



## HOCKETT'S HOT SHEET

A Weekly Update on **Olympic Community Action Programs** from Tim Hockett, Executive Director

### Thrift Shoppe Continues to Set Records



The “turn around” at the OlyCAP Thrift Shoppe continues as the sales in March outstripped the same period in 2008 by 47%. Some might conclude that it is the economy that has brought a new interest in bargains, but my assessment is the new management has everthing to do with it. I want to congratulate the CSS divisional leadership, Bonnie White and Rita Houston and the great on-site leadership provided by Karen Jogerst. A big **THANK YOU** to you and your team.

### Kitchen Enterprise Seeks Your Input

Most of you are aware that we are completing a feasibility study and business plan for a kitchen-based enterprise that envisions providing meals to many of our programs as well as meals to a variety of other markets. If you are aware of **day care facilities, civic or fraternal organizations**, or a market of **independent seniors** that might be interested in receiving prepared meals from such an enterprise, please contact Bonnie White with your suggestion.



### Let ‘Em Eat CUPCAKES!



Last month Jenny Hogan, our Americorps Volunteer at the **Forks Rec Center** focusing on community outreach, pulled together a fun event. With the help of Mickie Springer and Rachel Chilson, a group met to learn how to decorate cupcakes. They had a ball as they learned how to have a whole lot of fun for very little money. This is exactly the kind of simple thing that builds friendships and makes good use of the local community center. Besides, in this economic climate, almost everyone can afford a cupcake. Take a look at these photos! Good job, team!



I’ve been told I have a bit of a warped sense of humor ... but here’s your chance to eat one of those little dogs!

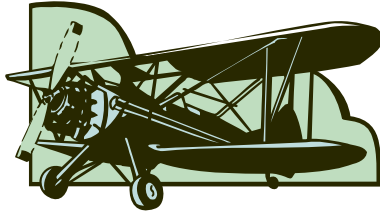
*T. Hockett*



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### **Date/Place Set for OlyCAP Fund Raiser**



“*The Wind Beneath Our Wings*” is the theme of OlyCAP’s fund raiser coming the first week of June. The evening of Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> a dinner will be held at the new Aero Museum at the Port Townsend airport. A mix of long time friends and new friends will be asked to donate both money and time in support of OlyCAP and the services it provides. Details are still being worked out but our own nutrition staff will prepare the meal. Currently we are anticipating about 100 guests and 20 staff. Our intent is to reinforce our mission of strengthening the community by telling our story well and by motivating our supporters to make a deep, long-term commitment to community building by fighting poverty. A few community partnerships will be given out at the event.

Key to the success of the event will be strong attendance. The dinner and festivities will be free to attendees, but those who want to attend must RSVP and receive tickets. Our management team will be providing support for the event and will likely ask a few other staff to assist. If you know of folks that will not want to miss this event, please mention their names to me or to Ken Dane, Director of Development.

“Save the Date” cards will be sent out soon to be followed in a couple of weeks with formal invitations. Sponsors are being sought as are guest speakers. Both board and staff are engaged in planning.

### **Home Care Posts Incredible Numbers**

Robin Gibson, Director of Adult Care and Nutrition, was very excited to report that the Home Care team had served 86% of their authorized hours in March. Since the beginning of the year, the trend has been upward. Home Care serves upwards of 100,000 hours annually to a very fragile clientele, usually of advanced age. The program offers in-home assistance with household chores, keeping the home safe and clean, cooking, eating, dressing and undressing, care of appearance, positioning, ambulation, bathing, personal hygiene, reminders to take medications, protective supervision, shopping, respite care, and transportation to local medical appointments, and for essential errands. Home Care Aides are located throughout Jefferson and Clallam counties. Serving the hours that are authorized can be difficult as clients often are hospitalized or are unavailable for other reasons.



Congratulations are due to Home Care supervisors: Jay Page, Lori Christianson and Jane Simpson and to Nan Furford, who supports Robin and that team. But it all comes down to the fine work provided by over 100 active OlyCAP Home Care aides serving homebound folks throughout the North Olympic Peninsula.

