



A Community Action Partnership. Helping people. Changing lives.

From the Executive Director, Larry Eyer



The last four months have offered a great deal of opportunity and challenge for KCR. Changes brought about by the state budget and opportunities to apply for federal “stimulus” funding have added greatly to our workload. Since March the KCR Board has approved 35 grant applications. We have since received Workforce Investment funding to train and place low-income Kitsap residents in jobs; Department of Energy funds to weatherize additional homes over three years; and Community Services Block Grant funding for parenting education, capacity building, and additional health, dental, literacy, food and educational support services. We are also grateful to United Way of Kitsap Way who has awarded funds to KCR to help support five of our programs: WIC Nutrition, Parenting Place, Kitsap Youth in Action, Homeless Children and Family Services, and Financial Education and Asset-Building.

KCR is also seeking funds to expand Early Head Start services to North Kitsap, to purchase property for transitional housing in South Kitsap, and to purchase a duplex in Bremerton for the same purpose.

KCR and Community Work Together to Beat the Heat Last Month

KCR Housing and Community Support Services Director, Darlene Norris-Cook, knew the dangers of the heat were affecting too many families last month when the temperatures soared into the 100s. Families staying in the Safe Park program were reporting illnesses, heat exhaustion, and even pneumonia among their children. She worked with the Kitsap County Department of Emergency Management and other partners to set up some solutions for those suffering without air-conditioning. KCR Safe Park families and other housing participants were invited to come to the KCR cooling station at the 1201 Park building, where they received free water donated from Costco, watched movies, and played board games during the day and after hours. At Salvation Army, KCR purchased an awning for their cooling station which included water misters. Bremerton Senior Center kept their doors open later than usual for the seniors in our community, and local movie theaters played free children’s movies in the early afternoon with the A/C cranked up high.



Upgrades to Hewitt Avenue Transitional Housing Near Completion

KCR will complete the needed upgrades to a six-unit apartment complex located in West Bremerton later this month. With funds from City of Bremerton HOME and Washington State Housing Trust Fund, KCR was able to acquire and upgrade these units which are 880-square-ft two-bedroom and one-and-a-half bath units. These transitional units will serve formerly homeless families for up to 18 months, during which time they receive case management services and pay rents based on income.



KCR WIC Certifier, Katie Davis, explains new guidelines to clients

New Food Packages Coming for WIC Nutrition Program in October

A dramatic change is underway for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition program that will take effect this October. WIC-approved foods will now include fresh fruits and vegetables, whole-wheat breads, soy milk, tofu, and canned salmon or tuna. Significant changes also include lower fat milk, less cheese and eggs, less juice, and a change in the amount of infant formula being offered.

The approved foods are based on recent changes in federal laws that align WIC foods with national dietary recommendations, promote breastfeeding, and increase the variety of foods available to WIC clients. WIC is a supplemental nutrition program for pregnant and breastfeeding women, and those with children up to age five, living below 185% of the poverty level. WIC serves close to 50% of infants born in Kitsap County. For more information, visit the [Washington WIC web site](#).



KCR REPORTS

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2008 KCR Annual Report
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Olga Fedorovski, Executive Director of Literacy Council of Kitsap

ARRA Funds Available through CSBG Will Support Local Groups

The Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) provides federal funding, technical assistance and support to the 31 local Community Action Agencies in Washington state, such as KCR, to both ease the effects of poverty and eliminate the causes of poverty. Due to a special one-time funding opportunity, 2009 CSBG American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds are available in our community for KCR to improve capacity of services and also to support local community-building initiatives.

KCR has identified five local partners to receive this CSBG stimulus funding for services that assist low-income residents in Kitsap. The Literacy Council of Kitsap will use funds to support its volunteer program; Olympic College will develop its Students in Need

Program; local food banks will benefit from the funds to purchase refrigeration equipment; Peninsula Community Health Services will apply funds to a Homeless Healthcare Fund; and the Kitsap County Health District will provide adult acute care dental clinics.



AmeriCorps members package ready-to-eat meals for Children of the Nations in May.

AmeriCorps Members End Year of Service with Graduation Aug. 25

Adam Cornell, Special Assistant United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington, will be the keynote speaker for this year's graduation of 33 KCR AmeriCorps members, held at Sons of Norway in Bremerton on Aug. 25.

The 2008-2009 AmeriCorps team members have dedicated a year to service in our community through mentoring students, working with the West Sound American Red Cross, assisting the YWCA of Kitsap County, providing manpower to the Children of the Nations' efforts, managing the Kitsap Youth in Action program, and providing support to KCR and KCR clients.

Emphasis on "Green Jobs" Comes to Washington State

Our new National Administration and our own Washington State Legislature have expressed strong interest in expanding the green jobs sector of our economy. This can be seen in the Administration's stimulus investments in weatherization, energy conservation tax credits and other activities that will create green jobs.

In 2008, the Washington State Legislature passed a bill which would "provide a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Washington economy." Green jobs promote environmental protection and energy security, and involve industries in energy efficiency, preventing and reducing pollution, renewable energy, and mitigating or cleaning up pollution. According to a report provided by Employment Security, Washington state currently shows an estimated total employment of 47,194 in four green core areas among private-sector employers.

Locally, Kitsap County, KCR, Olympic College, and other Work Source partners are working together to take advantage of opportunities to support the development of green jobs, primarily through job training and business support activities.



KCR Now Accepting School Supplies and Backpack Donations

At KCR, our goal is to ensure that every student enters their new classroom on the first day of school with a backpack full of the supplies they need for the year. You can help by donating or by collecting school supplies and taking them to our Family Service Center at 1201 Park Avenue in Bremerton by Aug. 15. More information is available on [KCR's web site](#) for the Support-A-Student program.