

**Kitsap Community
Resources**

845 8th Street
Bremerton, WA
98337

Phone: 360-478-2301
www.kcr.org



**KITSAP COMMUNITY
Resources**

A Community Action Partnership. Helping people. Changing lives.

Inside KCR

Fall 2009

From the Executive Director, Larry Eyer

Like nearly all non-profit organizations, KCR relies in part on private donations to pay for part of the costs of program operations and special projects. Local donations also help KCR obtain foundation and government grant funding for our services and related facilities. We very much appreciate those who contribute to our fundraising activities.

We also continue to be a local United Way agency, both because United Way provides valuable local, private support for five of our programs, and because it supports many of our partner agencies that also provide needed services. United Way supports our WIC Nutrition Program, The Parenting Place, Kitsap Youth in Action, Homeless Services and our new Financial Education program.

United Way offers an easy way for workers, including our own employees, to make contributions. The options given through monthly payroll deduction allows many donors more flexibility. KCR employees will soon begin our United Way campaign.

The United Way Board of Directors determines how undesignated donations are allocated. If your intention is to donate specifically to KCR through United Way, please be sure to note that designation on your form.

You May Qualify for Weatherization Services

You or someone you know may qualify for KCR's Weatherization program which allows for those who are income-eligible to receive services. This assistance may include insulation, roof repair, air sealing, furnace repair, and more. A household of two can make up to \$2,428 per month while a family of four can make up to \$3,675 per month and be eligible for services.

See income guidelines and more information online at www.kcr.org. Or call 360-473-2045.

Donor Profile: These Ladies are the Cat's MEOW

The ladies of MEOW (Machine Embroiders of Oregon and Washington) know how to make a difference in the lives of struggling youngsters. The Silverdale group worked tirelessly to create over 80 quilts, 64 pillow-cases, and knitted caps for families in need. In addition, each quilt was lovingly wrapped around a special stuffed animal for children to enjoy.

Silver City Kitties of Silverdale MEOW



THANK YOU to our Support-A-Student Donors!

Thank you to all of you who donated so generously to the Support-A-Student program which equipped almost 300 kids with backpacks and school supplies for the upcoming year.



Three Silverdale Elementary students show off their backpacks.

Six New Transitional Housing Units Open in West Bremerton

Thanks to City of Bremerton HOME and Washington State Housing Trust funds, KCR was able to acquire and upgrade a six-unit apartment complex located in West Bremerton. The 880-square foot units have two bedrooms and one-and-a-half baths with a carport or garage.

The units will be used for transitional housing, where clients receive case management and are expected to pay 30% of their income toward the rental costs of the unit. Tenants participate in financial education classes and are able to save for the costs of moving into private housing, such as deposits and other fees.

Weatherization measures were applied and energy-efficient appliances were installed, including a ductless heat pump. Water conservation and necessary improve-

ments were put in place in order to meet the goal of the Washington State Housing Trust Fund to meet Evergreen Sustainable Development Standards.



Bremerton City Councilwoman Dianne Robinson, District 6, spoke at the Open House ceremony on Sept. 21.

Economic Conditions Lead to Overwhelming Need for Housing Assistance

In 2008, KCR fielded over 4,300 calls or visits from people seeking housing assistance ranging from counseling to landlord issues to foreclosures to rental assistance. In the first 6 months of 2009, this number had already hit 3,100 requests for assistance. The number of families on the waiting list for emergency shelter has consistently exceeded 100 families each month, an overwhelming statistic. Long waiting lists still exist for subsidized housing and rental prices remain high.

Darlene Cook, KCR's Housing and Community Support Services Director, realized that KCR needed to manage the situation with a fundamentally different approach. "We are thankful for our partnership with One Church One Family, which is now financing three shelter units for KCR families (up from one) and is providing support teams to help mentor families in our programs," she said.

Kitsap County has been a critical partner in providing the Safe Park program, where families can legally sleep overnight in their vehicles. The Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management stepped in during last winter's cold spell to provide emergency shelter for overnight stays.

"We've had to resort to less than ideal housing solutions," Cook said. "Such as paying for tents and camping

gear to place folks at state parks."

KCR is currently seeking funds to build housing in South Kitsap, and federal funds were also awarded to KCR through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program to buy foreclosed homes in the county for transitional housing purposes.

KCR has also received funding through the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), a new initiative of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The focus of HPRP is homelessness prevention and rapid re-housing for those who are homeless. KCR will provide case management for up to 3 months to help the families maintain stability, and provide flexible financial assistance to enable households to become or remain housed. With this program, KCR hopes to help 100 families with rapid re-housing and up to 88 families with rental assistance over the next year.

