

CATEGORICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRESS REPORT NARRATIVE
January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2003

Rockwood Neighborhood Weed & Seed (RWS)/Gresham, Oregon

The Site is in the 1st Year of implementing the 5 Year Strategy.

1. **COLLABORATIONS**

Even though the Gresham City Council and the Gresham Police Department (GPD) consistently embrace the idea of collaborating with Rockwood Weed & Seed, the Inter-Governmental Agreement between the City and RWS was not passed through the Consent Agenda until May 20, 2003. This delay resulted in the hindrance of the GPD to be able to utilize the RWS funds for ‘weeding’ activities. Therefore, a higher unobligated award balance is noted. The GPD and RWS have plans in place to assure that monies are spent in due time.

Metropolitan Family Service (MFS) became a more active collaborator during this reporting period. An MFS Program Manager was approved as a new Steering Committee Member and two sites being managed by MFS staff were added as Safe Havens within the RWS target area.

A Rockwood resident became the Chair of the Rockwood Weed & Seed Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee during this reporting period. Dina DiNucci immediately continued her community work under the RWS umbrella without missing a step. She created many more links and collaboration efforts among many organizations by organizing a community event called “Rock Soup”.

The Superintendent of Reynolds School District retired at the end of the ‘02-‘03 school year after sixteen years of service to the district and the community. Mr. Lasher had been involved in RWS during the recognition period. RWS looks forward to a similar opportunity to connect with the new superintendent, Mr. Kneisler, in the coming year.

The Rockwood residents who had developed an active involvement in Weed & Seed and neighborhood development activities have been great at advocating and bringing other residents to the table. The residents have been most active in assisting as community event coordinators and organizers.

It was important to the Steering Committee to allow representation of the residents at this year’s conferences: the 5th National Weed & Seed Conference and the White House Conference on Faith-Based and Community Initiatives held in Portland, OR. The residents and other RWS advocates who attended have been successful at bringing back information and inspiring energy to the Steering Committee table and the community.

In June of 2003, representatives of the office of Multnomah County Juvenile Community Justice contacted us to state that they would be responding to Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)’s request for nominations for communities wanting assistance to resolve urgent juvenile crime

issues. We agreed that the assistance is crucial and agreed that we wanted to be a collaborator in this application for being recognized as a Targeted Community Action Planning (TACP) site.

RWS added County Commissioner Cruz’s Latino Gang Violence Prevention Task Force as an important collaboration. RWS has representation on the Outreach Subcommittee. The goals of the Task Force are to understand the nature and scope of the Latino gang problem, examine current responses and challenges to developing culturally and language specific services for high-risk Latino youth and families as well as to compile recommendations for the design of prevention strategies.

RWS is in contact with the USAO office to understand how collaboration can be effective for Project Safe Neighborhoods: America’s Network Against Gun Violence.

2. **STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The RWS Steering Committee met six (6) times during this reporting period, once/month: January 16th, February 20th, March 20th, April 17th, May 15th and June 19th. The Executive Committee and the three Subcommittees also met regularly during this reporting period (Law Enforcement/Community Policing, Prevention/Intervention/Treatment and Neighborhood Restoration.)

3. **AWARD BALANCES**

Unobligated balance as of 6/30/03 is \$109,851 for grant #2002-WS-QX-0118.

	<u>Amount Budgeted</u>	<u>Amount Used</u>	<u>Amount Left</u>
Personnel	\$54,380	\$25,598	\$28,782
Fringe	\$11,810	\$5,157	\$6,653
Travel	\$25,200	\$7,325	\$17,875
Equipment	\$36,000	\$10,962	\$25,038
Supplies	\$13,350	\$1,369	\$11,981
Consultants/Contracts	\$26,220	\$9,748	\$16,472
Other	\$4,440	\$2,290	\$2,150
Indirect	\$3,600	\$2,700	\$900

4. **SUSTAINABILITY**

The positive media coverage that Rockwood is receiving has helped us to start getting recognition as a strategy in the area and will continue to help us in achieving sustainability. The hiring of the Site Coordinator, the implementation of Gresham Community Court, the community event “Rock Soup” and Gresham’s Homeownership Program have been just some of the highlights presented by the *Gresham Outlook*, *The Oregonian* and local television news broadcasts.

