



TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
THROUGH:  LINDA NORRIS, INTERIM CITY MANAGER
FROM:  BARBARA A. ROBERTS, CPRP, DIRECTOR
PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: SALEM SOCIAL SERVICE ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE:
YWCA SALEM OUTREACH SHELTER SERVICES

ISSUE:

Monthly, the Social Service Advisory Board highlights one of the social services supported by City funding through General Fund dollars and/or federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

RECOMMENDATION:

Information only.

BACKGROUND:

Among the duties of the Social Service Advisory Board is the responsibility to monitor and report on the social services supported by City funds. The Salem Outreach Shelter (SOS) provides case management services to families who are homeless. The 2007-08 CDBG allocation to help support this program is \$15,872.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

1. Founded in 1987, SOS is a place of hope for families and their children who find themselves homeless. The mission of SOS is to help homeless families return to housing by providing shelter and supportive services.
2. SOS recently moved to a new facility, where they have been able to expand services from 10 to 15 families. While at the shelter, families receive intensive case management that focuses on the factors that led to homelessness and establishes a detailed plan of action including long- and short-term goals that are supported by and education and training in:
 - Basic life-skills building
 - Effective parenting skills
 - Employability skills
 - Financial organization and debt reduction
 - Education opportunities
 - Tenant skills
3. Since their move to the new facility, SOS has developed some exciting partnerships around the community. Marion-Polk Food Share has provided support for canning classes and is currently working with SOS to develop nutrition and cooking classes for low-income individuals in the community and families in the shelter. SOS now houses one of the first Head Start programs for homeless children; this has been an outstanding opportunity for all of the parents at SOS to be involved with parenting groups and special parent-child activity projects. SOS is now offering employability training on site in partnership with Chemeketa Community College. The Shelter will start offering RENT classes on site in partnership with Community Action Agency, which will teach families how to become responsible renters. A small grant has allowed for three staff members to be trained in the Making Parenting a Pleasure (MAPP) program, and they will deliver the program to families starting in February.


Jan Calvin, Neighborhood and Community Services Manager