

SUMMER 2020

The Catalyst

a periodic publication from
Vision Action Network

INSPIRING
COLLABORATION
IN WASHINGTON COUNTY



Contents

01 Director's Corner

REVOLUTION OR EVOLUTION?

02 Community Engagement

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

03 Initiatives and Convenings

**THRIVES NEXT STEPS AND THE
REC'S MID-YEAR REPORT**

04 In the Spotlight

**EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
ACROSS THE COUNTY**

06 VAN Board

TRIBUTE TO ROY KIM

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Glenn Montgomery
Executive Director

VAN's bi-monthly newsletter has been on hiatus since the end of February, just a few weeks before the stay-at-home order was issued. By mid-March, we shifted our focus to support the response effort of Washington County's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and we spent the next 2 1/2 months contributing in any way possible. We hosted a series of [community briefings](#), shared information on social media, and filled gaps as we were able.

On Memorial Day, new Covid-19 cases were at their lowest levels since the "lockdown" and the county had its sights on entering Phase I. Amidst these hopeful

signs, VAN was wrapping up its tour with the EOC to return to "normal" operations. But on that national holiday, a separate, violent outbreak erupted in Minneapolis and sent shock waves felt across the globe that have yet to subside.

The world has irrevocably changed since VAN's last newsletter. I, for one, continue to struggle to navigate my way through uncharted territory. So many questions and so few answers. When will this pandemic and its disproportionate impact on BIPOC communities cease to rule our lives? What about the long-term devastation to our already fragile economy? Will Portland's peaceful demonstrations that morph into mayhem each night fundamentally improve Black lives?

More than once, I have found myself angry, despairing, and discouraged, but I find inspiration in the words of those whose struggles far outweigh my own and whose resilience is unmarred by the discord and inequity that rages without cease.

From the late Congressman John Lewis:

"Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and help redeem the soul of America."

This quote may seem more appropriate for an "activist" organization, as opposed to the "impartial" convener that VAN stakes claim to in Washington County, but I don't see a distinction between the two, especially in times like these. Our essential purpose is to facilitate collaborative conversations that lead to better outcomes, and no great change, whether by revolution or evolution, has ever taken firm root without tension or conflict. In this sense, VAN is a catalyst. Our recent [Statement on Racial Equity and Justice](#) is an example of how we intend to live up to this role.

My active hope for you, dear reader, is that you step into your role - whatever that may be - and play it to the best of your ability. For encouragement, I offer another favorite quote by Howard Thurman:

"Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive."

In service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn Montgomery". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER

I grew up in a multi-cultural household, so I see the ways that different cultures and perspectives interact through a lens that is deeply personal, challenging, and enriching. I am fascinated with how cultural and interpersonal dynamics come into play as people work and commune together. As both an artist and a collaborator, never before have I experienced such widespread difference in the space where real conversation is taking place about race, culture and the relationships we have with these topics.

I step into this interim role during a pandemic and a racial justice movement which is not without some challenges, but in the midst of it all, I see we are presented with opportunities not just for collective listening and community learning, but real growth. This moment has sharpened the focus of the Racial Equity Collaborative that VAN helped initiate in 2018, and it has propelled it to deeper introspection across every facet of the organization.

Many of us are on a personal equity journey as well, and I am struck with both a sense of humility and courage as I look around and see people trying to re-structure, re-imagine, dig deep into their hearts and minds, in order to grow fearlessly. I know that together we can do this.

VAN wants to support your journey. Throughout the month of August, as social distancing continues to pose barriers to human connection, we will share fun and easy activities you can enjoy with both friends and family. At the same time, we hope you learn a little and find some inspiration in the topics and thought leaders we introduce each week to support your positive actions in allyship, self-awareness, and personal growth.

Click below and create more space for joy!

[We're in this together.](#)

In gratitude,



Michelle Vorce
Community Engagement Coordinator



**We're
In This
Together**

VAN INITIATIVES AND CONVENINGS



Join the strategic discussion on Thrives priorities taking place Wednesday, August 19 at 9am.

[Register now!](#)

Affordable housing and homeless services were the main topics of discussion during a July 29 Thrives All-Collaborative gathering that drew 50 people. If you missed the meeting, you can [click here for the recording](#) and refer to the presentations:

- [Supportive Housing Services Measure](#) - Metro
- [Planning & Implementation of Homeless Services Measure](#) - Washington County

Thrives members hope that the new revenue from the housing services measure, expected to reach \$50+ million annually over the next few years in Washington County alone, will make a substantial difference in the lives of hundreds of residents who struggle to obtain vital services that can help them get stabilized and into safe, affordable housing.

Furthermore, the passage of this measure elevates the importance of months of work underwritten by the County and convened by VAN that engaged Thrives members and collaborators and resulted in [recommendations on permanent supportive housing](#) (PSH) developed by the consulting team of Trillium Advisors and completed in March. While the pandemic has delayed a formal presentation to the Board of Commissioners, it is now scheduled for 1pm during the August 18 work session.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION

VAN's EDI initiative is unique because it extends beyond our role as the convener of a collaborative, community effort to also focus on VAN's internal operations. We're part of a cohort facilitated by the Center for Equity and Inclusion that meets monthly, and our Board will engage in training and dialogue to help inform VAN's policies and practices. This is a journey we make together, learning and hopefully improving as we go.

