



WASHINGTON GORGE ACTION PROGRAMS

The Community Action Agency for Skamania and Klickitat Counties

1250 E Steuben Street Bingen, WA 98605 509.493.3954 | 800.755.1192 | www.wgap.ws

WGAP 2013 Annual Report

Helping People. Changing Lives.

From The Desk of The Executive Director, *Linda Schneider*

In 1993, a man in torn, stained work clothes with a scruffy Australian hat came in to my office. My first thought was, "What now?" It was David Duncombe teaching me the first of many life lessons. David became involved with WGAP gradually: volunteering during shelter construction, becoming a Board member, leading the Public Relations Committee, completing my performance

evaluations every year (He was tough). Those are the things he did, but how did he impact this agency? What were the beliefs he taught us to follow?

It is important for us to represent the faceless, voiceless, and powerless in arenas where they are not welcome.

We must promote social justice beginning by treating every person who walks in

our doors with dignity and respect.

We, as an agency, must believe that one person can make a difference.

We must work toward enlightening and encouraging others toward self-sufficiency

We will approach diversity with respect and dignity regardless of talents, backgrounds, and perspectives.

In our daily work, we will nurture and help build strong communities.

David did so much to help his community, the state, the nation, and the world. WGAP was fortunate to receive many, many volunteer hours from David. As we work to help others become self-sufficient, we follow David's example and are better for it.

Welcome New Board Executive Committee

This last year, Stephen White, who had served on our board since 2007, stepped down as President. Cheryl Steindorf, a board member since 2004 and Vice-President under Stephen, stepped up to replace him.

Cheryl is the Area Manager of the Goldendale area for the Mid-Columbia Children's Council. Cheryl got her start with WGAP while advocating for Klickitat County families through her work at Head Start. She was interested in referring families to county resources, so WGAP became a natural partner. Cheryl is very active in her community and with the Horizons program in Klickitat. Though we are sad to see Stephen go, we look forward

to the future under Cheryl's leadership. Joining Cheryl, are Roger Gadway as Vice-President and Ken Johnson as Secretary-Treasurer.

Roger Gadway has been on the WGAP Board of Directors since November of 1993. Roger joined the Board when he was the Director of Klickitat County Senior Services and Mt Adams Transportation. Even after his retirement from his county position, Roger remains a very active WGAP Board Member. Roger has been a member of the WGAP Finance Committee helping to develop the annual budgeting process and, most recently, expenditure reports. His length of service and committed involvement makes Roger, in a

lot of ways, the agency historian.

Ken Johnson first joined the WGAP Board of Directors in 1993. He left one year later in 1994. In 2008, he was asked if he would consider returning. He said 'yes'. In addition to being a regular Board Member, Ken has served as Secretary-Treasurer for the last 5 years. His responsibilities included overseeing the A-133 audit, monthly Financial Statements, and Department budgets. It hasn't always been easy. Ken recommended difficult changes such as reduced work hours and elimination of some employee benefits. Long term, these changes have made the agency stronger.

We have a wonderful, caring board and we are so thankful for their time, their guidance, and their valuable advice.

Cheryl Steindorf
President



Roger Gadway
Vice-President

Ken Johnson
Secretary-Treasurer



A Success Story: *Danika Kennedy*



Danika Kennedy is a young mother who started out here at WGAP through the

Community Jobs Program run by *People For People*.

Danika had previously worked as a cashier at a local gas station but had to quit when gas prices rose too high to make her commute to work equitable. Needing assistance and a new job, DSHS referred her to the Community Jobs program who placed her here at WGAP. Danika interned at WGAP while she performed her job search and learned valuable workforce skills.

Impressed with her work ethic and ability to learn quickly, WGAP offered Danika a full-time position upon completion of her program. Danika happily accept-

ed and in June she joined us full-time as a Program Aide for our Weatherization Department. We're very excited to welcome Danika to the WGAP family.

You can contact Danika if you would like to learn more about our Weatherization program. Whether you have questions about your own eligibility or would just like to learn more about what it does here in our community, Danika would be happy to answer your questions.