The new KCR RALF (Rental Assistance Leveraging for Families) program has also assisted 16 families transition into more permanent housing by matching savings for rental deposits and providing financial education classes. "We are constantly evolving and seeking solutions with our partners including the Continuum of Care Coalition and other organizations," said Cook. "Our goal is to find ways to better utilize resources in the best interest of our clients."

2008-09 AmeriCorps Members Recognized for Year of Service at Aug. 25 Celebration

Congratulations to the members who dedicated a year of service to Kitsap schools and non-profits through KCR's AmeriCorps program.



Members celebrated at a Recognition Ceremony on Aug. 25 with keynote speaker Adam Cornell, Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, and guest speaker Kitsap County Commissioner Steve Bauer.

Candi M. Beck
Angela R. Bellomo
Raymona L. Bennett
Erin N. Blair
Marcia Carruth
Tamara G. Davenport
Traceena M. Dunn
Diane C. Duvo
Michelle L. Fleetwood
Eric Foust
Tenneille M. Howell
Anthony M. Jenkins
George G. Kendrick
Venus A. Km-Wr
Christina A. Korloch
Sandra L. Larson
Chelsea Lowney-Wells

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Daniel A. McClean
Cassandra L.M. Moe-Fletcher
Juanita S. Moore
Melissa J. Pariseau
Lorelei J. Penea
Sarah L. Redfern
Rajasa K. Robbins
Kristine A. Rose
Kurtis H. Sanders
Rachel M. Taylor
Leana Torres
Lorie A. Waltrip
Charlene E. Wilson
36 new members begin the 2009-2010 KCR AmeriCorps program this month.

Employee Spotlight: Darlene Cook Brings Heart and Skill to KCR

Darlene Cook serves as the key leader within KCR in coordinating the efforts to help low-income and homeless families find safe and affordable shelter. She has also been involved in Energy Assistance for several years where she supervised efforts to provide financial assistance to the elderly, disabled, and thousands of low-income individuals each year to pay for rising heat and utility bills.

Her career in Community Action Agencies began in Walla Walla at the Blue Mountain Action Council where she entered the CETA

(Comprehensive Employment and Training Act) Employment Program as a single parent with a disabled child. She moved from being a client to becoming an employee and quickly rose into the management levels.

She started at KCR in 1990 in the Community Support Services division where she coordinated efforts to help families whose soldiers were sent to fight in Desert Storm and she instituted the Support-A-Student program. She now acts as the Director of Housing and Community Support Services, which includes Weatherization, Energy Assistance, and Veterans' Assistance.

"She will do whatever she can, within the limits that are in place, to help a client," said Terry Schroeder, Continuum of Care Coordinator. "She really epitomizes the hand-up not a hand-out solution. The client must be willing to do their fair share of the work toward self-sufficiency."

Denise Agee, Coordinator of Assistance and the Food Bank at St. Vincent de Paul agrees. "She has the biggest heart. If she doesn't know the answer, she will go out of her way to find it out."



Cook (center) with Schroeder (left) and Shannon Bauman from Kitsap County Community Development at a Continuum of Care meeting.



Support United Way
KCR CFC #: 66617



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KCR is Now Seeking Sponsors for Christmas Angel
More Information is Available Online at www.kcr.org

Our mission is to create hope and opportunity for low-income Kitsap County residents by providing resources that promote self-sufficiency.

WIC Introduces First Major Change to Food Packages Since 1980

Starting this October, the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program will undergo a major change in its food package offerings. This change will enable WIC households to buy fresh and canned fruits and vegetables, whole grains and soy products, including tofu and soy milk.

The revisions align the WIC food packages with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans and infant feeding practice guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

In addition to adding healthier options, the changes will encourage more women to breastfeed their babies. "Breastfeeding is the healthiest option for both babies and moms," KCR WIC Manager Cyndy Ayers said. "Breast milk contains all the nutrients a baby needs and reduces the risk of allergies and asthma. Breastfeeding has also been proven to help with childhood obesity."



KCR WIC Certifier, Katie Davis, weighs and tracks progress of a WIC client.

Calling All Volunteers:

Volunteers are needed to hand-address letters for KCR next month. KCDEM is also seeking volunteers for the Severe Weather Shelters this season. Visit www.kcr.org or call 360-473-2003 for more information.