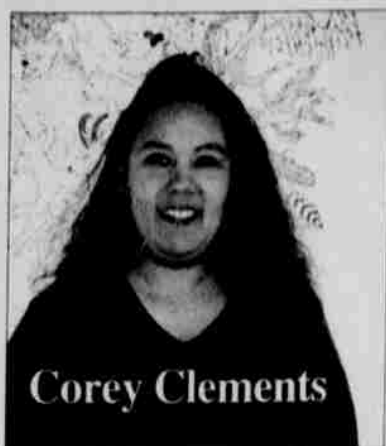


What do you want most from your Council person?

Davis Paul Boise



"Commercial business have a hard time because a certain law that prevents them from coming here. We should get more businesses to come around."



Corey Clements

"Definitely create more revenue for the tribes. This will help kids and the future. We need leadership that will enable programs and services to work better."

"Accountability. I want to see more community meetings, and round table discussions. I want to know what happens on these trips they take and what gets accomplished. What goes on with all the Casino money? Council needs to hold appointed committee members accountable, if they're not going to show up for the meetings, cut their pay. We need more and better social, alcohol and drug programs. Another important thing is languages."



Wanda VanPelt

Start it in pre-school and carry it out until middle school."

by Ashley Aguilar/Spilyay

Partnership develops strategy to reduce poverty

By Shawnele Surplus
Community Advocate

In a public relations planning meeting last winter, the Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT) and the Central Oregon Partnership were asked what business we were in.

The immediate thought, for me, was "poverty reduction" because that is our goal. However, we place a lot of value on how we achieve that end.

Our business could be about "collaboration" or "grass roots activism," depending on who you talk to. We're in the business of inclusiveness or knowledge dissemination.

What occurs to me is that the WSCAT and the Central Oregon Partnership (our parent organization) can't say what one business we're in.

If we could, we'd be like all other poverty alleviation groups in the country. The WSCAT approach to poverty alleviation is holistic.

Our approach is about bringing together the best minds around to talk

about poverty – and those minds include people *in* poverty – and those who have been in poverty – as well as those who have researched it or work in providing services to those in poverty.

One of the things we realized early on as we brought people together to discuss poverty is that poverty can't be defined merely as a census track income number.

Many people who meet the U.S. government's definition of impoverished (\$18,660 for a family of 4) are hardly that.

Many families have lower than median incomes because they choose to keep a parent home to care for children or older family members.

Many people who choose seasonal incomes or lower standards of living are considered to be in poverty even though they have all of their needs met. For the purposes, then, of our work, the WSCAT has defined poverty as a lack of choices.

Many people who meet the U.S. government's definition of impoverished – \$18,660 for a family of four – are hardly that. Many families have lower than median incomes because they choose to keep a parent home to care for children or older family members.

If a family is below the Government's level for poverty but has knowingly and willingly made choices to be there and is happy there, they are not in poverty for the WSCAT's intents and purposes.

The WSCAT and the Central Oregon Partnership approach poverty alleviation from a five-strategy approach:

1. Expand knowledge and awareness about poverty and increase inclusive

participation in solutions through action projects, research, analysis, shared information and broad public engagement.

2. Increase the income and economic assets of low-income people by increasing business, employment and asset building opportunities.

3. Prevent and break poverty's cycles in children and adults through the creation of an effective support services network that is fully utilized.

4. Improve employable skills of low-income people by identifying training and education needs and providing continuous learning opportunities that are fully accessed.

5. Improve individual and family resilience by fostering positive self-concept, improving decision making and life skills of children and adults in poverty.

It is our belief that as resources and opportunities are provided under these five strategies, we can be sure that

people in our community have the options that allow them to make their own choices about how they want to live and will provide opportunity for those who are unable to make those choices about their lifestyles (children, for instance) to have an equal opportunity in prosperity.

Our projects include leadership training, transportation options, work on a commercial code, an economic development project, Heart of Oregon Corps (jobs and recovery credits for youth), Boys and Girls Club, a homeownership project, as well as projects involving neighborhood investment and work with a housing initiative, and financial literacy classes.

If you would like to join the WSCAT in brainstorming projects for Warm Springs, or would like to assist on any of our projects, call the WSCAT office at 553-3148 or join us the first or third Thursday of every month at our Plaza office.

Buy - Sell - Trade - Consign

Ace Traders



Licensed Firearms Dealer

780 SW 4th St.

Madras, Oregon 97741

Anything of value: Jewelry, guns, Old West items, beaded items, bags, baskets, etc.

Tom Gies - Bob Branson

1-541-475-3666