The long-term goal of the Rockwood Weed & Seed site is to site permanent essential services in Rockwood which include: maintaining a police presence, health care, and employment and training. Additional goals include: to change

community norms regarding alcohol and drug abuse, to diminish discrimination and to provide sufficient opportunities for young people in the area so they are able to succeed as adults. If we are successful in achieving these goals, we will be less reliant on outside financial support. Oregon has suffered more than any other state in the nation in this recent downturn in our economy and local resources have been drastically reduced. As a consequence, we will be reliant on outside sources of support and local in-kind contributions until Oregon recovers. We remain guardedly optimistic that with cooperation, coordination and sufficient advocacy, we will be able to overcome even these obstacles.

Funding was received by the Police Activities League (PAL) of Greater Portland for the Justice Based After-School Program through the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. The program was implemented at the PAL Youth Center.

The Gresham Police Department (GPD) agreed to provide 20% of the RWS Site Coordinator's salary for this project year.

Multnomah County Department of Community Justice agreed to provide an Opportunity Fund during this project year. The majority of these funds have served as an opportunity for a mural presenting the highlights of the Latino culture to be painted in the heart of Rockwood and, at the same time, to cover-up graffiti. The remaining funds are being used as an incentive for individuals and groups to apply for small grants for projects that are consistent with our Weed & Seed strategies.

Kaiser Permanente's Rockwood Office has generously donated printing services for the "Rock Soup" event as well as the GPD's Car Prowl Project.

The Gresham Downtown Development Association donated a remaining supply (which was originally donated by Tri-Met) of public transportation tickets to Rockwood Weed & Seed and they are being used by residents to access health, dental and mental health services.

PAL donated postage, office furniture and access to van transportation during this reporting period.

The Rockwood Library & Portland Lutheran School donated access to meeting space during this reporting period.

An area resident (police officer) donated a used copy machine for the RWS office.

Portland General Electric and Groceries To Go made monetary donations to the community event "Rock Soup" and several local Rockwood/Gresham businesses made merchandise and service donations to help in making the event a success.

5. **EVALUATION**

Evaluation has been a collaborative effort through provision of data by the Gresham Police Department and other local data sources, when applicable, led by Brian Renauer, Ph.D. Dr. Renauer is under contract to support the Rockwood

Weed & Seed effort. Dr. Renauer has assisted us with obtaining the ability to review crime statistics in a manner which we will utilize to focus more centrally on the core problems of the neighborhood.

Evaluation will stress outcome obtainment in its summative component and program re-design in its formative efforts. Evaluation will work closely with program designers to ensure the best possible program planning.

It is important to Rockwood Weed & Seed to understand the language needs of the community. We are collaborating with the Oregon Employment Department to define better the population who speak languages other than English in their homes. This will assist us in successful distribution of community newsletters and information.

During this reporting period, Dr. Renauer and the GPD also assisted us with reporting the Weed & Seed Crime Pattern Data Collection for data before and after implementation of Weed & Seed strategy throughout our jurisdiction and within the site boundaries as requested by EOWS in May 2003.

Rather unexpectedly, but very welcomingly, three students of a Creating Collaborative Communities course at Portland State University chose RWS as the subject of a team project. They provided a report on the assessment and recommendations of stewardship, community, capacity, servant, leadership, collaboration, roles and responsibilities, capacity profiles, paradigms, trends, linkages of RWS.

6. **STATUS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Law Enforcement/Corrections/Prosecution:

Collaborations and coordinated efforts to support the Gresham Police Department Gang Enforcement Unit's missions, enforcement efforts and intervention, outreach and education to victims of domestic violence and the development of Gresham Community Court are functioning effectively. Even though Multnomah Department of Community Justice still has some funding available to apply to the diversion program, Eastwind Center's funding was cut during this reporting period which was being used in the efforts to reduce gang violence among Rockwood youth. However, the Latino Gang Violence Prevention Task Force continues to evaluate the current services being provided as well as the needs and gaps of the Multnomah County community.

