



HOCKETT'S HOT SHEET

A Weekly Update on OlyCAP from Tim Hockett, Executive Director

More National Leadership from OlyCAP

I mentioned last week my involvement with the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) and the nationwide impact that group has had on securing funding for senior nutrition programs.

Our own Janet Anderson, Division Director for the Early Childhood Division, is Board President for the Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP. As such she is in a powerful position to influence the future of our State's early childhood programs. Indeed, a major shift is now underway to make ECEAP (the State's Early Childhood Education Assistance Program) look more like Head Start with similar standards, structures and, most importantly, solid funding.

Janet was invited this past week to Chicago to confer with colleagues in a "Think Tank" focused on the future of our nation's early learning challenges. This reflects well on both Janet and her personal leadership and on OlyCAP.

"Community Builders Tours" Coming Soon to a Location Near You

As you are all aware, OlyCAP can use more focused and sustained support from the community. Most of you have a very strong sense of passion for your work and for the people you help. It is our conviction that the more that people know what we accomplish and the more they share that passion, the stronger they will support us — yes, with their time, expertise and money.

Kicking off a new fund raising process, we will be starting a series of small events called "Community Builders Tours" to which we will be inviting groups and individuals who have helped us in the recent past and already know at least something of OlyCAP's good work. Rotary and other service clubs, Boeing Bluebills, Dental Society, and many other community partners will be asked to come learn more about OlyCAP. They will hear from a board member, will experience first-hand the positive impacts on our clients and will be given an opportunity for input into what we do and how we do it. These events will be hour-long receptions and will usually include a tour of the facility at which the event is held.

We will be looking to highlight success stories very much like those told during the Home Fund campaign each year. If you are inspired by one or more client successes, and feel their story is well worth repeating (with their permission of course), please let me know.

OlyCAP works hard every day to strengthen the community. The job is enormous, but we can do it with a little help from our friends.



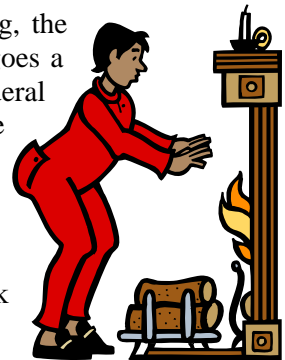
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Energy Assistance Program Update

It's been another very productive energy season. The latest posting by energy staff indicates that we have received 1,734 requests for energy assistance through the LIHEAP program. Of those, we have processed 1,461 — over 84%. The average household award exceeds \$400 and goes a long way toward individual energy bills of low-income families.

Because struggling families tend to live in modest or even sub-standard housing, the cost for heat is often disproportionately high for them. The LIHEAP program goes a long way toward helping those families cope. But LIHEAP is only the largest federal program. OlyCAP oversees several other energy assistance funds, including rate payer donations funds from each local community, that are drawn upon when LIHEAP funds are either exhausted or the family does not qualify. We even work with partners to provide firewood to those needing that source of heat fuel.



In 2007, OlyCAP helped over 2200 households stay warm. We may pass that mark in 2008. Our energy assistance team deserves our gratitude for a job well done.

OlyCAP Volunteer Recognized By Governor: Encore! Storyteller Honored

The following was forwarded to me by Bob Logue, Director of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. As an RSVP volunteer, Don Patzman tells stories to participants at our adult day care facility in Port Angeles, Encore!

Dear Don Patzman:

On behalf of Governor Gregoire and the Washington Commission for National and Community Service (WCNCS), I congratulate you for being recognized for your outstanding volunteer efforts to address needs in your community. In honor of you and other outstanding volunteers and to kick off National Volunteer Week, you are cordially invited to join us at the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony at the Governor's Mansion in Olympia on April 28, 2008, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. First Gentleman Mike Gregoire is scheduled to present the awards beginning at 3:00 p.m. Enclosed are important details on the logistics of this event and what is needed for you to attend. Please review this information and coordinate with Bob Logue at (360) 385-2571 regarding your attendance and any travel needs.

Every day extraordinary individuals effect real change in their communities through volunteer service. You are catalysts that help people and groups move past their differences to build shared understanding and solve common problems. Volunteers are the hope for the future. Thank you for your commitment to your community.

Sincerely, William C. Basl, Executive Director



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Timesheets ... Is Yours In On Time?

I was chatting with our Payroll Meister, Karleen Chapman, after last payroll was issued and asked how things were going. She said that several of the timesheets came in rather late and the combination of timing and those late timesheets caused considerable stress.

