



A Community Action Partnership. Helping people. Changing lives.

From the Executive Director, Larry Eyer



I am frequently asked whether KCR received any recovery (stimulus) funding and how it will impact us. KCR has been awarded recovery funding in three specific areas: Weatherization, Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program (HPRP), and Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). In each case the funding flowed first through a federal agency, then the state, and we have just recently received it. Each has great potential for our community, but we are just starting to implement the programs.

The DOE and CDBG Weatherization funding will allow us to improve homes and save energy for 215 additional lower-income Kitsap households over a two-year period. HPRP funds will, over a three-year period, enable KCR to keep 517 potentially homeless Kitsap households in their homes or find them homes, and the one-year CSBG funds will give us opportunity to better address the greatly increased needs we see resulting from this economic downturn. We are appreciative of the additional funding and will soon be seeing the impact—all the funds will be spent locally. Several jobs have already been created and we anticipate more soon through approximately 25 local contracts and contractors.

Safe Park Program Succeeds in Providing Temporary Shelter for Homeless Families

KCR's Safe Park program began in January 2009, and has succeeded in serving 36 different families with children to date. The lot held up to eight families at a time, where participants have access to restroom facilities and the Kitsap County Sheriff's office patrols once a night. Most families have moved on to KCR Emergency Shelters, Transitional Housing, or other affordable housing that they were able to access due to the case management services they received while in the Safe Park program. KCR and its partners, including Kitsap County and the Continuum of Care Coalition, is expanding the program and will soon offer a second location at a local church which will provide two parking spaces, a portable restroom, and hot water for homeless families.

Severe Weather Shelter Program Continues this Winter and Expands to South Kitsap

This year, the severe weather shelter will be located in downtown Bremerton at Coffee Oasis and will run from November through March. Those needing shelter can contact 2-1-1 for more information. The shelter will open if: it is expected to be 32 degrees or lower for four or more hours, one inch of snow is expected, or one inch of rain is expected between noon and 6 a.m. the next day. The determination is made by the Department of Emergency Management. A South Kitsap shelter is also in the works and on target to be ready to open in November as well.



Head Start students at Naval Avenue Elementary

Back to School for Head Start Students

KCR Head Start and ECEAP classes began on September 17. The programs will serve at least 324 three- and four- year olds this year throughout Kitsap, and Early Head Start will serve an additional 60 infants and toddlers.

Teachers received training in "I Am Moving, I Am Learning," a program designed to promote health, nutrition, and activity in young children. Parents can expect to see more music and movement in the classrooms and changes in many outdoor environments. West Bremerton Early Learning Center (formerly West Park) opened its doors on September 14, 2009 at its new location on the Naval Avenue Early Learning Campus. The Home-Based option of Early Head Start also celebrates its 5th anniversary this year. KCR has Head Start, Early Head Start, or ECEAP centers throughout Bremerton, Silverdale, Poulsbo, and Bainbridge Island.



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Volunteers Needed

Hand-address Envelopes for KCR in November. Call 473-2003 or [go online](#) for more information.

Employee Spotlight: Connie Mueller Wants to Be Part of Facilitating Change in Kitsap



Mueller with Head Start students from the former Westpark center
Photo courtesy of Moro Communications

Connie Mueller, Director of Early Learning and Family Services for KCR, has a philosophy: "If you want something to change, you have to be part of it," and that is what attracted her to KCR. After serving on the Board for 5 years, she joined KCR and brings a wealth of knowledge and a network of community relationships to her position. Earlier in her career, she founded the Bainbridge Island Teen Center after discovering that many teenagers on the island had few options for social activities and 55% of juniors and seniors surveyed admitted to trying marijuana and 30% were drinking alcohol. Afterwards, she served as Executive Director for 12 years for Bainbridge Youth Services, the only source for free counseling for teenaged youth on the island. She has served on various Boards over the years, including the Boys and Girls Club, the Bainbridge Foundation, Kitsap Shared Resources, and the Washington State Association of Head Start and ECEAP.

South Kitsap Center Introduces Employer of the Month Program

KCR's South Kitsap Family Services Center and WorkSource affiliate in Port Orchard has introduced a new program titled "Employer of the Month," where an employer from the community is invited to speak to our participants about their hiring process, what they look for in employees, and the skills required for their job openings. This allows participants to be better informed on the hiring process and may possibly give them an extra boost when applying because they will have had face-to-face contact. The first employer to participate was Waste Management who held two sessions at the site on Oct. 7. For more information, call 360-473-2144.



George Thompson of Waste Management

Community Needs Assessment to Identify Trends and Needs of Kitsap County Residents

KCR is one of 31 statewide Community Action Agencies. Every four years, KCR analyzes changing community needs in our service area, Kitsap County, to identify strategies that will work best in addressing poverty. This Community Needs Assessment identifies major trends and factors related to poverty and the needs of local residents in Kitsap County. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the assessment, or learning more, please contact Kathleen Hackney at 360-473-2003. The report should be available by the end of October.



New Officers Selected to Serve on Board of Directors

Members of the Board of Directors of KCR elected officers to serve during 2009-2010. Dr. Rick MacLennan, Vice-President of Student Services at Olympic College, will serve in his second term as President (pictured at left). Suzanne Plemmons, Community Health Director at the Kitsap County Health District was re-elected to serve as Vice-President (center). Michelle Yeoman with KPS Health Plans was elected Treasurer (right).

Now Accepting Donations for Christmas Angel



Christmas Angel

The holidays can be a time of increased stress and hardship for many low-income parents in Kitsap County as they choose between paying their bills or buying gifts for their children. You can help ease that burden by sponsoring a child, donating gifts, or volunteering in KCR's Santa Shoppe. Sign up as a Christmas Angel by going online at [KCR's web site](#) or calling 360-473-2032.