Celebrating a Half-Century of Service

BMAC BLUE MOUNTAIN ACTION COUNCIL

1966 to 2016
Looking back—moving forward

Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) was incorporated as a Community Action Agency on February 3, 1966—we’ve had 50 years to grow into the very big shoes we fill today.

Back in 1966, staff and board members gathered to brainstorm. The earliest service was the establishment of neighborhood information and referral centers in Walla Walla and Dayton, where residents could inquire about housing and obtain employment counseling. Other projects included Head Start, supporting VISTA volunteer programs, establishing a legal aid program, beginning a homemakers’ course, opening a senior citizens’ lounge and participating in a statewide summer youth jobs program.

In that first year, a resident of the Washington School neighborhood remarked, “It’s so nice to be part of a group of people where little things are never overlooked.”

The past half-century has seen rotary phones give way to cell phones, mimeograph machines become laser printers, and handwritten ledgers replaced by cloud-based data software—fountain pens to gel sticks. Yet, what fundamentally matters remains unchanged: BMAC works to provide a helping hand up to low-income people so they can better meet their needs and strive to become self-sufficient.

21st Century reporting requirements increased the need for more accurate client data. The purchase of new internet-based software revolutionized how we collect, input and retrieve client data.

It is now possible for our program managers to quantify services being offered to clients. The new data collection capabilities help us understand the ways in which we serve our clients, how families are touched by multiple programs thus bringing about a more holistic approach to service delivery.

With self-sufficiency for low-income individuals and families as the goal, BMAC resources are organized around six segments: Food Distribution, Housing Services, Employment & Education, Energy Assistance, Legal & Ombuds Services and Commitment to Community, managed by nineteen specific programs.

The design of this Annual Report reflects program information within these service segments. Rather than highlighting specific goal attainments, we will report achievements in the aggregate instead of pinpointing specific projects. Reports generated by the new software were the source material for the statistics below.

This year, BMAC served 6,285 individuals in 3,224 families and referred 1,891 persons:

**Housing Services**
- Safe Housing 502
- Home Repair 34
- Weatherized 16
- Lead Removal 34

**Food Distribution**
- Pounds of Food Distributed 1,730,000
- Households Served 21,681

**Employment & Education**
- Obtained Jobs 150
- Employment Skills 98
- Adult Literacy 108
- AmeriCorps 14

**Energy Assistance**
- Receiving Assistance 1,946

**Legal & Ombuds**
- Legal Assistance 250
- Ombuds hours 800

**Commitment to Community**
- Volunteer hours 2,705
- Community Events 25

“It is experience, rather than understanding, that influences behavior.” —Marshall McLuhan
Thank You to our Donors and Volunteers

We are so grateful to each and every one of our supporters!

We wish to extend an extra special thank you to those who contributed to the Walla Walla Teen Center Capital Campaign, the Walla Walla Association of Realtors’ Care and Share fundraisers, and the Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance’s Barrel Full of Money fundraiser.

Listed below are the most dedicated contributors to our regular programming, all giving to help their neighbors thrive. Our dedicated volunteers are listed on the following page. Due to space constraints in this report, we regret that we can not acknowledge every person who gave of their resources and time.

Please know that every penny counts, that your support is appreciated, and most importantly, that you have made a difference.

$5,000+
Clara and Art Bald Trust
Blue Mountain Community Foundation
Legal Foundation of Washington
Karen and Bart Nelson
Nelson Irrigation
Northwest Grain Growers
The Roe Foundation
Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust
J.L. Stubblefield Trust
Claire Valente
Walla Walla Association of Realtors
Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance
Petra and Kendra Wenzel

$1,000+
American Association of University Women
AmericanWest Bank
Assumption Catholic Church
Banner Bank Walla Walla Branch
Jim Barrow
Braden Foundation
Cheris Brewer
Marc and Karri Bruce
Jane Coffey
Columbia Rural Electric Association
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Mary Garner Esary Trust
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Gesa Credit Union
McCurley Integrity Toyota
Susan Monahan and Mark Brucks
Anita Pipes
Thomas and Judy Reed
Rotary Foundation of Walla Walla
George Sesser
St. Patrick Catholic Church
Toyota Dealer Match Program
Walkers Furniture
Walla Walla Chapter PSE
Walla Walla Farmers Co-op
Walla Walla School District 140

$500+
Anonymous
Beta Theta Pi, Gamma Zeta Chapter
Mark Beck and Ana Maria Capestany
Cooperative Balloon Associates
Dunning Irrigation
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Sergio and Wendy Hernandez
Jerold Kaman
Robert and Linda Kuhal
Legal Aid for Washington Fund
Martin’s Jewelers
Amy and Andy Myers
Olive Marketplace & Cafe
Pioneer Middle School
Positive Life Radio
Tracey Shiel
Ellen and Charles Thiel
Yeehaw Aloha

$250+
Mark Beckler
H.J. and Evelyn Bergman
Cayuse Technologies
Christ Lutheran Church
Trevor Dorland
Craig N. and Jaison Elia
Maryjo Fontenot
Michael Kelcy
Noah Leavitt and Helen Kim
Bruce and Betty Krause
Molina Healthcare
Greg Nelson
Rodney J. Opsal
Duane and Barbara Scott
St. Francis Catholic Church
Steen Appraisal Consulting
Sustainable Living Center
Richard Valentine
Walla Walla University
Walla Walla Duplicate Bridge Club

$100+
Alder Family Dental
Baker Boyer Bank
The Susan F. Baker Trust
Gary Bingman
Karen Blessing
Central Oregon Federated Republican Women
Thomas and Annette Craig
Steve Dickerson
David and Carol Gordon
Jack and Jan Hansen
Katheyn Hess
Frederick and Sara Kearsley
La Monarca
Alex Luft
M’Lisse and Charles Moerk
Republican Women’s Club of Milton-Freewater
Retired Public Employees
Manford & Elizabeth Simcock
Roxie Ann Sisemore
Don Snow and Dorothy O’Brien
Debbie Stinebaugh
Holly Sturges
Darya Tucker
Davita Vance
Koren Vining
Walla Walla Aglow Community Lighthouse
Walla Walla Foundry
Randy Wentworth
Julia Woods
Woodward Canyon Winery

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Betta Theta Pi, Gamma Zeta Chapter
Mark Beck and Ana Maria Capestany
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Dunning Irrigation
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Pioneer Middle School
Positive Life Radio
Tracey Shiel
Ellen and Charles Thiel
Yeehaw Aloha

To learn more about how you can help, visit: www.bmacww.org/how-to-help

THANK YOU!
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.