

# Willapa Community Network Newsletter

March 2016

## Our Vision

Our vision is a thriving, connected, community achieved through enhanced leveraging of resources and services in north Pacific County.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to support an inclusive community network that encourages communication and collaboration among service providers, business, and volunteers, to enhance quality of life in north Pacific County.

## Next Meeting

WCN meets on the first Wednesday of each month 11am-1pm—all are invited to attend.

## Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program comes to Pacific County

Pacific County is now a part of the national reform movement that seeks to find better ways to improve the lives of people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders, who are involved with the criminal justice system, while upholding public safety. In 2004, Congress authorized the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHC), a \$50 million grant program that was created to help facilitate collaboration among the criminal justice, juvenile justice, and mental health and substance use treatment systems to better respond to people with mental disorders who are involved with the criminal justice system. In the fall of 2015, Pacific County applied for and received a JMHC Category I Planning grant. One of only five awards granted nationwide, Pacific County is the only rural community to receive this funding. The primary outcome of this grant is to reduce the recidivism of people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in the jail system. “By strengthening collaboration that already exists within the county, this grant enables us to move forward with addressing the gaps and determining the needs that will inform and improve our local systems,” says Rosanne McPhail, “We will be collecting and reviewing data, developing a strong, sustainable plan with measureable outcomes, and ultimately implementing research based approaches that enable us to better meet the needs of individuals involved in the criminal justice system who have mental illness or co-occurring disorders”. One way to support this exciting work is to help spread the word. Stepping Up Together is a National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails. Proclaiming Pacific County’s commitment to this endeavor, the Board of County Commissioners passed the Stepping Up Initiative in December. In addition, the Pacific County team was selected to attend the National Stepping Up Summit in Washington, DC in April. If you are interested in learning more, please visit [www.stepuptogether.org](http://www.stepuptogether.org) or contact Rosanne McPhail at [rmcphail@co.pacific.wa.us](mailto:rmcphail@co.pacific.wa.us).



**BJA**  
Bureau of Justice Assistance  
U.S. Department of Justice

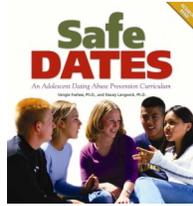
## WHMA Food Bank: Making a difference

Bonnie Ryan, Manager of WHMA Food Bank, is excited about the successes they saw in 2015. “The WHMA food bank is proud to have been able to distribute 248 Christmas dinners this year to those less fortunate”. Thanks to generous donations, the food bank was able to distribute more fresh produce during the summer and fall months, which was “very appreciated by those that come to our food bank”. According to Ryan, these successes “would not have been possible without all those individuals and business that supported us. We have a wonderful staff of dedicated volunteers to which I am most grateful.” The WHMA Food Bank would also like to thank the Pacific County AmeriCorps team for the coats they collected and donated to the food bank. The WHMA Food Bank is located at 1899 Park Ave in Raymond and is open to the public Thursdays 11am-2pm.



## CSN Implementing “Safe Dates”

Crisis Support Network AmeriCorps member Rachel Grayson has been busy attending trainings around preventing sexual assault and domestic violence and gearing up to teach “Safe Dates”, an evidence-based curriculum that helps teens recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, manipulative, or abusive dating relationships. Says Grayson, “the goal is to reduce [Adverse Childhood Experiences] in the community and I think we are doing just that. [I’ve] been out at the Naselle Youth Camp teaching teen boys on teen dating abuse and it has been going great. They are really receptive to the information and tools provided”. The ultimate goal is to reach all Pacific county 9th grade students.



## GHC Open House



Grays Harbor College will be hosting an Open House at Riverview Education Center from 6-8pm Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Meant to connect prospective students to resources and information about college courses, trainings, and other

education programs that are available in the area, the Open House will offer several different activities for scholars of all ages. Advising on Running Start and English Language Acquisition (ELA) classes will be made available. Games and activities like College Bingo and a “dream” photo booth will encourage visitors to engage and participate for a chance at prizes! Information and representatives from other local colleges will be accessible as well. Most importantly, there will be a Q&A session with educators, college graduates, and other professionals from the area which will cover topics such as applying for college, budgeting and succeeding in college, and tips and tricks from those who have been there. Free food childcare provided. For more info, contact Kelsey Hopstad AmeriCorps Service Member, Grays Harbor College, at (360) 538-4043 or by email at [Kelsey.Hopstad@ghc.edu](mailto:Kelsey.Hopstad@ghc.edu).

## Shine Online



## TAC Town Hall 2016: Shine Online

Community resource fair followed by a social media safety speech from guest speaker Josh Ochs that will bring you up to speed on the latest apps and how to talk with your kids about being smart online. Free dinner, childcare, and translation services provided. For more information, contact TAC: [pacificcountytac@gmail.com](mailto:pacificcountytac@gmail.com)

## Pacific County Resiliency Corps Team Successes



PACIFIC COUNTY Resiliency Corps

The Pacific County Resiliency Corps is a team of 12 AmeriCorps members serving at various sites in Pacific County including : Ilwaco High School, Boys and Girls Club, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Teen Advocacy Coalition/WCN, Grays Harbor College, Peninsula Poverty Response, Ilwaco Hilltop school, Pacific County Emergency Management, and Crisis Support Network. The mission of the team is to help reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and increase resiliency of our community’s youth by utilizing

multiple strategies such as presenting healthy activities, educational opportunities, strong interventions, parenting education, financial literacy, family engagement, youth mentoring, tutoring, career exploration, and more. Since September, the team has been Getting Things Done™ and putting up some impressive numbers. During the first quarter alone, members enrolled 385 youth into their programs and recruited 102 volunteers that have given 591.5 hours of their time! In addition to the amazing work they are doing at their sites, the team has hosted three Days of Service. In September, they held a yard clean-up event and helped five residents as well as Golden Sands Assisted Living with outdoor projects and maintenance. For Make a Difference Day in October, the team collected over 50 coats and sweaters that were distributed to North Pacific County folks in need in addition to providing yard help to five residents in need in Raymond and South Bend. Most recently, for MLK day, the team spent time



with residents at Willapa Harbor Care Center, the Alder House, and Golden Sands Assisted Living. Find more information about the team online at [www.pacificcountyyouth.org/team-ameri-corps](http://www.pacificcountyyouth.org/team-ameri-corps).

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