**Congratulations! Great job!**



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### **Working Image Fashion Show A Big Success**



The Tenth Annual Working Image Fashion Show was a huge hit this year as nearly 200 ladies gathered for an evening of fun and fashion in support of the area's only "dress for success" program. *A Toast To Ten* was the theme and in many ways it was the best ever. The Elks Lodge just outside of Port Townsend was jammed with happy ladies supporting their sisters in need.

As the ladies enjoyed the array of clothing modeled by local women and men, they were reminded of OlyCAP's mission — especially as it pertains to empowerment of women who are seeking to enter or re-enter the workforce. Most of the outfits were provided by local businesses in or near Port Townsend, but a few came right off the racks of Working Image. Shannon Costello, an Americorps volunteer with OlyCAP, gave a brief talk attesting to the value of Working Image and what it meant to her to have appropriate clothing as she made the career shift from working in the wilderness to working in an office and helping clients in a professional setting.

Funds were raised by various means: tickets to the event and dinner; a teddy bear auction; tips given to an interesting array of "celebrity waiters;" and the auction of those waiters' aprons. The latter brought in more than \$1,000. A significant number of sponsors, many of which are women-owned businesses, also paved the way for a higher net total of funds raised.

We await a final number on the amount of money raised, but kudos are due to CSS Divisional Leadership, Bonnie White and Rita Houston, Christina Whipple, manager of Working Image, and an incredible number of both Working Image volunteers and OlyCAP staff who pitched in to make this a grand event.

### **OlyCAP Has Heroes — We Knew That!**

**Bob Rosen**, the Director of the Quilcene Community Center, was selected this year to receive one of the Community Heroes Awards this year conferred by the Peninsula Daily News. Bob's tireless efforts to see the center through a complete remodel and makeover in addition to his genuine compassion were specifically mentioned. The Center is owned by Jefferson County and operated by OlyCAP. The center has been renovated and given a marvelous face lift by dozens of volunteers (mostly Boeing Bluebills) and by using materials either donated or purchased through donations. Very few OlyCAP dollars or County tax dollars have been spent due to Bob's indefatigable efforts. Inscribed paver bricks have been sold to bolster the fund. In a similar vein, **Joann Porter**, OlyCAP's VISTA volunteer working on access to health care issues was given an honorable mention by the Jefferson County Board of Health as they selected Public Health Heroes. Joann has become a very strong advocate for increasing access to affordable health care.

Bob and Joann are shining representatives of real community action. They have brought honor to us all.



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### **Community Needs Assessment Focus Groups**



I spent considerable time on the road last week visiting with community members in Forks, Port Angeles, Brinnon and Port Townsend. These focus groups were called together to help us add the personal touch to the research being completed on our triennial Community Needs Assessment. Each group was asked to identify felt needs in the local community and I got an earful as each participant

shared a personal perspective. Overall the groups were both candid and constructive. Naturally, in hard times, one is going to hear complaints about how the ‘system’ has failed, but overall participants tended to move past ‘what is’ toward ‘what can be.’

It should be no surprise that at the top of most discussions was the topic of family-wage jobs. It is widely understood that without adequate income families will not have the means to afford housing, healthcare, energy bills and even food.

Some interesting notions are surfacing in our discussions. One need that was mentioned in the Port Angeles group was something I’d not heard articulated this way before — “People are getting caught up in focusing on themselves at the expense of neighbor helping neighbor.” This is precisely what OlyCAP means by its new emphasis on community engagement. We want to mobilize the community: first by getting the word out that the community needs every single person to help address its pressing needs; and second, by providing opportunities for giving: time, expertise, money. If we all pull together, we can have the best of all worlds, a community that is both gorgeous to look at and caring of its members.

As the process is completed, the refreshed Needs Assessment will become the basis for an updated OlyCAP Strategic Plan. We have a lot of work before us.