Call: **509.493.2662 ext. 202**

Email: danika@wgap.ws

23 homes were weatherized in 2013



Nick and Danika making a home more energy efficient by installing new windows.



Ken, Program Director

Weatherization Services

Stevenson High-School Student Volunteers Time At Food Bank

Jacob is an honor roll student who is in his Junior year at Stevenson High-School. He volunteers almost every day after school at the Stevenson Food Bank and has been a tremendous help. In addition to volunteering his time and maintaining his grades while taking college level classes, Jacob also participates in several sports.

Jacob says that he's helping out not only because he wants to be involved in his community and give back, but also because volunteer work looks great on a

college application. This is definitely something young people should take into consideration as they gear up for college and the job market. Volunteer work is an excellent opportunity for them to gain valuable skills and real world experience.

We are so grateful for Jacob's help at the Food Bank and we're proud of him for having the drive to make a difference in his community at such a young age.

Stevenson Food Bank: **509.427.8229**



Jacob



What Is A Community Action Agency?



Washington Gorge Action Programs is a Community Action Agency. But do you know what a Community Action Agency (CAA) is? CAAs were created as part of the 1964 Economic Opportunity Act to fight poverty. They were created with the idea that in order for people to get

out of poverty they needed to be able to become self-sufficient and be directly involved in the programs that help them.

CAAs are run by a tripartite board, which means that the board is made up of three parts: public officials, private sector leaders, and low-income people from the local community that is being served. This is very important because it keeps the agency grounded by the community it serves and it creates a bridge between those helping and those being helped. It enables all of us to be able to see things from a different perspective.

CAAs are funded primarily by Community Services Block Grants. This means that each agency has to decide based on their local need where the money can be

most useful. Different communities have different needs and no one knows those needs better than those who are directly involved in the community.

The main objective of CAAs is to promote self-sufficiency among the population it serves. As part of its goal of promoting self-sufficiency, CAAs rely heavily on volunteers, especially those from the low-income community. Contact us to find out how you can help!

Call: 509.493.2662

Email: Leslie@wgap.ws

11, 869 hours were volunteered in 2013!

No Show Ball: Thank You All!

Since its debut 8 year ago, the No Show Ball has been WGAP's main fundraising event. No Show Ball funds are put to use when all other avenues of help have been exhausted. People who might otherwise be turned away are able to receive services because of the generosity of kind people like you. **THANK YOU!**

This was a record breaking year, bringing in **\$17,837.30** and we have all of you to thank.

Funds this year were used to help an elderly veteran who had fallen behind on his property taxes avoid eviction from his home. They were used to help a couple who had fallen on hard times and were expecting their first child to avoid shut-off of their heat. There are countless stories such as these and with your donations you can help us create more happy endings.

Check out our website to find out how you can help make a difference, too! You can learn more about our monthly giving plans or donate directly through our website.

www.wgap.ws/donate

Donors who contributed at the \$1,000 level or above

Aromatics, Inc.

Lakeside Industries, Inc.

Kevin McNevin & Wendy Willow

Joseph & Patty Schlick

Stevenson Business Assoc.

Bridgemart

Kevin Lohman

Russell Investments

Small World Travel

Tom Arnold Logging, Inc.

Donors who contributed at the \$500 level or above

Bella Berlly

Innovative Composite Engineering

Katie & Ian Muirden

Andrew & Kaori Stewart

Robert & Heather Weisfield

Brian & Ronda Griffin

Mountain Logging, Inc.

Solstice Café

R.H. & Sharon Van Alstine

“We feel the programs that are umbrellaed under WGAP are important. They are effective and operate on a tight budget which means they are efficient. It is a local organization that assists those most in need.”

WGAP donors *Paul & Susan Pennington* on why they give to the *No Show Ball*.