CRIME ISSUES BEING ADDRESSED: *Note: we are keeping in mind that the general pattern for these crimes is to experience an increase in the second half of the year, but occasionally the numbers have been lower in the second half of the year.*

During this reporting period, there was 1 murder and there were 17 rapes, 2 of which were domestic violence-related. However, for the other violent crimes (simple assault, aggravated assault, robbery), a decrease in occurrences is apparent comparing to 2002, including domestic violence-related aggravated assaults. 47% of the personal violence crimes committed were domestic violence-related, a number remaining steady since 2000. The number of drugs arrests seems to have remained steady since 2002; however,

there was an increase in arrests for possession or sale of Synthetic Drugs (including methamphetamines, demerol, etc.) during this reporting period. There was a decrease in car prowls and larceny crimes compared to this time last year. An increase that should be noted is that of arson crimes; during this reporting period, there were 15. In the entire year of 2002, there were 19 and in 2001, 14.

Reduce violent gang activity.

- The Gang Enforcement Unit of the Gresham Police Department (GPD) has continued with their efforts. It includes 2 full-time officers and 6 half-time (other half on regular patrol) officers who have been trained to support anti-gang missions and combat gang violence and crime.
- A graffiti, law enforcement, directed mission took place during this period which resulted in one arrest made by a Gang Enforcement Officer.
- The GPD initiated a coding system (in October of 2002) for officer response to suspected gang-related crimes. This information will help provide baseline data on gang-related activity. The coding system is still in its initial phase.
- The Gang/Graffiti Tip Hotline continues in full implementation. The GPD receives an average of two calls per week, increasing to four or five in the summertime. If a concerned community member has information regarding graffiti or gang-related crimes or issues, that person can call the GPD to leave a message giving details of those concerns either anonymously or can choose to give contact information.
- A Drug Activity Tip Hotline also continues in full implementation. Those tips are referred to the Special Investigations Unit, a Multnomah County Sheriff's Office entity to which one GPD Detective is assigned.
- The City of Troutdale's Police Department received grant funding to support training opportunities with Gresham's Gang Enforcement Unit. Police Officers gave ride-alongs to be able to share intelligence and a better understanding of the gang crime taking place throughout East Multnomah County.
- The GPD regularly shares gang intelligence information with the Portland Police Bureau, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, Multnomah County Parole and Probation, Troutdale Police Department and Fairview Police Department. Due to unforeseen local budget cuts, a fully activated task force has not yet been formed. However, the effective collaborations among these agencies are listed throughout this document.
- During this reporting period, plans were developed for creating a resource tool to distribute to gang-affected youth for the purpose of understanding who to reach out to in order to discuss alternatives to gang affiliation. Distribution by GPD Officers began shortly after the end of the reporting period.

Reduce the incidence of domestic violence, child abuse and recidivism.

- In collaboration with Multnomah County Domestic Violence Coordinator's Office, 32,000 resource wallet cards entitled '*love shouldn't hurt*' were printed in English, Spanish, Russian and Vietnamese and are in the process of being distributed to Rockwood apartment complexes, agencies, businesses and other public establishments for the purposes of information sharing and increasing awareness for community residents. Printing was funded by Rockwood Weed & Seed. Distribution is being planned with assistance from the Gresham City Council's Police Advisory Committee.

- Collaboration with the East County Community Against Domestic Violence was also initiated.
- Multnomah County Department of Community Justice offered one session of Cognitive Behavioral Change classes for 8 adult offenders under supervision in apartment complexes within the Rockwood area in Spanish. The crimes that these offenders committed are related to domestic violence, drug or theft offenses.

Reduce street level crimes.

