Community action is a powerful concept, one that implies collaboration and service. I feel that Blue Mountain Action Council represents community action at its very best. Our continued success is possible only through the many relationships developed during our nearly fifty years.

Our approach to service focuses on basic principles. We listen to understand a person’s range of needs, then we work to find solutions. A conversation with a person seeking energy assistance can result in an appointment with our Pro Bono Legal Program, or maybe a referral is made to the Lion’s Club for eyeglasses—whatever it takes. The culture of Blue Mountain Action Council promotes internal and external referrals, thereby bringing together citizens, neighborhoods and service providers.

The spirit of inclusion and cooperation has been clearly evident this past year. We are excited to have an updated website and Facebook presence to showcase the many ways we all work together.

Please support our programs by making a donation: www.bmacww.org/how-to-help/donate

"When we are prosperous, our friends know us; when we are poor, we know our friends.”

-Mary Pettibone Poole
Building community, much like raising a child, truly takes a collaborative effort. A doctor can diagnose an infant with “failure to thrive,” which means they are not meeting expected standards of growth or nourishment. A community can share that diagnosis, with a similar prescription of food, shelter and attention. At BMAC, food, housing, employment and education are components, if not the primary focus, of each of our programs.

To restore health to a community, collaboration works best. When citizens become engaged and service organizations focus on their strengths, the result is time and money saved. Blue Mountain Action Council’s philosophy of kindness, caring and concern is an umbrella shared by our many partners and collaborators.

Local School Districts, Walla Walla Community College, SEATECH Skills Center and Blue Mountain Action Council’s Youth Employment Program have partnered to offer internships to local youth in real world, demand occupations. The shared goal is a “future in the hands of a skilled workforce.”

Whitman College’s Student Engagement Center and its Glean Team, whose motto is “Ending Hunger, One Vegetable at a Time,” has partnered with the BMAC Food Bank to ensure that persons going to local food pantries have fresh, local fruits and vegetables.

Our Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program works closely with the Jonathan Wainwright Veterans Memorial Hospital to secure housing for homeless veterans and provide access to other vital services offered by Veterans Affairs, the Vet Center, Helpline’s Veteran Relief Fund, and other local providers.

The list of community partners goes on and on. We are grateful at BMAC to have such incredible friends working together with us to help people thrive in our community.

Blue Mountain Action Council and community partners: doing our best to help as many people as we can.
Housing

Housing Services

People with high risk for homelessness had affordable housing and access to resources. Homes were made safer and more energy-efficient for low-income families to reside in comfortably.

- 227 special-needs individuals worked with BMAC staff to maintain or secure safe, affordable housing within 147 BMAC-owned and/or-managed rental units. This rental housing exists for people with barriers to maintaining independent housing: 19 units housed adults with chronic mental illness, 72 housed low-income seniors, 21 housed adults with developmental disabilities, 11 housed homeless families with children, and 6 housed low-income individuals.
- Emergency shelter was available through Oxford House and the Pomeroy Shelter.
- 33 homes were weatherized to protect families from the elements and reduce energy costs.
- 6 homes had lead-based-paint abated, eliminating health hazards for the families living within.
- Carrie House, a 4-unit dwelling for developmentally disabled adults, was built and leased to Valley Residential, a local agency providing continual care for the residents of Carrie House.
- Construction began on the Carrie Neighborhood Center, a community building next door to Carrie House, which will be accessible to residents and others living in the Edith/Carrie neighborhood to use for meetings, parties, and community events.

Permanent Supportive Housing

Homeless families with children were stabilized in secure housing, meanwhile working with a case manager and other service providers to define and achieve goals in self-sufficiency.

- 16 households, with 21 adults and 36 children, moved from homelessness into Permanent Supportive Housing at Lincoln Terrace Apartments.
- 88% of Lincoln Terrace residents have retained their housing or accessed permanent, independent housing. 13% of residents have reunified with their families and/or children. All Lincoln Terrace families accessed BMAC’s community-based programs such as career and educational services, pro bono legal assistance, food bank or energy assistance.

Supportive Services for Veteran Families

Veterans and their families in a large region of Washington, Oregon and Idaho were securely housed in permanent housing with access to a myriad of resources.

- 274 Veterans accessed rapid rehousing and homeless prevention services with case management in 18 Counties in Washington, Idaho and Oregon.
- 64 of these households had families, 219 of these households’ income was 30% or less of the area median income, and 53 of these Veterans served in post-911 combat zones.
- 73% of the Veterans served were literally homeless at the time they accessed BMAC services, while 27% were in need of rental assistance due to vacate notices.