### **Hood Canal Bridge Closes May 1**

Next Thursday night at midnight the Hood Canal bridge will be closed so that the eastern span can be replaced. The 6-week closure will have a limited impact on many folks and a hellish impact on others. Businesses (especially those dependent on tourists) are bracing for a significant downturn. There are several options for traveling to the I-5 corridor with a vehicle: 1) driving around; 2) taking two ferries (Port Townsend to Whidbey Island and then from Clinton on Whidbey over to Mukilteo near Everett); 3) a late night ferry from Port Townsend to Edmonds. Another option is for foot passengers who will be able to park near Shine and take a water shuttle across to Low Point and then a free shuttle to the Edmonds or Bainbridge ferry docks. See all the details on the Washington Department of Transportation website: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR104HoodCanalBridgeEast/2009closure.htm>



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### In Memoriam: Peter Simpson



Peter Simpson, former Executive Director of OlyCAP passed away a few days ago and left a huge hole in the hearts of those who knew and loved him. He was a long time resident of Port Townsend and was recently known for his work with the Port Townsend Film Festival.

Peter hired me in 1989 (this August I'll attain to my 20 year mark here) to run the Senior Meal program under Robin Gibson's division. He was soft spoken, warm hearted and one of the most eloquent writers I have ever met. Indeed, nearly every other day I was looking up a new word in the English language as I read a memo or note from Peter. He also typed faster than any man I'd ever seen. Whew, he was fast. He was delighted when I asked him to attend OlyCAP's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party and offer the attendees a few words of history and encouragement [see photo of Peter and me at that event].

Toward the end of his work for us, Peter took on the oversight of food service at Fort Worden State Park and began the bistro and catering service called Blackberries. It was fun, but did not reflect his first love — helping people. He went on to work at Copper Canyon Press and then to bring much more fame to Port Townsend via the Film Festival.

He was a big encouragement to me in the last years since I became Executive Director and I am honored to have known him and to sit in his chair today. This community will miss him.

### Internal Assessment Under Way

REPORT CARD				
GRADING PERIOD	1	2	3	4
READING	A			
WRITTEN COMMUNICATION	A			
MATHEMATICS	C			
SCIENCE/HEALTH	B			
SOCIAL STUDIES	B			
ART	A			
MUSIC	A			
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	C			
Grade Average: B				
Attendance: Present _____ Absent _____ Tardy _____				
<small>A = Excellent B = Good C = Satisfactory S = Needs Improvement            U = Unsatisfactory I = Incomplete</small>				
Student: _____ Grade: _____ Year: _____				

You will recall that we are completing the Community Needs Assessment which will become the basis for our refreshed Strategic Plan. But when we do that plan we will also want to turn part of our attention to OlyCAP and its needs as an agency. For that reason we are conducting an Internal Assessment among board members and leaders at OlyCAP. About 50 persons are being asked to evaluate our agency using indicators of excellence for each of ten areas: Finance Department, Financial Position, Human Resources, Executive Director, Board of Directors, Facilities, Information Services, Planning, Employee Relations and Resource Development.

It will be viewed as a kind of internal report card to help us see where we need to put our attention as we “fix the airplane while we fly.” I would like to think that we are perfect, but we are far from it. This assessment will provide candid, constructive feedback so that we can make a great agency even greater.



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### **Dispatch from New York City**



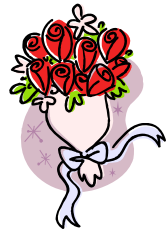
I spent the weekend in New York visiting my daughter, Hannah, and watching her perform in an opera her college put on. It was quite a thrill listening to her perform at this level. Kids surprise us in lots of ways — sometimes even pleasantly!

From her school, located on Long Island, we made the obligatory train trip in to Manhattan and tramped around downtown New York taking in the sights on Broadway, 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, eating authentic New York cuisine, and then visiting the famous Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). We had a great time, but I am still trying to figure out Jackson Pollock, Salvador Dali and Pablo Picasso.

I was struck by the sheer mass of humanity that I encountered. In Manhattan, life doesn't seem to ever slow down. Thousands of people pass by each shop every day — no wonder street vendors are in such heavy supply. Every conceivable skin color, style of attire, food type, and language can be found in a single block of Manhattan. I saw the good, the bad and the ugly — and from time to time I was reminded how wonderful our home on the North Olympic Peninsula is by comparison. We may not have the opera, David Letterman or a museum of modern art around the corner, but we have gorgeous surroundings with clean air and neighbors who help neighbors. That's where I call home.