Here's why. Payday was Tuesday the 7th of April. The bank needs our complete payroll record and funds transfer 48 hours before it allows payroll to be drawn via direct deposit. Well that put back the date to the 5th ... on the weekend ... not good for banking! So really, Karl had to have payroll complete by Friday the 4th — this includes receiving all timesheets (including the complex Home Care timesheets), reviewing them for accuracy, going through the input process, and then running the appropriate checks and sending the direct deposit information to the bank in time. It is a rigorous process and requires full focus since most people are rather touchy about their paychecks being accurate. Because of the nature of the timing, Karl has never had a 4th of July completely off. She often works the weekend preceding payroll.

I told you all this because one way we can honor her work is to make sure our timesheets are in on time and are accurate. If you are responsible only for your timesheet, please always get it to your supervisor or to Karlene on time. If you are a supervisor, please make sure you forward those reviewed and signed timesheets on time. And finally, if you know ahead of time that you will be away or otherwise unable to deal with your timesheet, plan ahead — your pay is at stake.

Let's all surprise Karl this month with 100% of the timesheets on time.

Disaster Preparedness Month

You may not have known this, but April is National Disaster Preparedness Month. I want you to pay attention to those little sheets that have been inserted into the above-mentioned pay envelopes. Over the course of time, we hope for each of our individual families to be ready for a disaster. Then we want each of our individual work stations to have the basic elements of disaster readiness, then each of our facilities, then our entire agency as a community partner. If we all do our part, we will each be ready and maybe even prepared to help our neighbor.

Our internal Disaster Readiness Team (they call it DiRT) is working hard to guide us into readiness. I am working to identify the funding necessary to purchase a number of items. Meanwhile, I urge each of you to take a look at the *Emergency Resource Guide* that has been provided to you. In it you will find descriptions of the kinds of disasters that can and sometimes do occur together with checklists of things to have on hand that will make survival, safety and even prevention much more assured. If you have lost that manual, you can bring it up online at: http://www.emd.wa.gov/publications/pubed/emergency_resources_guide.pdf



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New Center Director Joins OlyCAP in Forks

We want to extend a warm welcome to Mickie Springer who has been hired to manage the Forks Community Center. As the center is brand new, Mickie will have the challenge of making sure it gets off to a great start. Originally from New York City, for the past fifteen years Mickie has made Forks her home. She has served on OlyCAP's Home Care team for over seven years and has distinguished herself there. She held jobs at the Quillayute Valley School District and both the Forks Police Department and Olympic Corrections Center in Clallam Bay.

Well known in the community for her cheery personality and her close connection to the Latino community (Spanish is her native tongue) Mickie comes to us ready to build a great community center with a vision to serve everyone on the West End.

Mickie will join Rachel Chilson who has worked hard to make sure that the center (with all of its important services) held together during this time of renewal and transition. We have a great team in Forks. Welcome Mickie! And Thank You So Much Rachel!

Rayonier Foundation Grants OlyCAP \$1,500 for Forks Center

As if timed to welcome Mickie to the Center, the Rayonier Foundation announced that it will award the center \$1,500 to help equip the new kitchen in the Forks Center. The senior nutrition program currently serves 15-20 elders from the West End with nutritious meals and wonderful fellowship three days per week. The kitchen also sends out Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors who cannot come into the center. The new pots, pans, dishes, etc., that the grant will buy are essential to a quality program. Our thanks to Bill Peach and all those at Rayonier.

Spring Flowers — Really Good News for Homeless

I am delighted to see the flowers blooming and a few evenings not falling below freezing. These are signals that a new, warmer season is upon us. While I am very happy about that, I am reminded that there are others who are much happier than I. Do you know that our Winter Shelter in Port Townsend provided a warm bed and three meals a day to 76 homeless persons this season? With lots of assistance from a consortium of Port Townsend religious communities, and a facility provided by the Port Townsend American Legion, OlyCAP was able to provide 1,545 bed nights over a 103 day period to 76 persons. Without this community collaboration, these folks (64 men and 12 women) would have spent the night hungry in the freezing, sometimes snowy, night. Many thanks to our partners and especially to deForest Walker and her team for coordinating this wonderful service to very vulnerable people.



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Rotary First Harvest Award

I received a call last week from the Executive Director of Rotary First Harvest who informed us that OlyCAP would be receiving \$10,000 to go toward the purchase of a replacement freezer for our Food Bank Distribution Center near Port Townsend.