Transitional Housing

Homeless families in Walla Walla, Columbia and Garfield Counties were safely housed and provided resources and case management to help them plan for a self-sufficient future.

- 117 individuals in 36 homeless families moved into private housing and accessed assistance with rent, utilities, transportation, childcare, and other resources.
- Families worked with case managers to develop housing sustainability plans, overcome barriers to employment, and achieve other personal goals.
Employment & Education

Job Training
People who were unemployed or under-employed accessed the training, education and connections they needed to secure better employment opportunities.

- 87 adults received job training services including work experience, on-the-job training, occupational skills training and formal education.
- 75 of the adult participants gained employment, and 18 gained credentials to help them secure better employment in the future.
- 81 youths aged 16-21 received job training services. Of these, 17 gained employment, 40 gained credentials, and 24 are currently working with the program.
- 4 youth received vocational training and internships through the Youth Works Program and SEA-TECH, the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center.
- 504 people utilized the Employment Training Center computer lab, where they accessed career planning tools, independent learning software, skill assessments, and guidance with résumés, cover letters, job applications, and more.

AmeriCorps
Local agencies had access to much-needed volunteer power, while volunteers gained experience, job training, and a deep understanding of community.

- 15 local nonprofits and schools had full-time AmeriCorps members helping them excel in their missions during a 10.5-month service term.
- These 24 national service volunteers completed a cumulative 41,497.75 hours of community service in Walla Walla. That is the equivalent of 4.74 years of volunteer power working to better our community.

Asset Building
People struggling to make ends meet accessed vital tools, information, and advice to help them plan ahead for a stronger financial future.

- 165 individuals graduated from Money Smart, a set of workshops designed to educate adults in financial literacy topics such as budgeting, banking, credit, saving, and more.
- 34 individuals received one-on-one counsel to help them with their personal financial concerns, working to create budgets, understand debt, discuss bankruptcy, loans, credit, and other financial concerns, and create manageable financial plans.

Adult Literacy
Adults with educational barriers gained skills with the help of volunteer tutors, while tutors found joy and personal fulfillment in volunteering to help others.

- 61 adults made progress in their personal educational goals with access to free tutoring offered by 40 volunteer tutors.
- Students studied for GED tests and citizenship tests, improved writing and computer skills.
- 32 students made significant improvement in their English conversation skills and 4 of these students were able to transition to classes at WWCC.
Additional Programs

Energy Assistance
Struggling households were able to stay warm through the winter and free up part of their budget for other needs.

- 2,444 individuals in 1,072 households received a cumulative $466,242 to help them heat and power their homes.
- 850 households also got a discount from Pacific Power averaging $42.00 per household per month for a six-month period.

Pro Bono Lawyer Referral Program
People who couldn’t afford attorney costs had access to free civil legal aid, helping them navigate court systems, secure their rights and protect themselves and their families.

- 148 individuals received free legal counsel and/or assistance with their civil legal cases in the Walla Walla and Columbia County courts.
- Volunteer attorneys donated a total of 329.7 hours of pro bono time, which amounts to a value of $66,632 worth of donated legal services.

Food
People who struggle to buy food for their families had access to enough nutritious food to avoid chronic hunger or malnourishment.

- Food-insecure individuals accessed 1,369,100 pounds of food from food pantries and hot meal programs in Walla Walla, Columbia, Garfield, Asotin and Franklin Counties.
- 383 low-income seniors accessed monthly USDA-provided food boxes through Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
- 58,918 pounds of fresh, locally donated produce was distributed through BMAC to local food pantries serving those in need.

Commitment to Community (C2C)
Neighborhood Outreach Organizers strengthened connections between neighbors and service providers. The relationships, activities, and partnerships they built within and across neighborhoods encouraged leadership in low-income residents.

- Approximately 165 neighbors in Edith/Carrie, Washington Park, and Blue Ridge volunteered almost 1,310 hours, working together to better their neighborhoods through projects including Edith/Carrie Park and garden maintenance, the Día de los Niños festival, a dinner for First Responders, neighborhood Zumba classes, trash clean-ups, and three Christmas parties.
- Nearly 90 non-neighbors contributed 542 hours in support of neighborhood development and revitalization.
Thank You To Our Volunteers & Donors

Volunteers*

Gleaning
Emily Aumann
Hannah Bartman
Mariah Bruns
Theo Ciszewski
Megan O’Brian
Katie Steen
Caity Varian
Craig Volwiler
Ursula Volwiler