### **Vickie Becker Turns 25**

It was so nice to present Vickie Becker with a plaque commemorating her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with OlyCAP. Vickie's anniversary actually occurred last November 28<sup>th</sup>, but we wanted to give her that recognition when all Early Childhood staff could wish her well — so it was presented at a recent convocation of all that division's staff. Vickie works with both children and families as one of Janet Anderson's consultants on the EC management team. She was a moving force behind the agency resource guide and has been a strong supporter of struggling families with small children.



Thanks so much for your devoted work, Vickie.

### **Head Start Monitoring Begins Soon**

One of the most rigorous reviews any program of ours receives is the Head Start monitoring. Last time the review consisted of 9 people looking at literally everything conceivable over the span of a week. They had a curriculum specialist, a finance specialist, a health specialist, a child development specialist — the list goes on and on. They looked at files, observed classrooms, inspected equipment, reviewed menus, looked for safety hazards and otherwise turned the program upside down and inside out. They came back with an excellent report — and we expect no less this time — but if you see lots of stressed early childhood people next week, give 'em a hug.



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### **Senior Meals in Forks — A New Location**

OlyCAP is announcing a significant expansion of its Senior Nutrition Program in Forks. Beginning today, Monday, May 18, 2009 OlyCAP will partner with Forks Community Hospital to provide meals to eligible area seniors. This change in program operation will expand the number of days the meal service is available from three days to seven days and allow area seniors to choose what days and times they have their meal. Service will be provided through the Spoons Café at Forks Community Hospital. Meal times for eligible seniors will be between 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Each participant will receive a monthly allocation of vouchers to use when they choose during that calendar month. “The expanded service days will be great for area seniors,” said Kathy Crowley, OlyCAP’s Senior Nutrition Manager, “if a senior misses a meal in one week, they can still use their voucher in another week.” The meal program run at the Community Center was limited in service to 3 days per week with meals served at 12:30 p.m. The new program will also offer meal choices rather than being limited to the single choice offered at the community center. Participants will be able to choose their meal from selected menu items at the café. All meals offered on the Diner’s Choice menu will meet one third of the daily recommended dietary intakes. Additional products served by the café may be purchased at full retail value. A voluntary donation for each meal of \$3.00 - \$5.00 is suggested to help offset program costs.

*This just in ... first day attendance was very strong with 17 people. Congratulations Team!*

### **UW Dental Student to Work at Oral Health Center this Summer**



We were informed last week that a University of Washington dental student will be coming to OlyCAP this summer to work for a period of about four weeks. This is part of a rotation that students may choose to complete final requirements for graduation. We are excited to have her join our team and serve the community as she completes her last term.

This is a testament to the great reputation of the OlyCAP Oral Health Center.

### **OlyCAP Fund Raiser Nearing**

June 6<sup>th</sup> is quickly approaching and with it the first significant event OlyCAP has held for the purpose of raising funds to strengthen its own capacity. The Port Townsend Aero Museum will provide an incredible venue for the meal and the appeal that we will make to both long-standing and prospective donors. We will need a considerable number of helping hands to assist with unavoidable chores — set up from 3 pm and clean up after 8 pm. If you’d like to lend your talents to make this a success, please contact my assistant, Ginger Bischel in the Port Townsend office.



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### Head Start Review



“Thorough,” is the operative word when it comes to describing the Head Start monitoring visit conducted last week. Nine people from all over the United States (Alaska, Kentucky, Kansas, Montana, et al) descended on us with one object in mind — collect and report observations back to the federal government. To add an extra layer of scrutiny, an additional two people tagged along to evaluate the monitoring process. The day before the review ended, Janet and I met with the reviewers to assess the status of the monitoring. By that point in the process, the team had collected 433 pages of notes and we were told the final file would comprise more than 500 pages!

As we braced for criticism, it was apparent that overall our program was viewed as very strong. They were particularly complimentary of our great staff and their dedication to serving and supporting our children and families. They mentioned how strong our personnel files are and our data collection system — CAPilot. Over the next 45 days, the information that was collected will be evaluated and a report will be forwarded to us for our action.