- The GPD has 21 Certified Bike Patrol Officers. New bicycles and equipment to support the Patrol were purchased. As a result of Summer Bike Patrol's mission implementation (targeting street level crimes within the Rockwood Neighborhood, including streets, apartment complexes, parks and public transportation platforms), there were numerous drug arrests and warrant arrests during this reporting period.
- Kaiser Permanente agreed to donate some printing services to begin to implement a car prowler project. Just after the end of this reporting period, GPD Officers began distribution of pamphlets entitled "How Can I Reduce the Risk of my Vehicle Being Broken Into?" This project's materials were originally developed and permission to distribute was given by the Portland Police Bureau.
- In May, a GPD Officer was able to join a metro-wide Auto Theft Task Force.
- From April 1, 2003, when the Gresham Community Court (GCC) officially opened its doors, to June 30, 2003, 195 cases were cited to appear at GCC. 130 defendants appeared and approximately 175 cases were closed at the Court (violation cases are closed when a defendant fails to appear at arraignment, or any other time during the course of the case). 100 defendants received community service sentences. There are currently 21 cases still in progress. 55 defendants successfully completed their community service sentences. 451 hours of community service were completed, at a value of \$3,112 (at Oregon minimum wage of \$6.90/hr) contributed to the Gresham and Rockwood communities.
- RWS funds a .2 FTE Case Manager to serve the GCC Project. The Case Manager, a Multnomah County Department of County Human Services employee, is also assigned to the N/NE and SE (Portland) Community Courts and is funded through other Weed & Seed sites.
- The budget cuts throughout the state of Oregon and Multnomah County affected greatly the operation of GCC. Prior to March 2003, the Portland-area Community Courts were assigned a Community Court Liaison through the MCDJC Alternative Community Service Program (ACS). The Liaison administered community service assignments to the offenders and coordinated those assignments with ACS to assure they were placed on the crews and that the offender completed the service hours. Budget cuts did not allow for this position to continue nor expand to GCC. In order to fill this gap at GCC, the RWS Steering Committee approved that the Site Coordinator volunteer in that position for two months until an alternative candidate could be designated.

Reduce juvenile crime.

- The formal diversion program was reduced at the County level due to budget cuts and now first-time offenders are only receiving a letter rather than a direct link to services. Informally, Gresham Police Officers are referring youth who have not yet offended, but are in at-risk situations, to alternative programs including the PAL

Youth Center, SUN Schools, Eastwind Center programs, El Programa Hispano and several other community-based organizations.

- The GPD Gang Enforcement Unit provided training sessions for interested Rockwood stakeholders to understand the signs of delinquency among youth.

Community Policing:

Collaborations and coordinated efforts to support the Gresham Police Department's Bike Patrol and Community Safety Specialists' efforts are functioning effectively. Graffiti removal and enhancing the positive activities for youth have been important focuses within our strategies. Gresham Police Department representatives have been consistently available and present at various community events and meetings to help in establishing the environment of mutual trust. The Code Enforcement Section of the Gresham Police Department is a committed department to improving the livability of the City. However, the staff consists of about half as many employees as a city of comparable size.

Create an environment of mutual trust between the police and neighborhood residents.

- The GPD Gang Enforcement Unit had a regular presence in Rockwood including attending key community-supported meetings.
- One half-time Gresham Police Officer was assigned to the Housing Authority of Portland which oversees several low-income housing complexes in Rockwood.
- The Chief utilized RWS funding to assign officers to Community Policing detail, an offsetting measure against the increasing crime in the area.
- The GPD continues to refer East Metro Mediation, mediation specialists, to help resolve conflicts among neighbors before they escalate into criminal activity.
- Because the Safe and Healthy Community Program is no longer a funded program, the original resource guides were not able to be printed. However, as part of this year's "Rock Soup" community event, *Ingredient (resource) Guides* were developed to include the listing of all agencies represented at the event, how citizens can get involved in helping the community and a Useful Numbers List. This guide was available in English, Spanish and Russian. Kaiser Permanente donated the printing costs.

Create positive activities for youth.

- Safe Haven programming continued on a daily basis at the PAL Youth Center, SUN Schools, and through Eastwind Center and El Programa Hispano.
- In lieu of holding summits during this period, the Police Activities League, Eastwind Center, El Programa Hispano, the GPD, the Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Rockwood Weed & Seed held a week-long event for youth called *Violence Free Spring Break*. More than 165 youth attended daily.
- Training sessions for staff of PAL were held about how to identify youth activities leading to juvenile delinquency.

Create a safer and more livable community.