Margie Michaels and the Gleaners, Leading The Way To Food Security

Recently we have come to the conclusion that our food bank model as it stands, just isn't working. That's not to say that the aid we provide isn't necessary, because it is, but it acts as more of a Band-Aid rather than a solution. This is where Margie Michaels comes in.

Margie is currently working with WGAP through VISTA, a division of AmeriCorps. Margie's primary purpose while working here at WGAP is to help us come up with ways to promote food security. This includes learning how to grow, harvest, prepare, and store food, all while teaching our clients sustainability and helping them to maintain their sense of dignity. Keep an eye out for exciting new happenings here at WGAP,

including more of an emphasis on gleaning and eating fresh, local food, community gardens, and finding ways for our clients to learn to grow and harvest their own food. We hope that this will help set them on the path to food security and self-sufficiency. Food security is a primary need. Imagine how much easier life would be if you didn't have to worry about where your next meal was coming from. We hope that giving people the power to be able to grow and provide their own food will empower them to take control in other areas of their lives.

The Food Bank is always looking for volunteers, contact us to find out how you can help!

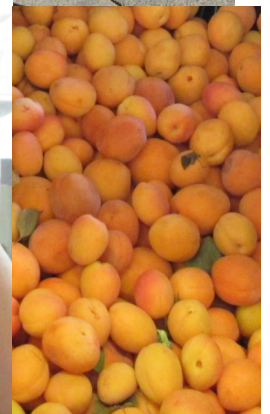
(509) 493-2662



Margie Michaels, VISTA Volunteer



12,635 food boxes containing **697,231** lbs. of food were distributed in 2013.



Second Hand Rose: Your Community Thrift Store

Second Hand Rose (SHR) is WGAP's community thrift store. Not only does it provide a valuable resource by providing quality, affordable, used clothing and household items, but it has also fulfilled a community need by providing a place for people to bring their donations.

SHR offers a voucher program so that people who might not be able to otherwise afford it can shop and get the clothing and household items that they need. For job seekers looking for a new outfit for a job interview, this has proven to be invaluable. 59 clothing vouchers were provided this year for those in need.

The store is also meeting another community need by providing much needed on the job training for people interested

in completing our Retail Sales Training program. At the end of the program, participants are awarded a certificate which states that they've been trained in Retail. This can provide a leg up in a competitive job market.

As *Second Hand Rose* evolves and finds its niche within our community it has become not only a store for those who desperately need it, but also a place where anyone can find fun items and enjoy a little retail therapy.

SHR couldn't survive without all of our wonderful volunteers and donations from our caring community, thank you all!

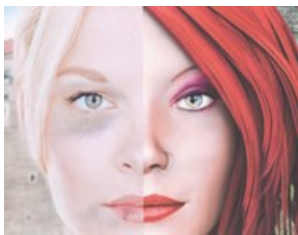
Second Hand Rose is located at 223 W. Steuben St., in downtown Bingen.



Pictured here is Carol Cox, manager of Second Hand Rose



Programs For Peaceful Living: Working Towards A Better Future



Programs For Peaceful Living (PFPL) is WGAP's domestic violence prevention program.

Due to the sensitive nature of the program it is difficult to present success stories, but rest assured; PFPL is hard at work behind the scenes caring for those who have been victims of domestic violence and trying to prevent further crimes.

Domestic violence situations often go unnoticed because of the intense shame that goes along with being victimized by it. Often, it is the victims who work the hardest to cover it up. We must all work together to remove the stigma that is so closely associated with those who suffer in domestic violence situations and work not only to care for the victims but to educate the public. If we are educated and aware of what constitutes domestic violence it is much harder to be victimized and it is harder to turn a blind eye to those suffering right here in our community.

In 2013, PFPL provided 59 people with emergency protections from violence and 340 people with emergency legal assistance.

According to the United States Office on Violence against Women, a woman is beaten or assaulted every nine seconds. Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in the United States.

Community Youth Center

WGAP's *Community Youth Center* has truly become an invaluable part of our local community. Parents can feel good knowing that their kids have a safe place to go after school, where they can interact with positive role models, get help with their home work, eat nutritious dinners, and have fun!