I will tell you all I was very proud of the level of preparedness of the Early Childhood team. Kudos to Janet and all of those who have worked hard to make an exemplary program.

### Community Partners to Be Honored at Event

As mentioned last week, OlyCAP will be holding a fund raising event Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Aero Museum at the Port Townsend airport. From 6 to 8 pm supporters of OlyCAP will gather for a nice meal while they enjoy seeing over 30 restored classic aircraft. As part of the event, OlyCAP will honor three partners who have given tirelessly to the community: The Peninsula Daily News, which has raised more than \$1.2M since the beginning of the Home Fund in 1989; First Federal which has developed the Community Dividends program to invest \$1M annually into the local community; and, Hadlock Building Supply who has generously donated materials over the years to many community groups for the betterment of the community.



### Weatherization Team Expands

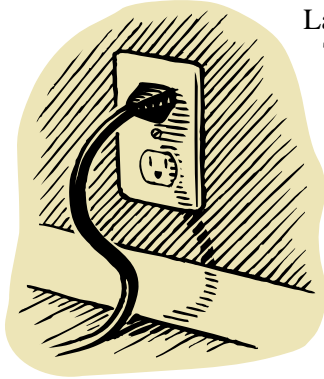
In the last few weeks, the Weatherization team of the Home Improvement division has added staff to both crew and administration. OlyCAP will soon be running two crews and will also contract with private contractors to increase the number of homes we weatherize from about 35 per year to well over 100 per year. This growth and change has been stressful, but Dan DiGuilio and his folks have worked hard to bring us up to a new and higher level of capacity. These ‘green jobs’ will be devoted to permanently lowering the power bills of low income families and improving the efficiency of our local housing stock.



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### Energy Program Breaks Record!



Last week in one of my meanderings through the program building in Port Townsend, I was confronted by a number I had not seen before. Sharon and Genevieve had posted the LIHEAP energy assistance numbers and we had spent \$1,022,945 assisting 2,212 households this year with their heating bills. This year we also helped a considerable number of folks with furnace and other energy related repairs. And it was all complemented with energy conservation workshops. This is an all-time record for LIHEAP!

And the LIHEAP program is only one service that OlyCAP provides for families with home heating needs. You will recall we also coordinate a firewood program for those who depend on wood and we manage ratepayer donation funds for each of the utilities within our service area.

As we move into the next season, OlyCAP will also be redoubling its efforts to weatherize homes and reduce those power bills permanently. Dan DiGuilio and his team are gearing up to effectively triple their production in the coming year.

### Home Care Mourns

One of the most wonderful services we provide is Home Care. It's rather unglamorous, but on any given day we have about 100 aides who assist vulnerable people in their homes. Usually that vulnerability comes from advanced age; but not always. The sad part of home care work is all too often our clients succumb to their health challenges and their aides are faced with mourning their passing.

Lee Korbel passed away the first week of May at the young age of 57, but having received services from OlyCAP Home Care for 25 years. She was confined to a wheelchair since her teen years and struggled with an immune deficiency. She left a hole in the hearts of those who cared for her. She received nearly 200 hours of care from our staff each month.

Similarly Hazel Thrush passed away mid May after having received OlyCAP Home Care services for 23 years. Rowena Lisenbury passed away last week as well, a client for 13 years. Both these ladies had been receiving nearly 150 hours of Home Care each month.

These deaths are reminders that very fragile people depend upon us. I am so very proud of our home care team — the aides and those who administer and support their fine work.



*T. Hockett*



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### OlyCAP Fundraiser a Success



By any measure, the first-ever Community Builders Dinner was a great success. Approximately 140 people gathered at the Port Townsend Aero Museum to enjoy a wonderful dinner, celebrate community partners and hear stories about real people who have been lifted up by OlyCAP.

The crowd raved about the meal as they enjoyed a wide selection of food from four different stations — all prepared by our own Senior Nutrition team. Kathy Crowley did an awesome job leading that effort.

Volunteer, Bill James, from our Port Townsend office told how he became a volunteer and how it's made him a better person. Denise Miller, former client and volunteer in our development department, told her story of moving from homelessness to independence.

