



FALL
2026

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COMMUNITY ACTION TEAM NEWSLETTER

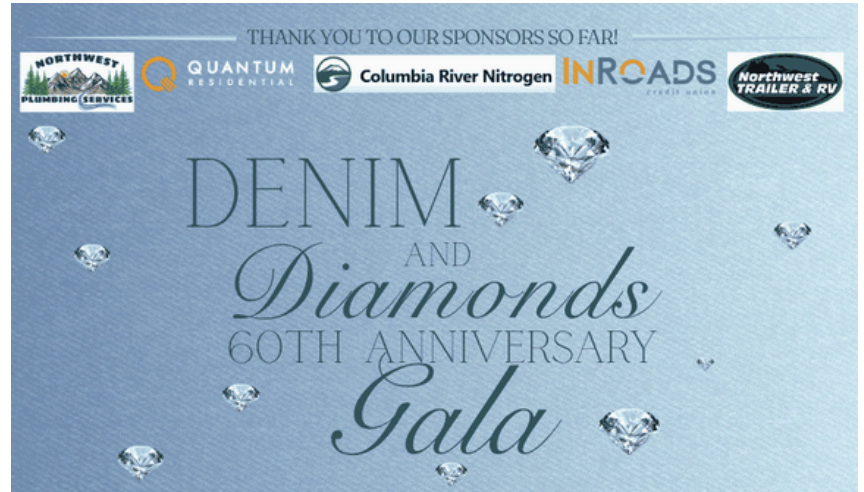
CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH THE RESOURCES
THEY NEED TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES AND
THEIR FAMILIES

Spotlight on Staff

Thank you Crysta of Mama Tygra Art for painting our windows for the fall!



60th Anniversary Celebration!



60th Anniversary Celebration on Oct 10th!

Now is the time to grab your ticket and be part of a beautiful evening filled with great food, exciting auction items, drinks for purchase, and meaningful impact.

You can bid on a guided fishing trip, local sporting events, Oregon wine, a handcrafted quilt, a monstera plant, and more!

GIVEBUTTER.COM/CAT-60

Head Start



Rebecca Freeman, Rochelle Karber, and Dawn Crawford advocated in Washington DC to keep Head Start strong. With the proposed changes to Head Start Program Performance Standards, the impacts to children, families, staff, and our communities could be huge.

- **Reduced access for the most vulnerable children** — Changes to eligibility and enrollment flexibility could mean fewer children served, longer waitlists, and less ability to respond to community needs.
- **Disruptions to family stability** — Proposed shifts in service requirements may limit the comprehensive supports families rely on, including mental health, transportation, nutrition, and parent engagement services.
- **Workforce strain and turnover** — Higher adult to child ratios would increase pressure on an already stretched workforce, making it harder to recruit and retain qualified staff.
- **Impacts on rural communities** — For counties like Clatsop, Columbia, and Tillamook, where Head Start is often the only early childhood option, these changes could widen existing gaps in access and equity.
- **Threats to long-standing program quality** — Head Start's comprehensive model has been refined over 61 years. Rapid, unfunded changes risk destabilizing systems that work and are backed by decades of research.

Utility Assistance

The utility assistance program is currently closed as funds have been fully expended. Winter heating bill assistance expects to open around November. Give us a call if you haven't gotten help in the last two years or if your mailing address has changed!

Limited emergency funding may be available with a disconnect notice AND a recent medical or unexpected financial event. Please contact our team for more information.



Out of the Darkness Walk

Community Action Team and our Veteran Service Program sponsored and participated in the annual “Out of the Darkness” Walk, a community event highlighting Suicide Prevention. Veterans

have a much higher rate of suicide per capita than the non-veteran population, so this is a great way to partner with the community to highlight this issue. We look forward to next year’s event, held the third Saturday in September.



Thank you VSO!

On September 4th, our veteran community showed their thanks to Veterans Service Officer Erin Nolan during their regular breakfast in Warren in appreciation of all she does to serve veterans in Columbia County!

CAT’s mission is to connect people with the resources they need to care for themselves and their families.

Our work strengthens individuals and communities through programs that combat homelessness, promote affordable housing, enhance early childhood development, support disaster recovery, and provide utility assistance. Grounded in our values of empowerment, compassion, collaboration, and equity, we work to ensure access to opportunities and resources.

CAT is guided by a community-based Board of Directors, ensuring decisions reflect our community’s best interests. Funding comes primarily from state and federal programs, supplemented by foundation grants. We value diverse funding sources and community involvement to sustain our mission and expand our impact.

Since 1966, we have grown from operating federally funded Head Start programs to building a broad network of services. In response to Oregon’s call for Community Action Partnership, we established advisory boards in Tillamook and Clatsop counties, which evolved into Community Action Resource Enterprises (CARE) in Tillamook and Clatsop Community Action (CCA) in Astoria.

With decades of service and a commitment to our vision, CAT is dedicated to making a lasting difference—providing safe housing, educational opportunities, and the support people need to reach their potential. As needs change, we adapt, creating positive change and building thriving, resilient, inclusive communities for all.

CAT-TEAM.ORG/GIVE

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125 N 17th Street - cat-team.org - (503)397-3511
St Helens, OR 97051