This last year the Youth Center received a NAILBA grant which enabled us to be able to provide the kids with a nutritious dinner twice a week.

As part of its goal of promoting self-sufficiency and teaching valuable life skills the kids do several hours of litter patrol each month to earn special privileges like going to the pool or going bowling.

The kids have also recently begun growing and selling vegetables and herbs at the local Farmer's Market in White Salmon. Along with teaching them valuable job skills it has also been a lot of fun.

White Salmon Community Youth Center:
453 Jewett Blvd., White Salmon, WA
49 youth were enrolled in the program in 2013

Kid Quotes: "Why I like the Youth Center..."

"I like the ping-pong table and going to the pool."

"It's a great place to socialize and have fun."

"It has the Wii and the Playstation and best of all, you can be yourself here!"

"Computers!"



Representative Payee Program



Tori, Program Coordinator
Representative Payee

A homeless man, living on the street and experiencing all of the problems that go along with homelessness, began our Representative Payee Program. Once he was enrolled in the program and receiving help with proper money management he was able to secure housing, get furniture, clothing and food, and pay his bills on time. As a result, he is now leading a much happier, successful life, and enjoys the security of knowing that he doesn't have to worry about money management.

Our Payee Program is authorized by the Social Security Department to receive benefit checks on behalf of clients. The Program Coordinator then takes care of

paying the client's bills, medical expenses, food, transportation needs, and helping the client budget.

For people who have trouble with money management, are elderly or disabled, or have drug and alcohol addictions the program is a lifesaver. Proper money management is a key element of keeping a client self-sufficient and our Program Coordinator works closely with clients to make sure that all of their needs are met.

In 2013, 102 clients were enrolled in the program.

Transitional Housing: Goldendale

A woman came to our office and asked for help, she was homeless with a 9 year old daughter and sleeping temporarily at a church. She had reached rock bottom and was now trying to get out of her mess. She was very open about her past and the mistakes that had landed her in her current position. She had a long history of drug and alcohol addiction during which time she had made poor choices and gained a criminal history. Having lost her job; she racked up a lot of debt which caused her to lose her home and prevent future housing options due to her rental history and poor credit. She had no transportation, no income, and nowhere left to turn. She had however, completed an inpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation program.

We were able to get the woman and her daughter enrolled in our Transitional Housing Program and right from the start she made positive changes. A stabilization plan was put into place and the woman started to set goals for herself. The pastor of the church gave her a loan to purchase a car and she worked for the

church to pay it off. She applied for and received her unemployment which she put towards insurance for her car and some debt. She then took a class and received her CNA certificate and quickly got a job as a care giver. However, four months later, her past caught back up with her and because of her criminal history she could not continue working as a care giver. After her initial feeling of hopelessness she came up with a new goal to expunge her criminal history. During this time she enrolled in the TANF program and continued to pay off her court fines and debt. She also focused on her physical health with her doctor, and through diet and exercise she continued to stay clean and sober. The workshops required in our program helped her change many behavioral barriers as well as teaching budgeting and starting a savings account.

In February, she received a large tax refund and put the entire amount towards her past debts and paid them off which changed her credit and rental history. She completed everything the courts required to expunge her criminal

history and got her job back. She stayed in our program for the full two years then transitioned into affordable permanent housing. She is still employed, volunteers at her church, and continues to help guide others in a positive direction. She continues to be a true success story.



Deedee, Program Aide
Goldendale Housing

Energy Assistance: Help With Heating Bills During The Winter



Each Fall, thanks to funding through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Skamania Operation Warm Heart, NW Natural, Avista, Project Share, and our own No Show Ball funds, WGAP is able to provide Energy Assistance to those who qualify and need it.

WGAP gives top priority to seniors, spending a few days out in the field at local senior centers in White Salmon, Lyle, Stevenson, and Goldendale col-

lecting applications and determining eligibility. With heat costs on the rise, it is often seniors who are hit the hardest as their fixed income doesn't change just because the heating bill does.

