



# WASHINGTON GORGE ACTION PROGRAMS

The Community Action Agency for Skamania and Klickitat Counties

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## 2022 WAGAP Annual Report

Your Community Action Agency.

Helping People. Changing Lives.

Learn more at  
[www.wagap.org](http://www.wagap.org)

### Success by the Numbers

Households Helped **5,048**

Individuals Helped **10,408**

Volunteer Hours **4,669**

Emergency Temporary Shelter Provided **157**

Food Boxes Distributed **11,858**

Emergency Protections from Violence Issued **57**

Legal Assistance **455**

Households Receiving Energy Assistance **864**

Children Enrolled at Youth Center **140**



The Mobile Food Bank launched in September with routes in rural Klickitat and Skamania counties.

From the desk of the Executive Director

## So much to be proud of here at WAGAP

2022 was a tough year as COVID continued, along with great community demand for services, and we worked under-staffed. **But there was also so much good.**

We had the largest budget to date, we upped staffing from 34 in 2019 to 55 in 2022 and worked closely with the community.

**We went all-in on our social and racial equity work.** El Grito had its debut event,

we partnered to provide vaccine clinics for our Spanish speaking neighbors and received a large grant to do even more equity work and hire a new director.

**The work of equity is a journey, not a destination.** We continue to push through with a learning mindset. **We know we can do this.**

### More highlights:

- We launched the new Mobile Food Bank.
- We co-hosted the Affordable Housing



Roundtables.  
- We added Spanish language options to our website and newsletter.

**It is with a full heart that I say thank you. We couldn't do this without you all.**

In gratitude,

Leslie Naramore

## Our Mission

**Strengthening community by inspiring hope and helping people help themselves.**

### Washington Gorge Action Programs long term agency goals:

*To reduce the negative impact of poverty on individuals, families, and communities.*

*To foster individual and family self-sufficiency, health, and well being.*

*To advocate for economic and social justice in our communities.*

*To alleviate violence through projects, community education, advocacy, and social change.*

*To reduce hunger and malnutrition and promote food security.*

## An Overview of our Programs

### Emergency Services

Crisis intervention, housing, utilities, referrals

### Programs for Peaceful Living (Klickitat Co)

Domestic Violence Services & Prevention

Sexual Assault Services & Prevention

### Crime Victim Services (Klickitat Co)

Support for victims of crimes

### Pathways Care Coordination (Klickitat Co)

Helping individuals live healthier lives and get the support they need

### Energy Assistance

Assistance with utility bills and shut off prevention

### Weatherization

Referral to services to increase home energy efficiency

### Food Banks

Monthly and emergency food distribution

### Mobile Food Bank

Monthly distribution to rural communities

### Commodity Supplemental Food Program

Additional food for low-income seniors

### Emergency Shelter

Short Term emergency housing

Emergency warming and cooling shelters

### Permanent Supportive Housing

Long term housing with case management for persons with disabilities

### Turning Point Rapid Rehousing

Two year self-sufficiency program with housing

### Homelessness Prevention Activities

First month rent, security deposit, and homelessness prevention

### Second Hand Rose

Thrift store providing vouchers & job training

### Information and Referral

Link those in need with community resources



### The Harbor

Drop-in center for homeless youth ages 13-24.

Family resources for all ages, located in Goldendale.

### Youth Substance Use Prevention:

Our Klickitat—Drug Free Communities

CPAKC—Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative for Goldendale School District

K-Link—Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative for White Salmon Valley School District

### Community Youth Center

An afterschool drop-in facility for youth ages 6-17



Helps here!





## *New Five Year Strategic Plan Objectives*

Goals approved by the Board of Directors June 13, 2022

- Become a community leader in equity by focusing on equity for the whole agency and community.
- To support the mission of WAGAP, continue building strong, equitable partnerships with a variety of community organizations.
- To address the needs of low-income working parents, develop childcare options throughout the two-county area.
- To increase opportunities for more affordable housing, work with housing partners, and advocate broadly.
- Diversify funding streams to enhance the future sustainability of WAGAP.

Together with our staff, board, volunteers, and partners, we will continue to focus on addressing a reduction in poverty, revitalizing low-income communities, and empowering people with low income levels to become more self-sufficient.

It's what we do:

Helping People. Changing Lives.

## **Pandemic takes a toll**

The pandemic had a detrimental effect on the success of **Second Hand Rose**. WAGAP's community thrift store lost a tremendous amount of business and nearly all of its volunteers since the start of 2020.

The store serves several vital functions throughout Klickitat and Skamania counties. Families obtain essential items while having a dignified shopping experience in a safe environment.

The store's voucher system allows clients in need to use credit toward items like clothing, shoes, kitchen appliances and household items. Previously, job training was also a unique opportunity at the store, helping clients get back into the workforce.

While the store has declined, other programs have grown, causing a need for more office space. Seeing the value of what Second Hand Rose offers, the Board of Directors instructed staff to redirect

energy toward promoting its use and re-establishing the volunteer base while planning to reduce the size by 50 percent.