You may not be aware of the fact that we store and distributed bulk purchase items and donated goods to a network of up to twelve local food banks in both Clallam and Jefferson Counties. From USDA commodities, to canned goods from the WAVE drive in Port Townsend, to items collected from the postal carriers' drive, OlyCAP staff and a small army of volunteers work together to insure that our neighbors have food on their tables. About a million pounds a year pass through our warehouse. The old freezer, which was donated to OlyCAP when Reeds Market in Chimacum was bought by QFC, served us well but outlived its effectiveness long ago. It is used to store perishables and is the repository for most of the Senior Nutrition frozen Meals on Wheels stock. That inventory can range as high as several thousand meals. The new freezer will have more capacity and will run more energy efficiently.

Thank you to Randy Swenson, John Owensby and other staff who operate the food bank support program and to Bonnie White for her excellent work on the grant.

Gates Foundation Visits OlyCAP

An essential component of OlyCAP's plan to strengthen itself is the purchase of our Port Townsend office complex. We have applied to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for \$200,000 to go toward that purchase. Upon receipt of our initial inquiry, the Foundation called us and talked to us about the project for about an hour. We were then invited to make a full proposal. After that was submitted, they chose to come make a site visit to see, first hand, our vision.

The visit went great as Anne Clark spent about three hours with us. The process now involves many more discussions, the Foundation's internal review process and then a final decision. If we are favored with a grant, it will likely be a challenge grant designed to encourage local donations to match the money. Think good thoughts and urge your friends to contribute to OlyCAP's capital campaign. See our website for more information. Just scroll to the bottom of the home page and open the document entitled: *Strengthening the Community's Helping Hand*.

Northwest Passage Thrift Shoppe

I want to urge you all to remember one of our enterprises, the *Northwest Passage Thrift Shoppe*. As the season for garage sales picks up, remember that the shop would love to have good quality donated clothing, household items and furniture. Proceeds support OlyCAP. Read all about it on our website too. <http://www.olycap.org/index.php?pr=Enterprises> It's also a fun place to shop. Stop by.



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OlyCAP Board/Management Team Hold Summit

Last Wednesday OlyCAP's Management Team met together with the Board of Directors to address ways to strengthen the agency. The goal of the meeting was to focus the talents of our best and brightest on ways to make our agency very solid financially as we move toward the future.

The five hours were consumed quickly as the group discussed policies for avoiding program deficits and strategies to strengthen struggling programs. The group then worked on development (fund raising) ideas consistent with the model we have adopted. That model calls for much heavier community engagement; provides a planned approach to apprise others about our mission; and gives guidance as to how to ignite in others the same passion we have for helping our struggling neighbors. Finally, the model prescribes at least one annual event to raise money for agency operations. The group, in its wisdom, immediately determined that we need to have at least two events — one in each county.

The group also discussed the coming purchase of the Port Townsend office complex and the needs of our Development Department. Cool ideas emerged, like the forming of an auxiliary-type group dedicated to supporting OlyCAP.

The challenge before us is substantial, but I have never felt more encouraged. I watched this team of dedicated people focus on very complex issues and come away with policies, strategies and action steps to move us substantially forward. The board is better informed and the management team is better supported. That is real leadership!

Community Partnership Award to the City of Forks

This evening I will be convening a meeting at the new Forks Community Center to celebrate the enduring partnership of the City of Forks. For many, many years Forks has provided access to a building there for use as a senior/community center. They also helped fund its operations costs. The facility was beautified and expanded over the years and contained two offices, a small multi-purpose room, a kitchen and a larger dining room. The building had a previous life as an office for the US Forest Service but eventually became inadequate as it aged.

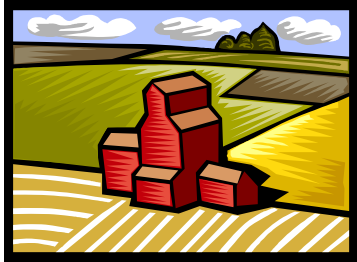
Over the past two years the City of Forks worked closely with OlyCAP to apply for and receive a CDBG grant to build a new center. The center is now complete and well on its way to being fully functional. A new senior nutrition kitchen and dining room serves between 15-20 seniors on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and the program is steadily growing. A large meeting room (also suitable for exercise and other recreation activities) is already in high demand. Director Mickie Springer and Client Services Specialist, Rachel Chilson, see clients and help the public in many ways every single day. Additionally, a small support staff make sure that things run smoothly as folks from the far West End of Clallam County gain access to most of OlyCAP's programs. We are proud of our friendship with the City of Forks and look forward to a productive future working together.