So many families right here in our community struggle each year with their heating bill. When they're already having a hard time making ends meet, the extra cost during the cold winter months can be devastating and a bill can quickly snowball out of control. Our Energy Assistance Program is able to give these families and individuals the help they need to make it through the year and stay healthy and warm.

Energy costs as a whole are on the rise and it has become increasingly obvious to us here at WGAP that this is an issue that needs to be addressed not just in the winter but throughout the year.

Recently, we received a call about a disabled couple who were both diabet-

ic and insulin dependent and had their power shut off. A poor judgment call meant that they were short on their PUD bill. No electricity meant no refrigeration and they were in danger of their insulin going bad. All of our energy assistance funding had been exhausted for the year but we were able to use money from No Show Ball funds to restore their power and make sure that this family was able to stay healthy.

661 households received energy assistance in 2013.



The Guided Path: Woman Starts Anew



The sun shines over the Guided Path grounds

A woman who had exhausted all other resources and had nowhere left to go came to live at WGAP's shelter at the Guided Path. She was suffering from severe anxiety issues and as a result was not sleeping. As you can imagine, this

was affecting all other areas of her life. Her anxiety was so bad that often she couldn't even leave her room at the shelter to look for a job or to get the mental health help that she needed.

There was talk of institutionalizing her as she had worked with several different doctors and tried many different meds, none of which seemed to be working. She even had to be rushed to the emergency room twice as a result of severe reactions to some of her meds. Nobody, including her, knew what to do to help her. As a last ditch effort she was sent to consult with the doctor at Comprehensive Mental Health in White Salmon. This doctor was able to suggest a new med regiment which actually worked for her, her anxiety became manageable and she was able to start sleeping again. After a little less than 90 days at the shel-

ter, and as a result of her newfound health, she was able to secure a job as a caregiver and find permanent housing outside of the shelter.

She has stayed in contact with the Guided Path's Program Coordinator and she continues to do well. Success stories such as this are what make our work all worth it. If this woman hadn't found our program we know that the ending could have been tragic.

Sometimes people just need a helping hand or a compassionate ear. We're thankful when we can be either.

2,031 shelter bed nights provided in Klickitat and Skamania counties in 2013.



Recognition Evening 2013

Recognition Evening started in 2011. The idea was to honor those from our community who are leading by example and making our communities better places to live, work, and play.

Roger and Diane Gadway of "Gadzukes!" began the evening with an amazing medley of songs for everyone's enjoyment. Since 2011, "Gadzukes!" has provided the musical entertainment. It is something everyone looks forward to.

The evening continued with the traditional Second Hand Rose Fashion Show. Several models strolled down the runway displaying incredible bargains that were all available for sale at Second Hand Rose. There were children's clothes, cowboy outfits, evening wear, and even a bridal gown.

The WGAP Board of Directors were introduced. These individuals volunteer a lot of time to guide the agency making sure it meets the public needs.

The WGAP staff were then introduced. Linda Schneider, Executive Director, talked about their hard work, compassion, and caring for those the agency serves. It was obvious she is very proud of the staff.

At this Recognition Evening, for the first time, each Department was given an opportunity to honor one of their volunteers.

Liz Paulson and the Community Youth Center members honored **Micki Caldwell**. Micki is a long time Youth Center volunteer providing art instruction on a weekly basis. She has helped the members create beautiful works of art that have been displayed at the White Salmon Library and Skyline Hospital.

Kevin Summa, from the Guided Path, honored **Kathy Richards** as that program's volunteer extraordinaire. Kathy has worked on the Guided Path garden, landscaping, and shelter. She has also volunteered on a regular basis at the WGAP Food Bank. Her work has enhanced the shelter environment which truly lifts the spirits of those in need.

Our Skamania County office recognized **Annie Davis**. For over 20 years, Annie has managed the Skamania County Clothing Bank. Annie and her volunteers have provided clothing and household items to low income residents. Annie is retiring to Arizona this year.

