



KITSAP COMMUNITY *Resources*

A Community Action Partnership. Helping people. Changing lives.

KCR REPORTS

e-Newsletter Aug. 2008

From the Executive Director, Larry Eyer



Welcome to *KCR Reports*, a new electronic report to keep you abreast of the latest happenings at Kitsap Community Resources. We need your e-mail address! Send it to khackney@kcr.org.

As a private non-profit community action partnership the past 40 years, KCR identifies needs of low-income Kitsap residents and works with private and public partners to deliver services to young children, parents, the homeless, people with disabilities and senior citizens. Whether we are providing early learning services for pre-schoolers or helping a young mom prepare for a job, our focus is on helping them build the skills and self-esteem necessary for greater self-sufficiency.

New KCR Building at Naval Avenue to Expand Head Start Program and Provide Community Services



KCR's Head Start West Park facility is slated to be closed, and in order to maintain the childhood education and development services, KCR has developed an innovative solution that also incorporates the needs of the community by creating a new building at the Naval Avenue Elementary School.

The proposed Naval Avenue Early Learning and Neighborhood Center will house infant rooms for 12 children, toddler rooms for 16 children, three preschool classrooms, WIC counselors, and Parenting Place classrooms. In addition, other community services, such as the Literacy Council of Kitsap, Boys and Girls Club, Kitsap Health District, and Olympic College will benefit from community classroom space to offer training, hold parent group meetings, conduct extension classes, offer family activities, and more.

Bremerton School District has a nationally-recognized P-3 program, and this center will build upon their existing strategy and provide a neighborhood facility where families can gather for training, support and other necessary resources.

KCR Creates Asset-Building Coalition and Financial Education Program

Kitsap Community Resources has teamed up with local community partners to create an Asset-Building Coalition (ABC) that will tackle financial literacy and education issues in Kitsap County.

In addition, KCR is developing a Financial Education program that will help low-income families make good decisions in managing their personal finances and building real financial assets. The program will provide training and resources to KCR's Family Development Specialists who mentor and engage low-income families through current services such as housing, energy assistance, child care, and employment placement and training.

The Financial Education program will collaborate with ABC partners to provide classes to those in the community interested in learning more about money management, budgeting, savings accounts, home equity, paying for a college education, starting a business, paying off debt, and credit repair.

The coalition includes representatives from Kitsap Credit Union, American Financial Solutions, Bremerton Housing Authority, Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority, Washington CASH, Olympic College, and United Way.

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

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2007 Annual Report Now Available
Online at www.kcr.org

New Faces: Charmaine Scott, Employment and Training Director and Kathleen Hackney, Community Relations and Development Manager

Charmaine Scott has served as an Employment Supervisor and the Site Supervisor of the South Kitsap Family Service Center in Port Orchard at KCR for over five years, and she has now been promoted to the Employment and Training Director position. Charmaine brings eight years of experience as the Program Director at Gateways for Youth and Families in Tacoma. She also served as the Director of Employment for Easter Seals.



Charmaine Scott



Kathleen Hackney

KCR also welcomes Kathleen Hackney as its new Community Relations and Development Manager. A Master of Business Administration graduate, Kathleen brings over seven years of marketing, marketing communications, online marketing and internal communications experience to KCR. Prior to joining KCR, Kathleen worked at Washington Mutual in Retail's Internal Communications group, and she spent six years at an advertising agency which supported web and print direct marketing initiatives.

Washington Community Action Agencies Attend LEED® Reception and Meet with Senator Kilmer

Leaders from Community Action Agencies across the state convened in Kitsap County for its quarterly association meeting on July 10-11 to discuss services and issues for low-income families. Thirty-one Community Action Agencies serve all 39 Washington counties by providing vital human services to low-income individuals in order to promote self-sufficiency, reduce poverty, and revitalize neighborhoods. The group joined local community leaders in attending the LEED® Reception at KCR's Bremerton Community Services facility that commemorated the building's official LEED Silver Certification. Afterwards, they dined at the facility and heard from Senator Derek Kilmer, 26th District.



Dave Peters from Kitsap County Public Works had the honor of unveiling the Silver Certification LEED logo.



Senator Derek Kilmer of the 26th Legislative District

Continuum of Care Hosts Homeless Summit to Address Strategies to End Homelessness

Stakeholders from Kitsap County and the state of Washington will gather on September 11, 2008 to attend "One Community: Strategies to End Homelessness in Kitsap County." This summit hopes to address the root causes of homelessness, the scope of the problem in Kitsap County, the social costs it brings, and also formulate action plans and strategies to implement in the Continuum of Care Coalition's 10-year plan to end homelessness.

Summit Sponsors to date include KCR, Sound Grants, Kitsap Regional Coordinating Council, Bremerton Food Line, Holy Trinity Church, and the Suquamish Tribal Council.

Employment and Training Program Achieves Milestones in 2008

- This past year, KCR's Employment and Training Division enrolled approximately 300 people in its workforce development program, and of those that exited intensive services, 90% received unsubsidized employment earning an average of \$14.75/hour.
- Our Community Jobs program worked with approximately 137 clients to assist them in moving from TANF (federal welfare program) to unsubsidized employment. Community Jobs works with clients who have significant barriers to employment such as substance abuse, mental issues, criminal histories, or lack of a high school education, by providing workshops and job readiness training.