## *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.



## 2022 Highlights

### Focus on social and racial equity issues

Investing in community members from all backgrounds is essential to our mission. This year we put a tremendous focus on our investment into equity. This meant sharing stories from local people who experience poverty or injustices or who fight for the rights of people who are impacted but do not feel they have a voice in decision making.

#### Ubaldo Hernández

WAGAP Board member and senior organizer for Columbia Riverkeeper, shared his story about immigrating to the U.S. from Mexico and making his way to a better life. He has shared his knowledge so others can also improve their conditions. Promoting social justice issues, especially for farm workers and their families, is key to his mission. And he wants to get more people involved in their communities.



Hernández helped to develop Comunidades, an organization to amplify voices for environmental and social justice in the Columbia River Gorge. It offers training to help people develop leadership skills and works on issues surrounding affordable housing and overtime pay for farmworkers by advocating for new legislation.

“We are empowering the community,” Hernández said and added that issues such as poverty, affordable housing, access to healthcare are not only issues for the Latino community but for low-income communities as well. **“If we work together, we can overcome these issues.”**

#### Pathways Program Expands

WAGAP’s Community Health Workers are geographically spread throughout Klickitat County. Some are dedicated to serving tribal and indigenous community members. Others are bi-lingual and serve the migrant farmworker population and Latino population.



## Affordable Housing

WAGAP continues an advocacy series with partners on affordable housing to help people create real change in their communities.



## Emergency Warming and Cooling Shelters

Our most vulnerable populations were provided Emergency Shelter options during extreme weather conditions in both winter and summer. In Skamania County, WAGAP staffed the shelters and in Klickitat County we worked with partners to keep people safe.

## Youth Homeless Services Added

A teen and young adult drop-in center opened in Goldendale to support young people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.



# The Harbor

**REGROUP | RECHARGE | REFOCUS**

**Teen / Young Adult Drop-in Center**  
Ages 13 - 24  
OPEN: Monday - Friday  
9 AM - 5 PM

**A WAGAP Housing Program**  
125 W Main St., Goldendale, WA 98620  
Office: (509) 281-1777  
Mobile: (509) 281-0288  
[wagap.org](http://wagap.org)

## Childcare Kits available

To increase the number of childcare providers, Klickitat County Child Care Committee (KCCC) connects potential new providers with business development mentors and access to materials and supplies to start their businesses.

## What is Community Action?

Community Action fights the causes and conditions of poverty. Founded in 1964 as part of the Economic Opportunity Act, Community Action has been dedicated to eradicating poverty ever since. Community Action Agencies are mostly funded by block grants, which means that the community gets to decide what works best for them. In our small, rural communities, this is especially important. Community Action is all about empowerment and we work hard to make sure that our clients and funders understand this and work alongside us as we work to help set people on the road to achieving sufficiency. There are over 1,000 Community Action Agencies in the United States. Here in Washington we're one of 30; working in different communities, across cultures, and with unique programs, together we're working to help people and change lives.

## More 2022 Highlights

### Sharing stories - personal experiences help us help others

Thank you to the many people who contribute to the success of our clients like staff, volunteers, board members, contractors and community partners. We are each motivated by our own experiences. Sharing our stories builds deeper connections and helps us provide even better service. Find current stories and news at <https://wagap.org/in-the-news>.



### Living Undocumented

WAGAP employee shares her lifelong journey

In a deeply personal three part series, WAGAP employee Patty Gallardo revealed her experiences of being brought to the U.S. as an undocumented child and how it impacted her life. She shared the dark challenges of living on the fringes of society beyond language and cultural barriers; being taken advantage of by employers and being constantly afraid that she would be separated from her children and deported. Agencies like WAGAP helped her family to manage at a basic level, but she was not thriving.

“I never thought that I was ever going to be able to have a social security number or a work permit,” Gallardo said. But when she learned that she qualified for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), she applied and was accepted. She was finally able to apply for legal documentation, turning her life around. She now proudly gives back to the community through her work, but her status will always be a concern for her and her family.

### Welcome to our new Associate Director Focus on Equity brings Jennifer Pauletto to WAGAP

With ten years of non-profit community agency experience, Pauletto made the switch to join the WAGAP team because of its strong focus on equity. She now partners with our executive director to carry the load of this growing agency with its expanded program offerings and increasing number of personnel.



### The Dream

WAGAP board member follows her dream of an education

As a teen, Alicia Ramirez was offered an opportunity to join her family in the United States and she was excited to move from Mexico. But that excitement was immediately tamped down by the realization that as a freshman in high school she now had to start her life over from scratch, from learning a new language, to adapting to a new culture.

“I lost my friends. I lost my house. I lost everything I knew,” Ramirez said. “I came here to start from zero. My health and emotional health were affected.” She was lonely and later learned it was common for immigrants to suffer from anxiety and depression.