- Due to liability ramifications, the City of Gresham limited the direct support of graffiti removal throughout the City. Due to the availability of additional funds from Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, a plan was developed during this reporting period to covering up graffiti and painting a mural dedicated to the

Latino community within the Rockwood Neighborhood. This project will be completed by area volunteer youth supported by staff from MCDCJ, Eastwind Center, El Programa Hispano and RWS.

- As part of the Enhanced Safety Properties program, Community Safety Specialists provided one 8-hour landlord training (Phase I). Phase 2 is CPTED inspections: Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. Six of those were completed during this period. They also conducted about two Apartment Watch meetings (Phase 3) per month (less during the winter). We currently have seven certified complexes and several others that have completed two of the phases. At least two more will be certified by the end of the summer.

Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment:

Collaborations and coordinated efforts to supporting the Safe Havens, the Rockwood Neighborhood Health Access Center and residents' ability to gain adequate access to health care are functioning effectively. We are currently in the process of developing an educational program to prevent the use of alcohol and drugs targeted toward the Latino community to lower the incidence of DUII arrests. We were unable to pursue the objective to initiate a mentoring program that serves the youth of Rockwood due to a separate grant request being denied.

Increase access to strength based approach to alcohol and drug treatment.

- The current availability of resources and access to those in need of strength-based alcohol and drug treatment is being evaluated. It is very likely that the cuts to the Oregon Health Plan will greatly affect any future increasing of access to treatment.
- RWS is collaborating with the Rockwood Business Assistance Program and certain agencies and businesses to evaluate the need for conducting workshops with the business community members that educate them about alcohol and drug free workplaces. We plan to establish the plans to meet those needs. If applicable, the Office of Addiction Services and the Health Department within Multnomah County will collaborate to assist with development of materials.
- Multnomah County Department of Community Justice offered one session of Cognitive Behavioral Change classes for 8 adult offenders under supervision in apartment complexes within the Rockwood area in Spanish. The crimes that these offenders committed are related to domestic violence, drug/alcohol or theft offenses.

Reduce teen pregnancy, the use of alcohol and drugs and tobacco; improve the outcome of pregnancies by improving health behaviors, assist new parents in providing more competent care for their children.

- The FACTS Abstinence Curricula was presented at two local middle schools, through the partnership of El Programa Hispano and Northwest Family Services. Classes were held weekly from February through May and average attendance was 15 per session, 65% female. Forty parents attended a meeting at each school; the purposes were to explain the program, discuss the importance of this topic and how to address their children's questions and behavior. Eighty children and parents attended a dramatic presentation related to this topic at one of the schools also.

Reduce gang activity, poverty and increase the assets of and opportunities for children and youth. Increase pro-social service and educational activities for youth and families.

- Safe Haven activities were offered Monday through Friday in the after-school hours at the PAL Youth Center, HB Lee SUN School, Davis Elementary SUN School, and Alder Elementary SUN School. Weekend and evening activities were also offered by various other partners including Eastwind Center, Multnomah County Library, El Programa Hispano, The Touchstone Program and Metropolitan Family Services.
- The PAL Youth Center is a year-round recreational facility for youth ages 8-18; it is open Monday-Friday from 2:30pm-7:00pm during the school year and Monday-Friday from 10am-5pm during the summer and school breaks. The Youth Center had a database of over 400 members for the 2002-2003 cycle and, between January and June, an average of 72 youth attended Safe Haven activities on a daily basis. Safe Haven activities include, but are not limited to: a gymnasium, an art & crafts room, a game room with pool tables, ping pong tables and an air hockey table, a learning center, a computer room, a weight room, a movie room, and a reading room.
- With support of RWS funds this year, the PAL Youth Center held a Friday Fun Night Program which allowed for the center to remain open until 9:00pm on Fridays. The program ran from January through April 2003, totaling 14 different evenings and averaging 47 youth each night.
- A second Safe Haven within the Rockwood boundaries is HB Lee Middle School, where SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) and MFS (Metropolitan Family Services) are organizing activities. The SUN winter/spring session began on January 13 and ended on June 5. This included after-school programs being offered Monday-Thursday from 2:00pm until 8:00pm. The SUN summer session, which includes five, week-long camps: Martial Arts Camp, Sports Adventure Camp, Art Camp, Drama Camp, and Science Camp, began on June 23 and will end on July 25. A total of 274 youth were served this reporting period through extended-day and summer programming. Davis and Alder Elementary Schools are also inside the Rockwood boundaries and are also now considered SUN Schools. Each school has been added to our Safe Haven list.
- Eastwind Center provided an after-school tutorial and activities program two days per week throughout the school year at a HUD apartment complex in Rockwood called Rockwood Station. The program's average attendance was 15 youth per week for each activity. Eastwind's program at this complex has also been added to our Safe Haven list. In addition, an Indoor Soccer team of Latino youth living in the Rockwood area created a positive and active environment for 12 youth during the winter and spring months. Eastwind's Summer Day Camp program (June 9th through Aug 22nd) has or will serve 276 school-aged children.
- In partnership with El Programa Hispano, Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, Eastwind Center, and Rockwood Weed & Seed, the PAL Youth Center hosted *Violence Free Spring Break* activities where a daily average of 165 youth attended to participate in a variety of activities.
- The annual PAL Summer Sports Camp was held at an area high school from June 16- June 20, 2003. The camp gave Police Officers and youth ages 8-14 a chance to interact with each other in a positive environment. The camp, while choosing from 13 different sports, also served as a recruiting device to invite youth to participate in other PAL and Safe Haven programs. There were over 350 youth who participated