Retired Superior Court judge and former OlyCAP board member, Mark Huth, urged the crowd to be generous and guided them through our pledge card which asked for long term support — an annual commitment for three years. When all of the pledges were counted the total was **\$46,240**. Some invitees unable to attend have asked for pledge cards so that they can contribute, so this total is likely to grow.

There are so many to thank for their hard work: Ken Dane, Ralph Lovely and Linda Germeau worked very hard to help me plan and execute the program [sometimes they wanted to execute me]. Kathy Crowley and her incredible nutrition staff provided the very fine meal. The entire Management Team was on hand to meet and greet guests and otherwise support the effort with helping hands. Other staff and volunteers also pitched in to make this one of the best OlyCAP events ever.

Our success with this event is a direct reflection of the appreciation the community feels about what we do and how we do it. Thank you all for your daily efforts to strengthen our community.



### Teacher of the Year — One of OlyCAP's Own

Darlene Apeland of Quilcene was voted **Preschool Teacher of the Year** for the State of Washington, bringing honor to OlyCAP and its Early Childhood Education Assistance Program [ECEAP]. The *Peninsula Daily News* devoted its cover story for the Peninsula Woman magazine [May 17<sup>th</sup> issue] to Darlene and her great work with small children. Quick to give honor elsewhere, Darlene credits her assistant teacher, Traci Kaiser, with helping nurture the children.

As an ECEAP preschool teacher, Darlene's job is more than just teaching. She helps connect families to the services they need to become as self-sufficient as they can be. Congratulations Darlene!



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### Call for Home Fund Stories

The single biggest fund drive to help OlyCAP clients is conducted each year in the pages of the *Peninsula Daily News*. It is called the Home Fund and reflects the generosity of the community; last year it topped another record — \$198,000!



On Wednesdays and Sundays between Thanksgiving and the end of the year, the PDN publishes about a dozen stories that showcase how OlyCAP offers a hand up rather than a hand out. Critical to the success of the drive is the selection of stories to be told. Stories should demonstrate the value of the Home Fund in helping get struggling individuals or families on their feet. Naturally, the clients must agree to have their story told and preferably agree to a photo being published.

This is my first call this year to all those who provide assistance to clients drawing upon the Home Fund. Please be aware of our need to tell the public how we help others to help themselves. The stories that are told are usually very inspiring and motivate the general public to support the fund. If you can identify folks that would be good candidates for a Home Fund story, please write a brief summary, get in touch with the client and ask if they'd be interested in participating, then forward that information to Rita Houston.

There is every expectation that this year's drive will not be as strong as in recent years because of the economy. So we need to do the best ever in telling our story. Help us inspire the community.

### Back to School Clothing Swap August 8th



Now here is a cool idea.

*Working Image*, our dress for success program, will be hosting a "Back to School Clothing Swap" of school clothes so that local moms can outfit their kids for school with "new" clothes without having to pay a small fortune.

Since many children outgrow clothing before it is worn out, this makes excellent sense. Against the backdrop of our tough economic times, a swap of this nature will be very popular.



Please help us get the word out. August 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be the drop off day for backpacks, shoes, clothes, boots, jackets and school clothes that are clean and in good condition. Donors get 'credit' for up to ten items when they come shop on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Items wanted in excess of the number swapped, will cost \$1 each. On August 7<sup>th</sup> volunteers will sort and organize the items. If you'd like to volunteer, call Anne Schneider at 360-379-8752.



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### OlyCAP Orientation

Mary Jo Smith and Val Gast from our HR department have worked hard to develop an orientation presentation designed to assist new OlyCAP employees get off to a good start. It has been updated recently and they are ready for a new round of orientation workshops.

Ours is a complex agency — with nearly 50 programs designed to help people. Just taking it all in is quite a challenge. Add to that the need to know how to fill out a timesheet, how to access all the other personnel policies and how to enroll in benefits — and one can easily succumb to what I call “information overload.” So, while there is much to learn, it is our responsibility to try to communicate it as effectively as possible.

