



## From the Executive Director, Larry Eyer



Three key words in KCR's mission are hope, opportunity and self-sufficiency. Perhaps nothing we do more directly reflects these concepts than our work in employment and training. We contract with Kitsap County and the state for several programs that help transition those on TANF (public assistance) back into the work force. One of these, Community Jobs, has shown particular success working with participants with multiple barriers to employment. From the time KCR began the program ten years ago, approximately half have moved into unsubsidized employment. All gained employment experience in an internship with the opportunity to obtain positive job references and other resume material.

KCR also manages a WorkSource Affiliate Center in Port Orchard—part of our South Kitsap Family Services Center. Any county resident can receive employment assistance at the Center. This includes access to job training, job-finding help, use of a computer lab for employment and related resource information. As an affiliate of the Olympic Workforce Development system, we help lower-income residents pay for short-term skill training. Even in these tough economic times, we have continued to have successes helping people find good-paying jobs.

## National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Highlights Ongoing Needs in Kitsap

The week of November 15 brought education and opportunities for enlightenment of the plights of the homeless to community residents in Kitsap County. The workshop “No Place to Lay Their Heads—the Homeless Who Live Outside” held at KCR brought together city council members, law enforcement officials, medical and emergency services professionals, school officials, service providers, and faith community representatives to discuss possible solutions for those in need of shelter who are living outside. Panel discussions covered topics ranging from sex offenders to healthcare issues to homeless student concerns.

The awareness week also included “One Night Without a Home,” which encouraged community residents to spend one night away from shelter, with no access to bathrooms, food, or a phone, much the same way a homeless person might live. Homeless advocate Sally Santana said, “The more you can walk in someone’s shoes, the more you get a feel for the challenges they face and the lack of hope they experience. KCR is key in giving people back hope for the future — through their compassion, experience, and commitment to the needs of the homeless families. KCR is a big piece of the fabric of this community.”



Patrol Chief Gary Simpson of the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office spoke at the Nov. 17 Workshop

## “Survive and Thrive” Home Ownership Workshop and Financial Information Fair: Sat. Dec. 5



Representatives from Habitat for Humanity

The Asset-Building Coalition of Kitsap is hosting an informational workshop to be held at Kitsap Community Resources this Saturday, Dec. 5. Open to the public, participants will learn about exciting home ownership opportunities available for low-income individuals, including down-payment assistance programs and tax breaks for low-income wage earners. Free credit reports and credit counseling will also be available, in addition to free food and door prizes.

Come by anytime between 12-4:30 pm at KCR's location at 845 8th Street in Bremerton. Representatives from several organizations will be on hand to answer questions, including Habitat for Humanity, KCCHA, Bremerton Housing Authority, American Financial Solutions, Washington CASH, United Way, Kitsap Bank, Sterling Savings Bank, Olympic College and College Success Foundation. More information is available at [www.kcr.org](http://www.kcr.org).



## KCR REPORTS

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### Bake Sale and Bazaar

Saturday Dec. 5  
9 am - 2 pm

First Lutheran Community Church in Port Orchard  
Sponsored by the Women of First Lutheran Community Church  
Part of the Proceeds Benefit KCR

## Employee Spotlight: Charmaine Scott Finds Rewards in Helping Others Achieve Success



Charmaine Scott became KCR's Employment and Training Director last year after serving as Employment Supervisor and the Site Supervisor of the South Kitsap Family Service Center in Port Orchard. Her background involves counseling and helping others with significant barriers achieve employment success. She has worked as a corrections officer, a mental health counselor, a Director for a juvenile group home for incarcerated youth, and as Personnel Director for Easter Seals, which serves those with disabilities and special needs.

"I've always enjoyed helping others be successful, and I believe that anyone can do that, regardless of the barriers they face," Scott said. "The biggest reward I see is when previous clients approach me in the grocery store, and they are so excited to give me an update and tell me how they've been doing." Patience has helped her in working with some of the toughest clients to place in a job or training program. "I tell my staff: You may not see success overnight. It will take a lot of work, but every service you give them is needed, and they will somehow benefit from your support and advice."

## Energy Assistance Season Underway and Expected to Serve Over 3,000 Local Residents



Sandy Koch (left), KCR Energy Assistance Supervisor, meets with client Sylvester Collins

The federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Cascade Natural Gas Washington Energy Assistance Fund (WEAF), and Puget Sound Energy's HELP program provide help to pay the winter heating bills of low-income and elderly residents, so that they do not have to choose between buying fuel to heat their homes and buying food or medicine for themselves and their families.

In the past two months that KCR's energy assistance program has been operating, over \$566,000 has been credited for almost 1,000 households. Clients can sign up for appointments over the phone, in person, or online at [kcr.org](http://kcr.org) on the third Tuesday of every month.

## Conscious Fathering Program to Provide a "Hands-on" Overview of Baby's Basic Needs



KCR has received a grant through Circle of Parents to provide Conscious Fathering Program classes to expecting and new fathers of babies less than a year old. The free classes are scheduled to begin in January and will serve over 50 fathers in the next year through a 3-hour long class, plus additional support through Circle of Parents group meetings.

New fathers will learn about proper techniques for holding, changing, swaddling, and cleaning the baby as well as learn about how to understand and anticipate baby's needs around food, touch, communication, and relationship building in those key early months of life. Dads will be recruited from KCR's Early Head Start program and other programs where the mother is income-eligible.

## The UPS Foundation Awards KCR \$5,000 for Financial Education Program



KCR received a \$5,000 grant from The UPS Foundation, the charitable arm of UPS, in support of the Financial Education and Asset-Building program. This program assists low-income families in managing their personal finances and building real financial assets in order to achieve greater financial stability. Begun in 2008, KCR's Financial Education program collaborates with Asset-Building Coalition of Kitsap (ABC) partners to provide classes, resources, and support 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.