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Food for Our Future



Last Friday nearly 200 people gathered at Red Cedar Hall at the Jamestown S'Klallam Center on Sequim Bay to discuss the future of the food supply for the North Olympic Peninsula. Specifically, what sort of food 'system' should be in place so that all our neighbors may have a steady supply of nutritious food?

The entire community was well represented as farmers, restaurateurs, consumers (on a large and small scale), educators, nutritionists, and just plain ol' concerned citizens engaged in learning about our area's agricultural trends, food needs and potential for systemic changes to benefit us all.

The keynote speaker, Ken Meter, provided the group with well developed research about how our local food economy works and how few products and dollars in that economy stay local. He also made reference to some stunning national trends. Here are some highlights:

- ❖ There are 662 family farms on the Peninsula
- ❖ The average size is 56 acres
- ❖ 76% of those farms sell less than \$10,000 per year
- ❖ Only 7% sell more than \$100,000 per year
- ❖ Of the \$278M we locally spend on food annually, \$270M (or 97%) leaves the area
- ❖ 49% of all groceries sold in the US are marketed through five chains and the top two (Sam's Club and Wal-Mart) are owned by the same company
- ❖ America is quickly becoming a net food importer

As the afternoon wore on, the participants broke into work groups to map existing resources and to focus on strategies for addressing linkages between them that could be enhanced with a view toward using more locally grown product and keeping our dollars closer to home.

Among the buzz of potential solutions was talk about stronger community support of local farmers' markets, developing more local food co-ops and finding more and better ways to get locally grown food to the tables of nearby schools, hospitals, restaurants, institutions and, yes, our own tables.

OlyCAP staff, Gabriel Bernier and MARRISA Welch, are to be congratulated for pulling together this fine event. We are also indebted to Katherine Baril and her team at WSU Jefferson Cooperative Extension — they were incredible partners.

The real work is yet before us. All this energy and the amazing ideas that emerged must be managed into an achievable plan for the future. Since food is a basic human need, and strengthening the community is what OlyCAP is all about, we will work hard to see this process through until the harvest.



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Memorial Day



I hope all of you took time to pause amid the nice weather this past weekend to remember those who have died in the service of this country. Sadly, the longer our country lives, the longer the list of losses grows. My hope is that some day the freedoms we enjoy will be so universally valued that they will no longer need to be defended by means of war.

We also need to honor those who have served this country and survived. In its history, Memorial Day used to be called Decoration Day in honor of both combat veterans and those who had fallen in battle. Unfortunately, we are finding more and more veterans in need of our services. I was saddened when I read that 26% of those who took advantage of our Winter Shelter in Port Townsend last season were veterans of military service to this nation. Here are two suggestions of ways to honor year round the service of our veterans: first, if you find yourself assisting a veteran, take a minute and say, "thank you for your service." Second, work hard to be a good citizen by living by the principles our vets have risked their lives to protect.

Car Pools Anyone?

As the price of gasoline soars to new heights almost daily, I want to urge upon all of us a new awareness of conservation. Until or unless we all make significant changes in our habits, we will see the fuel market continue to rise. I want to suggest that meetings be held at each of our work sites to discuss how we might benefit from carpooling. Further, I am going to begin insisting that those traveling between Port Townsend and Port Angeles offices always seek ways to share rides. Sometimes a half-hour adjustment to one person's schedule could mean two people travel from point A to point B on half the fuel. Please give this serious thought. I also want to encourage supervisors to be as flexible as possible with scheduling if employees choose to commute by public transportation. I know this will be challenging, but the big hurt of gas costs is upon us and together we might make a difference.



Nancy Blackmer, our data and web guru, has created a little tool to help us. On the CAPilot calendar there is a calendar listed under "Other User's Calendar" that is called "Travel, Interoffice." Its express purpose is to help us coordinate ride sharing between offices. Please use it.

By the way, at current gas prices, the monthly savings of a car that gets 34 mpg as opposed to one that gets 24 mpg is \$50 per month (based on someone who drives 1,000 miles a month). Maybe it's time to trade in the SUV?



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Vacations ... My Philosophy



I like 'em.

The hard part is taking 'em. We have a number of folks that earn vacation time and cannot or will not take the time off. Yep ... official workaholics. Our work is so important and we all know that poverty doesn't take a vacation. But ... our own physical and mental health is important if we are to be effective helpers in this community. So I want to urge you all to make time for yourselves and take a

block of time off so that you can regenerate your ability to help others.

