Emergency Motel Shelter Project. This project, which launched in March, identifies individuals and families who are medically at high risk for COVID-19 (elderly, medically fragile, etc.) and require a low barrier shelter option. The project secures motel rooms so people can shelter in place while also connecting with YCAP case managers for longer-term housing solutions. Working closely with public health and area hospitals, 84 individuals were identified as high risk and sheltered during the worst of the pandemic. Of those sheltered, more than half have moved into long term housing, checked into treatment centers, or are actively working with a case manager. This successful project was created and launched quickly by YCAP due to tremendous collaboration between the Cities of McMinnville and Newberg, Yamhill County, Providence Newberg Medical Center, the Public Health Department, area motels, and private donors.

In addition to the motel project, YCAP also collaborated with the Public Health Department to create an outreach card that uses CDC guidelines to inform individuals experiencing homelessness on how to avoid contracting and spreading COVID-19. These cards were attached to sanitizer and handed out to those living unsheltered in Yamhill County. In addition, the Give A Little Foundation generously supplied eight handwashing stations that YCAP distributed across Yamhill County. These handwashing stations, which are effective and low tech, are consistently supplied with soap and water and have been placed in the areas visited frequently by people who are unsheltered.



While YCAP's largest source of funding is from governmental programs, individual contributions provide the most flexibility and can help fill gaps not covered by these funds. One such gap is the supplies needed to create motel kits and street to home kits. These kits include basic needs like deodorant, microwavable plates, sheets, blankets, etc. If you would like to help create one of these kits, please visit our website for a complete list. Thank you to everyone who has already generously supported YCAP this year. You make this work possible.

YOUTH SERVICES: Reopened September 1st

Even when the Drop-In Center was closed, Youth Outreach worked to keep youth safe during the pandemic by focusing efforts on expanding outreach to runaway and homeless youth. Staff visited places where youth hang out to provide information and support. Two outreach workers regularly connected with youth to hand out water, snacks, health supplies, and hygiene products. Staff is also educating youth about the pandemic, including how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the location of testing sites in case youth believe they have become infected. Any youth found not to have a mask is provided one by the outreach worker in YCAP's continuing effort to help flatten the curve and prevent the spread of the virus.

Outreach workers are also key to determining what other kinds of support a youth needs, including counseling, food, or shelter. If unsheltered, youth are encouraged to participate in one of YCAP's two housing programs, the Transitional Living Program for youth between the ages of 16 and 21 and the SafeShelter Host Homes program for youth that are between the ages of 11 and 17.

The Transitional Living Program provides safe, long-term housing for up to 18 months and support services such as life skills, education attainment, job development, and trauma-informed counseling.

The Safe Shelter Program provides short-term emergency shelter for up to 21 days. This program partners with host homes to offer a safe, stable, and comfortable environment for young people experiencing homelessness while Youth Outreach works to find a suitable long-term solution. Often this involves locating other relatives who are available to assist the youth or providing counseling services for family reunification. If you are interested in becoming a host family, please contact Youth Outreach at 503-472-0457 ext. 1001.



Thank you to all of the wonderfully generous individuals who donated during the COVID-19 pandemic!

You quickly responded to the need and helped bridge the gap until funds could arrive from state and federal sources. In addition to individuals, the following businesses, foundations, and local governments stepped up to help those most in need over the last six months, and we want to recognize them for their tremendous support:

Austin Family Foundation

Boersma's Sewing Center Inc.

Calmoseptine Ointment

City of Lafayette

City of McMinnville

City of Newberg

Jackson Family Enterprises, Inc.

Confederated Tribes of Siletz

Forest Glen Oaks, Inc.

Give A Little Foundation

Gormley Plumbing and Mechanical

Hampton Lumber

Northwest Farm Credit Service

OnPoint Community Credit Union

Oregon Community Foundation

Oregon Food Bank

PGE Foundation

Providence Health and Services

Soter Vineyards, LLC

Subaru of America, Inc

Sunrise Family Clinic

The Albertsons Companies Foundation

The Ford Family Foundation

Yamhill Community Care Organization

Yamhill County

Wells Fargo

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



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503-472-0457 ext. 1001
Office Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
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