and approximately 75 Police Officers and volunteers who helped to coach the athletes.

- Throughout the reporting period, the PAL Youth Center offered specialized programs in which youth could participate: basketball and street hockey skills clinics and a job-skills development course, Living L.A.R.G.E. (Learning About Responsible and Gainful Employment).
- Throughout the reporting period, the SUN program offered specialized programs in which youth or their families could participate: SMART and other homework assistance clubs, art classes, nutrition classes, Latina Girls Group, Club de Chavos and educational classes and informational workshops for parents.
- Throughout the reporting period, Eastwind Center offered specialized programs for youth to participate in which included girls groups with the Girls' Initiative Network, Latina Girls Group, and skill building groups for boys as well as counseling services, support groups and educational groups for parents and family activities.

Increase access to health, dental and mental health services.

- In June 2003, the Gresham Downtown Development Association donated a remaining supply (which was originally donated by Tri-Met) of public transportation tickets to Rockwood Weed & Seed. We immediately provided a portion of them to the Head Nurse at the Rockwood Neighborhood Health Access Center, a clinic of the Multnomah County Health Dept. Currently, the tickets are being distributed (and the process is being logged) to patients who need transportation assistance in arriving to other sites to receive additional medical, dental and mental health services.

Support youth and families with childcare and other critical services.

- Mt. Hood Community College (MHCC) Head Start and Multnomah Early Childhood Program offer early childhood services to Rockwood residents. The opening of MHCC Head Start's new facility has been delayed; it may open by the end of 2003.
- The RWS Site Coordinator attended meetings and the training provided by the Nutrition Services office of the Gresham-Barlow School District in order to act as a back-up site supervisor at the following Summer Food Program sites: HB Lee Middle School, PAL Youth Center and The Pines Apartment Complex.

Neighborhood Restoration:

Collaborations and coordinated efforts to improve the image of the neighborhood, job and training opportunities and develop leadership in Rockwood are functioning effectively. Plans to assist in the improvement of housing conditions are being developed. Improving the communication among the residents and networking the elements is a very important objective of this component, however, services cannot be donated as originally anticipated. Enhancement of community events was also a priority during this reporting period. Those efforts have proven to be successful in working toward the efficient networking and collaborating among neighborhood residents. Due to the availability of additional funds from Multnomah County Department of Community Justice, a plan was developed during this reporting period to covering up graffiti and painting a mural dedicated to the Latino community within the Rockwood Neighborhood.

Improve the business vitality and image of the business community.