Last week I talked about burning gasoline and the rising cost of fuel. There is another type of energy we expend — I call it emotional gasoline. We burn it when we are sick, when we are upset, when we are tired, when we are stressed and when we invest ourselves in helping someone else. When our tanks run low or run out, we crack — we lose our patience, lose our focus and sometimes even lose our tempers. Not good. Stress free rest is the way to recover our reserve of emotional energy. Everyone needs that recovery time.

So, to those among us that don't know what is good for them — plan and take vacations! Work with your supervisor to find the best time to jet outta here. Is it sometimes inconvenient? Yes. Can we afford not to? No.

Community Service Awards

Most of you will well remember Linda Haskell, former OlyCAP employee with many talents and great devotion to the cause of helping others to help themselves. Twice she was named a local 'Citizen of the Year.' We have named our **OlyCAP Community Service Award** for Linda, as an honor to her record of community service. I want you all to be aware that we are constantly on the look for those of our neighbors who go the extra mile in service to others.



Do me a favor. If you know someone who deserves our recognition for their exemplary service (either an individual or a group), please let me know. We want the community to know that real *community action* is alive and well in our own neighborhoods.



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Asset Building Conference Draws 250 Believers!



In the world of fighting poverty, a new understanding is emerging. It is simply the notion that the “have nots” need to learn how to “have” — have a home, have a business or have an education.

The strategy is called ‘asset building,’ and it involves a process of learning, saving and acquiring assets. If you stop and think about it, the “haves” in our society tend to get some very favorable governmental supports. Uncle Sam is our partner when we buy a home because we can deduct our mortgage interest from our taxable income.

Rent is NOT deductible. Similarly, there are significant tax breaks and other advantages for business owners. And yes, even students can find governmental support as they invest in themselves. All of those areas (home ownership, business ownership and an education) are essentially “assets.” These are holdings that usually accumulate value with time and pay ongoing dividends.

Last week I joined three of our leadership team in attending a conference in Yakima devoted to the topic of helping families build assets. 250 people participated. Rita Houston, Bonnie White and Peter Badame are working on OlyCAP’s role in helping struggling families to break the cycle of dependency and join the ranks of self-sufficiency through asset development. Acquiring assets requires knowledge, discipline, persistence and a lot of hard work. For example, buying a home does require the discipline to save a down payment, the knowledge to navigate a market of homes and a market of financing, and then the smarts to choose a good deal and the ongoing ability to make payments. Similarly, starting a business requires the knowledge to plan a business, market the product or service, manage employees or at least inventory, bill your customers and satisfy all the taxing authorities that want a little piece of your business. Finally, an education also requires considerable planning, studying, paying tuition, making all those support arrangements if you have kids at home — and then completing your studies and finding your niche with your new education. So whether one is investing in oneself in the form of an education, or in a home or business, it requires lots of work. But we all know that the outcome can be dramatic.

As OlyCAP moves forward with new and innovative ways of lifting up struggling individuals and families, programs that assist folks with the complexities of asset development will be adopted and rolled out for our clients. Home ownership, business start-up and educational strategies will be a big part of what we assist folks with; matched savings accounts, business start-up classes, educational coaching and the myriad of OlyCAP’s wrap-around services will be combined to help people help themselves. We will need many partners: banks, colleges, the business community, but if we all work together, the entire community will be strengthened. Everybody wins.

Stay tuned as we prepare to take folks to the next level.



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Three Graduate Dental Hygiene Program

One of the unique features of our oral health program is the educational component combined with service to the community. Each September, six students enter a course of study to become dental hygienists — a high-demand, high-yield profession. That course lasts two years (with the summer in between) and is conducted through a collaboration of OlyCAP, Pierce College and Peninsula College. Classroom learning happens at Peninsula College using interactive televideo (ITV) technology with instructors broadcasting lessons from Tacoma. Clinical classes happen in our OlyCAP Oral Health Center in Port Angeles under the watchful eyes of Peninsula College instructors. Early in their education the students do not yet work on patients, but by the second year they are busily helping our low-income, uninsured neighbors by cleaning their teeth and instructing them about oral hygiene.



The program's academic, emotional and physical demands on the students are quite rigorous. In the initial class we lost one student while five went on to graduate. This year only three of the initial six were able to finish. One student expects to continue to finish next year. Crossing that finish line is like completing a marathon, so we offer our hearty congratulations to Laura Wilson, Denise Lee, and Vyktria Hardy [pictured above]. These ladies are well prepared to enter the rewarding professional world of oral health care and have already distinguished themselves through their service to our community. CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU!