Outwardly, VAN's work with the Washington County Racial Equity Collaborative continues, and in addition to the REC's [Mid-Year Report](#) that can be found on our website, you'll gain insight as to how the REC aims to build capacity of communities of color and influence dialogue and decision-making of the county's leaders.



**Racial
Equity
Collaborative**

working for justice in washington county

While the pandemic may have quashed its plans for an April 30 gathering, in November the REC will host a virtual event to unveil its 3-year equity action plan, so stay tuned for further details. And if your culturally-specific organization would like to learn more about membership with the REC, please contact co-convener Marcus Mundy (marcus@coalitioncommunitiescolor.org) or Glenn Montgomery (glenn@visionactionnetwork.org).

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY UPDATES & EVENTS

Washington County Feeds Two Birds in One Hand

The county has found a place to both [consolidate four homeless camps](#) and provide a safe shelter to help curb the spread of Covid-19.

On a separate front, the county will host community [listening sessions](#) to glean input on residents' needs and priorities. Complete the survey and join one of the August conversations!

City of Tigard - Racial Equity Chats w/ Police Chief and Mayor

[Online chat](#) with Chief Kathy McAlpine on Facebook
Wednesday, August 5, 5pm

[Fireside chat](#) with Mayor Jason Snider on Facebook
Thursday, August 6, 6:30pm



City of Hillsboro - Safety and Policing

Saturday, August 8, 9am (English); 11am (Español)

The Hillsboro City Council will host listening sessions facilitated by Frances Portillo.

Click [here](#) for details.

WEA Forum on Re-opening Schools

Register for the next Westside Economic Alliance forum which focuses on [Planning for the New School Year](#)

Thursday, August 13, 7:30am



City of Beaverton - Cultural Inclusion

Enjoy the interactive, live-streamed [Night Market](#)
Friday & Saturday, August 14-15, 7pm

[Welcoming Week](#) is Sept. 12-20, and you are invited to promote your events during that week, if they are related to welcoming and/or cross-cultural understanding. Contact Paolo Esteban at pesteban@beavertonoregon.gov.

Dreams Deferred - Live! is a virtual [storytelling event](#) co-hosted by The Immigrant Story, Adelante Mujeres, St. Andrew Lutheran Church and other community organizations.

September 19, 7pm

Washington County Thrives

Register to attend the next All-Collaborative gathering Thursday, August 19, 9am (see VAN Initiatives above for details)

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

FARMERS MARKETS

[Beaverton](#)

Saturdays from 9-1:30pm

[Cornelius](#)

Fridays from 4-8pm

[Forest Grove](#)

Wednesdays from 4-8pm

[Hillsboro](#)

Saturdays from 9-1pm

(Downtown)

Sundays from 10-2pm (Orenco Station)

[Sherwood](#)

Saturdays from 9-1pm

[Tigard](#)

Sundays from 9-1:30pm

[Tualatin](#)

Fridays from 4-8pm



COVID-19 CORNER

Return to School Plans

[Beaverton School District](#)

[Hillsboro School District](#)

[Tigard-Tualatin School District](#)

A recent video [presentation on Covid-19 cases](#) and trends to Washington County's BOC.

Information on [test sites](#) in Washington County.

Watch a video on [contact tracing](#) (English / Spanish).

Washington County looks through an [equity lens](#) to address Covid-19.



Vision Action Network

VAN engages stakeholders across sectors to collaboratively address critical issues in Washington County.

Board Transitions



Roy Kim has the distinction of being the second longest serving member of VAN's Board with a mind-blowing 18-year tenure including roles as Treasurer and Chair! Never one to seek the spotlight, Roy was a deep listener, but when he did speak, everyone in the room hushed to hear it because - well - it was Roy.

I asked current and past Board members, along with my two predecessors, to share a word that they would use to describe Roy, and here's what they had to offer...

Thoughtful, gracious, insightful, contemplative, and strategic.

It's safe to say that we all appreciated Roy for his quiet candor, wisdom, and historical perspective. Thank you, Roy, for many years of dedication!

Roy Kim

Central Bethany Development
2002 - 2020

In other news, Chris Villa of PCC Rock Creek and Katherine Russell of Providence stepped down due to career transitions. We wish them both the best of luck in their next chapters!



Vision Action Network

VAN engages stakeholders across sectors to collaboratively address critical issues in Washington County.

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Andrew McGough
(Chair)
WorkSystems, Inc.

Mike Duyck
(Immediate Past Chair)

Sr. Adele-Marie Altenhofen
(Vice-Chair)
Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon

Annie Herbert (Secretary)
Kaiser Permanente

Albert (Al) Roque (Treasurer)
Washington County Sheriff's Office

Directors

Rania Ayoub
City of Hillsboro

Alexis Ball
City of Beaverton

Ed Guzman
Sightline Institute

Insil Kang
Village Church

Mary Monnat
LifeWorks NW

Tara Pedersen
Columbia Bank

Narcedalia (Narce) Rodriguez
Pacific University

Kemp Shuey
Community Action

Dick Stenson

Staff

Glenn Montgomery
Executive Director
glenn@visionactionnetwork.org

Fernanda Wilent
(on parental leave)
Director of Community Engagement
fernanda@visionactionnetwork.org

Michelle Vorce
(interim)
Community Engagement Coordinator
Michelle@visionactionnetwork.org