The Nutrition Program recognized 3 super volunteers: **Tracy Kaden, Casey Milnes, and Jane Allen**. These volunteers travel from Goldendale to Bingen to help with the food distribution and warehouse work. Over time, they have proven to be reliable, conscientious, and knowledgeable.

Second Hand Rose recognized **Claire**

Bryant and Babs Smith. These two ladies sort and hang thousands of items of donated clothing each month. They are great at finding rips, tears, and stains and make sure that only the best items go up for sale.

This year, **Brian Wanless** was selected as the agency's overall Community Champion. Brian lives in the Goldendale area, but his good works have impacted all of Klickitat County. Brian started the Backpack for Kids program. It is a program that sends meals home with kids in their backpack for the weekend. This is a huge help to kids who rely on the nutrition that school meals provide. He is also a member of Community Enrichment for Klickitat County (CEKC), a non-profit community benefit organization, the County Broadband committee and an active member of his church.

The WGAP Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers all recognize the value of making a difference no matter how big or small. Imagine what all of us working together can accomplish.

Join us.



Pictured left: Bruce Bolme, Board Member, Brian Wanless, Community Champion 2013, and Linda Schneider, Executive Director

Washington Gorge Action Programs

Main Office
1250 E. Steuben St.
Bingen, WA 98635

Phone: 509.493.2662
Fax: 509.493.4430
Website: www.wgap.ws
Facebook: www.facebook.com/wgapws



Partners with:

WGAP 2013 Board of Directors

Cheryl Steindorf—**President**

Roger Gadway—**Vice-President**

Ken Johnson—**Secretary Treasurer**

Bob Anderson

Bruce Bolme

Darlene Dickson

Rex Johnson

Tammy Manner

Evelyn Morey

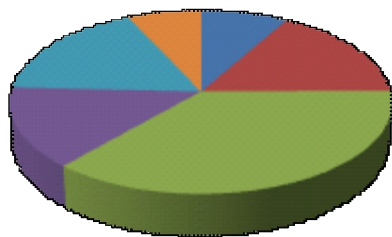
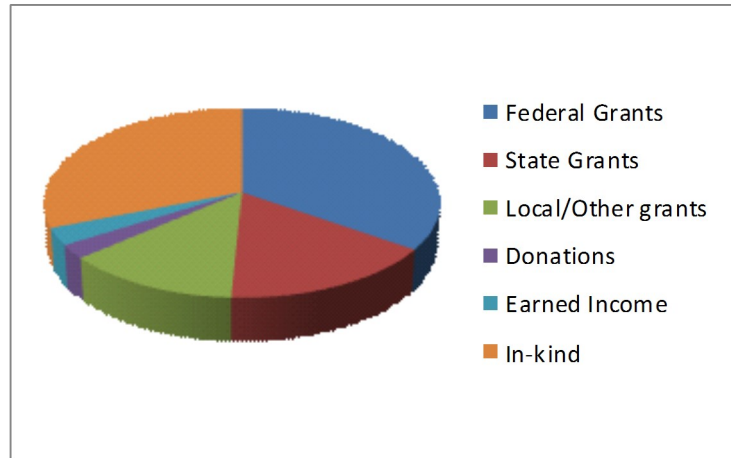
Mary Salter

Debi Van Camp

WGAP'S 2013 Audited Financial Information

WGAP Sources of Funding:

Federal Grants	\$ 1,035,078
State Grants	\$ 477,216
Local/Other grants	\$ 385,623
Donations	\$ 70,566
Earned Income	\$ 87,941
In-kind	\$ 923,295
Total	\$ 2,979,719



- Block Grant/Other
- Energy & Weatherization
- Food
- Family Services
- Housing

How We Distribute Our Funds:

Block Grant/ Other	\$ 245,505
Energy & Weatherization	\$ 493,094
Food	\$ 1,089,852
Family Services	\$ 425,753
Housing	\$ 515,245
Administration	\$ 205,568
Total	\$ 2,975,017