- The Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs is a vital resource and have a satellite office located in the center of Rockwood. This center offers bilingual, bicultural support for local start-up and active businesses. Services include business management assistance, technical assistance, marketing and matching of business opportunities, access to capital, administrative support and networking activities.
- A number of community events were held during this reporting period. The Rockwood Library held their annual Día de Los Niños y Los Libros celebration. The SUN program at HB Lee Middle School held the second annual Family Health Day which 120 people attended. The first annual “Rock Soup” celebration was also a great success during this time period. This event, which about 500 people attended, allowed us to address developing leadership in the community and enhancing relationships among community members. The RWS Site Coordinator has also been involved in the planning of the 13th Annual Celebration of Cultures to take place in August.
- The “Rock Soup” event pulled together many businesses in the area together as sponsors/donors; at least four of them received positive media coverage of their involvement and found community involvement to be a win-win situation.
- Laila Cully, of the State of Oregon Community and Economic Development Dept., was a speaker at the “Rock Soup” event, and used this forum to give information on starting small businesses, as well as passing out resource information.
- Invitations to residents to develop a Community Logo and sign to identify the Rockwood area were presented through the *Gresham Outlook* (local newspaper) as a kick-off to the “Rock Soup” event. Although this first-year attempt did not bring out the results we had hoped, a stronger incentive and wider publicity will be addressed prior to next year’s event. This plan will continue to be addressed.
- As RWS becomes more visible, those who are arranging their own events are consulting RWS for potential tie-in. Weed & Seed has been able to make recommendations of potential partnerships to avoid duplication of services and provide information on outreach needed. RWS Neighborhood Restoration is currently assisting a local church and a grocery store who have become interested in developing events to serve the entire community. Plans are also being developed for next year’s Run for Rockwood Relay and the potential 2005 opening of the Rockwood International Marketplace.
- The Gresham City Council formally adopted and referred the Rockwood/West Gresham Urban Renewal Plan to the citizens during this reporting period. The citizens will now vote on whether to pass this measure. In addition to supporting the development of businesses that create well paying jobs and advancing the quality of housing for current and future residents, a “Rockwood Commons” facility, which could house a number of community uses, could be a long-term result of the Plan and this facility would have a positive impact on the Weed & Seed strategy by bringing a central focus to a number of community uses.

Improve Networking with all elements of the community. [Schools, churches, health care providers, neighborhood organizations, businesses, government entities, etc.]

- As part of the goal to share the news of RWS to the community, the Site Coordinator presented to and attended meetings of the following organizations: Alder Elementary

School Staff, East County Caring Communities, East County One Stop, Gresham Breakfast Lions, Gresham Chamber of Commerce, Gresham City Council, Gresham Optimists, Rockwood Kiwanis, and the Rockwood Neighborhood Association.

- Plans are being developed for the means of keeping the community members connected: together and to resources. Newsletter and community information phone lines are options that are being discussed. Improvements/Changes Needed: The initial funding estimates were prohibitive for addressing this goal effectively without the large donation of services which was not available. Therefore, RWS Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee is evaluating other less cost prohibitive methods to reach the multilingual community such as a multilingual/multifunction phone information line. Additional funding to address this lower cost alternative still needs to be addressed.
- Over 40 organizations that serve the Rockwood Community were able to network amongst organizations as well as the community members in attendance at the ‘open-fair, open-air’ event, “Rock Soup”.
- As part of this year’s “Rock Soup” community event, *Ingredient (resource) Guides* were developed to include the listing of various organizations and services available within the Rockwood community (many of whom were present at the event), how citizens can get involved in helping the community and a Useful Numbers List. This guide was available in English, Spanish and Russian. Kaiser Permanente donated the printing costs.

Develop leadership in the community.

- A successful collaboration was formed between students of the Reynolds High School National Honor Society and the Rockwood community utilizing the assistance of approximately six student volunteers. The group’s President promised continued volunteer community service efforts from this group in the upcoming school year.

Decrease poverty/increase wealth.

- The comprehensive Rockwood Business Climate survey is done bi-annually; there are plans in place to complete the next one in the fall of 2003. The comprehensive database and business assistance program have also been completed by the City of Gresham, Rockwood Business Assistance Program.
- The Youth Employment Institute (YEI) has a representative responsible for developing youth employment, academic enrichment and job development services for the youth in Rockwood and surrounding area. An application for funding was submitted to the Department of Labor to enhance services and this request was denied. YEI continues to strive to reach their goals with help from other resources.

Special Emphasis Areas:

Not applicable.