



SALEM CITY CLUB

Celebrating 41 years of exceptional civic discourse

“RAISING A COMMUNITY ~ *IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY*”

Guest speakers:

Gayle Caldarazzo, Executive Director and Denise Swanson,
Community Impact Director - United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley; and
Alison Kelley, Director of the Marion County Children and Families Commission

Members of Salem City Club are familiar with the critical health and human service issues that face us as a community. Many of us volunteer time, talents and energy to making Salem a better place for individuals, families, and children to live. On Friday, **February 27**, our program “**Raising a Community – *Impacting our Community***” will focus on how we can make more permanent inroads on bringing positive changes to health and human service issues in Salem and the surrounding communities.

On July 27, 2008 the Statesman Journal feature article: “*Issues that bring risk into focus: Frequent moves, gang recruiting, missing health care, other problems contribute to children's insecurity*”^{*} by Tracy Loew and Eunice Kim was the first in a five month long series entitled “**Raising a Community.**” The article outlined five critical issues that reach across all aspects of the lives of our area's youths. They are:

Stability: A major part of any child's stability is their home, the place where they eat, sleep, spend time with family, and grow. But many local children don't have that foundation.

Early care & development: Oregon is the least affordable state in the nation for preschool-age care. And both Marion and Polk counties rank near the bottom statewide for child-care availability.

Child welfare: The problem of child abuse and neglect has been the focus of much attention in the Salem area, and it's no surprise given the numbers.

Health: In Marion and Polk counties, one in six children doesn't have health insurance. That's 25 percent worse than the state average.

Youth development: Those in the trenches say gang activity is on the rise in the Salem-Keizer area.

At our February 27 program we will turn to some of the leading experts in our community about how we can better manage these issues and make a positive, more lasting impact for our community. Three dedicated professionals, **Gayle Caldarazzo**, Executive Director, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley; **Denise Swanson**, Community Impact Director, also of UWMWV; and **Alison Kelley**, Director of the Marion County Children and Families Commission will help us understand what impact our community can make, how it is different from our grand father's notion of change, and why we need to act now

Come, listen, and learn about the impact that can be made when a community is determined to be engaged. For lunch reservations email salemcityclub@aol.com or call 503.589.2975 before noon Tuesday, February 24, 2009. The community is welcomed and encouraged to join us - there is no charge to attend the program at noon. Parking is free. Doors open at 11:30 AM. For more information on this program, and directions to the event, please go to www.salemcityclub.com.

^{*}for a complete copy of the article visit www.salemcityclub.com or go to:

http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20080727/NEWS/807270321/1143/rac_keyissues

When: Friday, February 27, 2009; 11:40 lunch | Noon Program
Where: Mission Mill Museum-Dye House, 1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR 97301
Contact: Raquel Moore-Green, 503.589.2975
Email: salemcityclub@aol.com
Web Site: www.salemcityclub.com