This September a new group of six students will enter the rewarding dental hygiene program.

Pat Rodocker Says Goodbye



After a stunning 31 year career as cook with OlyCAP's Head Start program, Pat Rodocker, has decided to retire. She has been our most senior employee since ... well forever. Pat joined the Clallam-Jefferson Community Action Council in January of 1977. Through the last three decades she has poured a gazillion little glasses of milk and made sure that hundreds of children from financially struggling families (together with their visiting parents) received good nutrition. We wish Pat the very best.



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Brinnon Nutrition Closure — And Re-opening

You may know that I was presented with a very strong case that we should discontinue congregate senior meal service at our Brinnon location. So I authorized closure. That decision was based upon financial concerns, staffing difficulties, attendance irregularities, compliance issues and problems with oversight and control. As you can well imagine, I was immediately beset with a number of calls and e-mails asking me to reconsider and allow the local community some time to come up with solutions. Some of those concerns were expressed from inside OlyCAP. After listening to the chorus of voices, I authorized an extension of service thru July. I made the announcement to a full house in Brinnon last Thursday evening. Our nutrition staff and I are now planning to meet with Brinnon folks to see if we can make a go of it there. Because of the complexity of the problems, there is certainly no guarantee that we can continue service in Brinnon, but in the final analysis I was convinced we should engage the community more heavily before closing the site. I take full responsibility for both these decisions.

OlyCAP will always be faced with the difficult challenge of what services it can provide to communities and neighborhoods throughout the North Olympic Peninsula. So many rural areas in our two counties receive little or no service at all. It is hard to say “no,” but sometimes it actually becomes impossible to say “yes.” That’s why we need the community’s help.

So ... Could you use some good news?

Most of you are aware that OlyCAP must undergo an annual audit of its financial accounting. This year a team of five auditors spent a week checking, scouring, testing systems and combing stacks of transactions to insure we are following appropriate accounting policies and procedures together with federal, state and local audit regulations. In addition to all the standards we have had to follow over the past few years (they fill a thick volume), eight new standards were instituted for non-profit agencies this audit cycle. With over fifty distinct programs and many more funding sources, there are thousands of opportunities each month for us to make mistakes. Happily, we have made very few and we have been told by our auditors that once again we will receive a ‘clean’ audit — despite the new audits standards. Congratulations to our over-worked but excellent fiscal staff!

A year or two ago we received a call from the Pink Light Foundation. They are dedicated to strengthening Meals on Wheels programs in our region. On Friday I got a call from the Foundation and they indicated that due to rising food and fuel costs they were forwarding \$6,000 to us instead of their promised \$5,000!

Yes ... how timely.



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PT Office Complex Purchase a "GO"

I received a call from First Fed last Thursday with the news that our financing had been approved to move forward with the purchase of our office complex in Port Townsend. We will be purchasing three buildings and the adjacent parking lot at a price set three years ago. At the time that we moved into the complex, the landlord completed a number of improvements to our specifications so that we could meet our current and future program and administration needs. The original plan involved only two buildings, but when the needs of Working Image and the Port Townsend Food Bank surfaced, the third building was added to the mix.

Because we built the tenant improvements into the lease cost, our monthly outlay for facilities these past three years has been quite high — straining cash. With our new financing package, bolstered by a State grant for \$400,000, our monthly rate will drop considerably. This will ease pressure on programs and administration.

A super partner in all of this has been First Fed. We needed a local financial institution to help us put the final pieces together while we continue our capital campaign to buy down our facilities costs. They have helped us at every turn and have willingly worked with our governmental partners to make this part of our financial recovery possible.

The deal should close either this week or next.

Brinnon Advisory Group Meets with OlyCAP

Our board chair, Judi Morris, and board member Ed Hopfner joined me and Robin Gibson, Director of Aging and Long Term Care Services, as we met last week with the Brinnon Center Advisory Board to discuss the problems facing the senior nutrition program there. That program faces discontinuation. The atmosphere was constructive as the group wrestled with the realities of costs associated with providing services to a very rural area of Jefferson County. While we have our work cut out for us, the spirit of real community action may prevail.

Taking a Few Days Off

I am in danger of not taking my own advice about vacations, so I will be away this week. With gas at over \$4.50 a gallon, however, I have decided to hang around close to home. I always feel secure leaving for a few days because of our incredible administrative and management team. I will return to the office 'officially' on July 7th. Have a great Fourth of July!