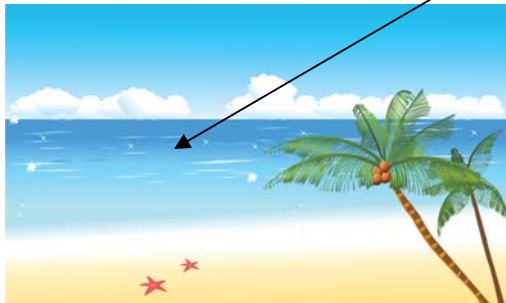
Please keep in mind when new people come on board that these orientations will be very helpful. And if you have never been “oriented,” maybe you should sign up to attend the next presentation nearest you. Both Val and Mary Jo may be reached in the Port Townsend OlyCAP office.



### Vacations ... I'm FOR 'em.

I think it's summer.

This is ME ... I wish.



Each year, about this time, kids get out of school and families begin to work on ways to enjoy sunnier weather. We have already experienced some lovely days and I want to urge you all to schedule and then take your well-earned time away. Work closely with your supervisor to schedule vacations, remembering that the more time you want to take, the more notice you are likely going to need to give your supervisor.

You should be aware that the earning of vacation time is one benefit OlyCAP provides based on longevity with the agency. The longer you work for us, the more annual vacation you earn. For full time employees the accumulation rate is about: 8 hours per month if you have worked for OlyCAP less than 5 years; 12 hours per month if you have worked between 5 years and 10 years; 14 hours per month if you have worked more than 10 years but less than 15 years; and 16 hours per month if you have worked for OlyCAP over 15 years. Yep ...it amounts to 2+ wks, 3+ wks, 4+ wks and finally almost 5 wks vacation.

But none of this means much, if it is not enjoyed. Again, I want to encourage you all to take a well deserved break from work — all work and no play makes a person crabby! As community helpers, we need to see to our own mental health so that we can effectively help others.

*T. Hockett*



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### **CAPLAW Conference Engages Staff and Board**

I was privileged to participate last week in the national conference of CAPLAW held this year in Seattle. Here's how CAPLAW describes itself:

Community Action Program Legal Services (CAPLAW) is a non-profit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) membership corporation. It is managed by a Board of Directors composed of current and former CAA executive directors from across the country. Its staff is based in Boston, with a coordinator in Washington, D.C. CAPLAW is a nonprofit membership organization, established in 1989, dedicated to providing the legal resources necessary to sustain and strengthen the national Community Action Agency (CAA) network. Through its in-house legal staff and a network of private attorneys, CAPLAW provides legal consultation, training, and publications on a wide variety of legal and management topics. This assistance enables CAAs to operate legally sound organizations and to promote the effective participation of low-income people in the planning and delivery of CAA programs and services, thereby enhancing CAAs' ability to provide the nation's poor with opportunities to improve their quality of life and achieve their full potential.

The conference was abuzz, as you can imagine, with all the legal ramifications of the stimulus package and what it means to us as Community Action agencies. Separate tracks were held on governance, HR matters, Head Start updates, fiscal issues, and Weatherization.

This was also an opportunity for two of our board members to attain to a higher level of engagement. Shane Seaman, attorney on our board, and Joan Broughton attended with me and CFO, Eileen Johnston, in an attempt to soak up as much current guidance as possible. We found the conference well organized and extremely informative. As a member of the Washington State Association of Community Action Agencies, OlyCAP is a member in good standing with CAPLAW and may turn to them for legal advice in all issues pertaining to Community Action.

### **My Boomerang Just Came Back!**



I will be enjoying a visit from my oldest daughter, Heather, and her family from Australia this week. You may recall that Holly, Heather's younger sister, visited here last March with her family as well. I had vacationed with them all in Australia last December and missed that crippling snow storm here — darn!

With Heather and her husband, Roy, will come two of my Aussie grandkids whom I love very much, Caleb (10) and Amilie (6). Heather and Roy are both school teachers in a private school in Alice Springs — right in the middle of the Australian Outback. They live roughly 8,000 miles from here. I will check in this week from time to time to assess the status of any boomerangs I have tossed.

*T. Hockett*