

## Commitment to Community

In March 2004, 160 community leaders met to discuss Walla Walla's strengths and challenges. This led to a study of the availability of good jobs, a review of our children's health and education, a thorough analysis of crime statistics, and the sharing of our community's positive attributes.

Afterwards, we decided that the best place to begin was by getting to know folks in our neighborhoods. Four years later, we have strengthened that commitment and continued to learn what is important to neighbors. We believe that strong neighborhoods are where people know each other well, trust and enjoy the company of others, and work together to make dreams for their neighborhoods come true.

On October 4, 2005, C2C had an official neighborhood event—a neighborhood dinner in the area of West Maple Street. Today, **the Jefferson Park Neighborhood** has been revitalized with new playground equipment and a planned Senior Life Trail System. These projects rallied the call for neighborhood participation and brought families back into Jefferson Park. Neighbors meeting neighbors continues to promote lasting friendships that improve the quality of life for children and families.

**The Edith and Carrie Avenue Neighborhood** first met on March 16, 2006, and shared the dream of developing a community space where children could play safely and where neighbors can enjoy each other—that dream is now a reality as initial work on the park is completed. Working together has strengthened friendships and enhanced enthusiasm to further improve this neighborhood.

**The Washington Park Neighborhood** installed a Children's Art Wall, along with working with children and families on painting and maintaining several more murals. Add to this, new playground equipment, neighborhood clean-ups and the new Washington Park Neighborhood Center (WPNC). The WPNC, an after-school tutoring and activity program, served over 57 children in its first months of operation and will continue to meet the growing needs of local families.

*Commitment to Community is sponsored by Blue Mountain Action Council and Community Network with financial support of the Donald and Virginia Sherwood Trust*

*“Economic development starts with an investment in people and their neighborhoods.”*