Pro Bono
Thomas Baffney
Janelle Carman
Dan Clark
Kristen DuBrulle
Rene Erm
Sandy Flores
Andy Guy
John Hartzell
Jared Hawkins
Bridie Hood

John Julian
Rosemarie Lemoine
Jamie Lewellyn
Gary Ponti
Elizabeth Powell
Dan Roach
Irving Rosenberg

Food Bank
Bill and Sherry Watson
J and Judy Lightle
Mike Hays
Roy Hukill
Marion Schmidt
Lisa Woodbury
Heidi Hoffman
Jean Bray

Jean Reister
Bob Yaw
Jamie Finch
Jeanie Johnson
Rob Bernasconi
Crystal Jensen
Bill Selby
Angela and Eva Reyna
Rick Harper

LDS Missionaries
Alma Garza
Joan Thompson

Adult Literacy
Jamie Arndt
Cyndi Asmus
Chalann Brown

C2C
Nichole Briones
Ted Carpenter
Andrew Ezepeleta
Breanne Hopson
Francisco Mendoza

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Blue Mountain Community Foundation
Nathan Boland
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Olive Marketplace & Cafe
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Anita Pipes

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St. Patrick Catholic Church
The Health Center
Ellen and Charles Thiel
Brent and Brad Tompkins
Trilogy Recovery Community
Trust Cellars
Umpqua Bank Charitable Foundation
United Way of Walla Walla
Walla Walla County Bar Association
Walla Walla Farmers Co-op
Walla Walla University
Walla Walla Valley Medical Society
George T. Welch Testamentary Trust
Pete and Kendra Wenzel
Steven Woolley
Yehaw Aloha
YMCA of Walla Walla
Anonymous (3)

1,000+ Pounds of Food
Andrea Adams
Albertsons SuperValu
Blue Mountain Humane Society
Brootje Orchards
Earl E. Brown and Sons
Castoldi Farms
Cavalli’s Onion Acres
Cott Beverages
Dan DeFoor

Bob Doepker
Downtown Farmers Market
Feast of Cars
Frito Lay
Garfield County Food Bank
Golden Age Food Share
Grocery Outlet
Haggen Stores
Kelley’s Transportation Services
Midwest Services
National Association of Letter Carriers
Orval Stafford
Otis Kenyon Wine
Parker Trucking
R&R Produce
Relay for Life Walla Walla
Safeway
Smith Frozen Foods, Inc.
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Super 1 Foods
Va Piano Vineyards
Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Walla Walla River Packing Company
Walla Walla Association of Realtors
Walla Walla High School
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Auralea Blackman
Meredith Bretz
Campfire Walla Walla

College Cellars
Taneesa Dunham
Elora Baker and Mary Faircloth
First Congregational Church
Cheryl George
Marianna Grabhorn
Grocery Outlet
Lorena Gutierrez
Holiday Inn Express
Home Depot
Debbie Huwe
Eleanor S. Kane
Laureate Lambda Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi
Les Schwab Tires of College Place
Macon Bros
Marcus Whitman Hotel
Allysa McGuire
Brenda Monahan
Susan and James Newton
Sabrina Ponce
Francis Potts
R-Kidz Early Childhood Education
Noemi Saenz
Bob Shanks
St. Vincent de Paul
Leslie Stockton
Carl and Ilene Tyler
Walkers Furniture
Walla Walla University
Washington State Penitentiary
Whitman College Community Service House
Linda Williams
Karen Wolf

*Listed here is only a fraction of our donors and volunteers, chosen for their extraordinary commitment from the several hundred community members that support our mission. Thank you to everyone who has given generously to help us make a difference in people’s lives. You are ALL making a difference!
Our Mission:

To cultivate innovative services, in partnership with our community, to empower low-income people to meet their vital needs and achieve self-sufficiency.

Our Programs:

- Food
- Special Needs Housing
- Job Training
- Adult Literacy
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families
- Housing Programs
- Home Weatherization
- Minor Home Repair
- AmeriCorps
- Energy Assistance
- Pro Bono Lawyer Referral Program
- Asset Building Coalition
- Commitment to Community
- Long Term Care Ombudsman


Total Revenues: $5,606,677

- Government
- Service
- In-Kind
- Foundation
- Corporation
- Individuals

Total Expenditures: $5,545,225

- Home Repair/Weatherization
- Energy Assistance
- BMAC Properties
- Nutrition
- Employment Education & Job Training
- Shelter/Transitional Housing
- Other Programs
- Management & General