

## **Agenda Item Number 13.**

### **Southern Willamette Services Corporation Update**

**Presenter:** Christine Puetz

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only

**Background:**

Over the last two years, LCOG staff has been assisting the Southern Willamette Services Corporation (SWSC) build capacity to meet its mission. LCOG assisted in the establishment of the nonprofit in the mid '90s. In the last year, the SWSC board of directors has grown from four to nine, annual focus areas have been developed to direct the organization's energies, and committees are forming to "find collaborative solutions that benefit the citizens of Lane County." To that end, SWSC has just announced the creation of an endowment fund. Seeded with a bequest of approximately \$100,000, the first focus of the fund will be support of senior meal programs throughout Lane County. SWSC is contracting with the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to manage the fund. At the end of 2003, OCF had charitable fund assets of over \$492 million, and had a rate of return of 25%.

"We have yet a long way to go before fully realizing our capacity as an organization that makes significant impacts within our community; however, the endowment fund will create a legacy of giving that we can be proud of."

--Katherine Schacht, SWSC Board President

SWSC's request to be included in the next round of the Combined Federal Campaign has recently been approved by United Way of Lane County. SWSC has also registered with the State of Oregon under a "doing business as" name of Senior Connections. This provides better name recognition for those interested in contributing financial support to the needs of the senior population in Lane County.