



Association of Adventist Women

Alice Achieng Owuocha Ouma

— Woman of the Year —

Community Life

2005

When Rhonda Whitney became the Executive Director of Portland Adventist Community Services (PACS) in 1994, she redefined “community service,” and revolutionized the delivery of care to the needy. She took a \$60,000 per year organization and transformed it into a \$2.3 million operation with a food warehouse, a thrift store, and a free health clinic utilizing the services of local physicians and nurses, a local hospital and nursing school. PACS now serves 174,000 people a year.

Whitney developed a new food delivery system that preserved the dignity of her clients by providing them with nutrition education and allowing them to choose their own food from a

supermarket-type facility. The thrift store provides clients with clothing and household items in emergencies, and is a low-cost shopping facility for the community of the working poor. It generates up to \$14,000 a month to support PACS’ community services.

This organization has become a model for other programs in Oregon, and Whitney is recognized as a resource person who serves on boards and committees across her state and the nation. She is a past member of the State of Oregon Food Bank governing board, and a member of the North American Division Community Services Steering Committee.



Before becoming Executive Director of PACS, Whitney served as Medical Staff Education Coordinator for the Adventist Medical Center in Portland.

Whitney is a member of the Tabernacle Adventist Church in Portland, where she serves as an elder, member of the board, and a trainer and participant in the church's Stephens Ministry program.

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