She found opportunities for healing through The Next Door, where she works now as a Community Health Worker. She gives back to her White Salmon community by serving as a board member for WAGAP to share her perspective and offer her hard earned knowledge to advocate for the community. Her personal dream continues. She would like to become a counselor or social worker in the future.

### WAGAP Food Bank loses supplier of fresh foods

Second Harvest halts distributions across rural Washington

This very disappointing news came in the last quarter of 2022, but the Food Bank Network rallied together with its other suppliers and the community at large to help maintain a balanced offering of fresh foods and protein items for clients. End of year fundraising also helped to buffer the impact as WAGAP regrouped from this loss.

# Mobile Food Bank hits the road

## Grant expands WAGAP’s capability to reach rural people in need

WAGAP received a Washington State Department of Agriculture TEFAP Reach and Resilience grant and launched a new Mobile Food Bank in Klickitat and Skamania counties.

Here are the inaugural routes, with plans to expand over time:

- Wishram—Dallesport—Lyle
- Skamania—Mill A
- Trout Lake—BZ Corner



## First Annual El Grito 2022

### Hispanic Heritage Month honored in White Salmon

Led by WAGAP’s Latino Outreach Coordinator, Juan Reyes, regional partners came together to create a new cultural event on the Washington side of the Gorge that aims to bring residents from all walks of life together in honor of the rich diversity that exists in the region.

This first-ever event brought together over 200 people from to share music, food, games, with a goal of encouraging Latino residents to feel comfortable in actively attending events and using the city’s park as part of their daily lives.

*- Thank you everyone who participated! -*



## Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative

### WAGAP joins forces and goes on tour to amplify voices in the region



Led by Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC), WAGAP, and Nch’I Wana Housing, nearly 40 organizations, local governments, and individuals formed the Mid-Columbia Houseless Collaborative to prevent and end houselessness in the region including Hood River, Wasco, and Sherman counties in Oregon, and Skamania and Klickitat counties in Washington.

The Collaborative quickly developed a five-year strategic plan. The focus is on equitable efforts on four main areas: shelter, services, housing, and advocacy. The bi-state effort will create better, more coordinated services for the public. The group toured the region sharing the plan and educating the public.

“The people we serve do not associate their service needs with city, county, or state boundary lines,” said Kenny LaPoint, MCACC’s executive director. “They just need ease of access to robust services.”

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Find us on the web: [www.wagap.org](http://www.wagap.org)

*What legacy would you like to leave in the world?*

Become part of the WAGAP family by leaving a legacy donation in your will.

Whoever you are, whatever your situation, you can make a difference and help create a better community by including a gift to WAGAP in your will.

Visit our website to find out more.

[www.wagap.org/donate](http://www.wagap.org/donate)

# Board of Directors

Bruce Bolme—**President**

Roger Gadway—**Vice-President**

Alec Maule—**Secretary/Treasurer**

Matthew Byrne

Lorraine Fritsch

Bob Hamlin

Ubaldo Hernández

Marla Keethler

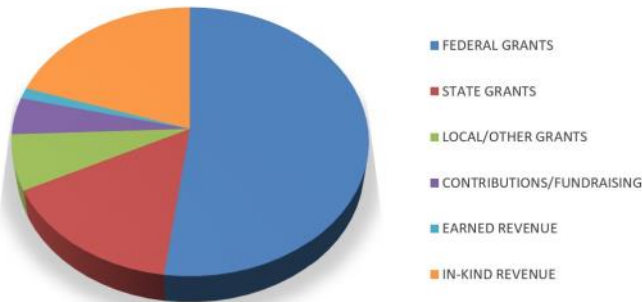
Catherine Kiewit

David Quesnel

Alicia Ramirez

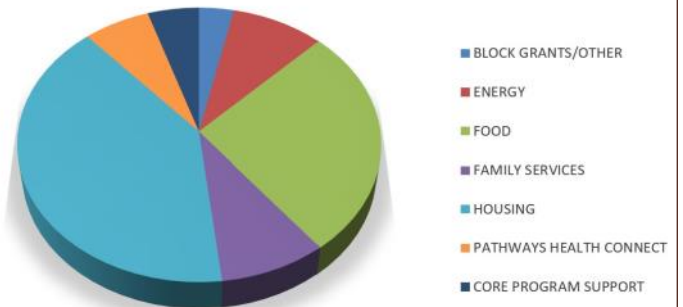
Debi Van Camp

## 2022 Financial Information



**Income**

Federal Grants	\$	4,364,156.00
State Grants	\$	1,304,458.00
Local/Other Grants	\$	559,381.00
Contributions/Fundraising	\$	371,713.00
Earned Revenue	\$	107,144.00
In-Kind Revenue	\$	1,669,859.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,376,711.00</b>



**Expenses**

Block Grant/ Other	\$	279,532.00
Energy	\$	743,215.00
Food	\$	2,212,609.00
Family Services	\$	718,091.00
Housing	\$	3,314,782.00
Pathways Health Connect	\$	533,705.00
Core Program Support	\$	410,806.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>8,212,740.00</b>