



PRESS CONTACT
STACY B. DORE'
360-473-2003
stacyd@kcr.org

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Kitsap Community Resources Serving Residents for 55 Years

May marks the beginning of Head Start in Kitsap County

2020 marks the 55th year since Kitsap Community Resources was established to help Kitsap county residents and families overcome obstacles to poverty. KCR is working every day to create opportunities and transform the lives of our neighbors making communities stronger and helping families thrive.

“Each May, during Community Action Month, we reflect on the impact of our agency and that our network has had on families,” said Jeff Alevy, Executive Director of KCR. “Last year alone, we served 10% of the 270,000 residents of Kitsap County with immediately needed services such as shelter and food along with long term solutions such as education and job placement. May is a special month as we also celebrate the 55th birthday of our early learning program, Head Start.”

Recently, KCR was contacted by Georgianna who was a student of our very first Head Start program at Naval Avenue elementary. She vividly remembers a staff member coming to her house the day before classes began with bus tokens for the Bremerton-Charleston transit bus. Holding her Mom’s index finger she climbed up the bus stairs feeling like a big kid going to school. Head Start was the one consistent element in her life while living in a household fueled with interpersonal violence. Her mother received parenting classes through the program and credits the support she received giving her the courage to break free of an abusive relationship to start a new life.

Years later while in college, Georgianna read a book that spoke about Head Start and it was then she realized this was a comprehensive national program and not simply the name of her preschool classroom from long ago. She enrolled her children in Head Start and as a result served on boards at the local, state, regional and national level. She is married to an early childhood educator, has received her master’s in social work and plans to launch a new children’s brain stimulated wellness program nationally.

Thousands of pre-k children, like young Georgianna, have been helped across Kitsap County over the years.

Did you know only 48% of 5 year olds from low-income families are school ready? Kitsap Community Resources offers early learning and preschool classes for children from 8 weeks old to 5 years at ten locations throughout Kitsap. We provide family-centered preschool, childcare and home visitation services that offer quality education, health, and social services to prepare children for future success. These programs are offered at little to no cost for qualifying families.

We are grateful to Georgianna for connecting with KCR to share her story as we celebrate 55 years of service. If you are an alumni of our Early Learning, Preschool, Early Head Start or Head Start classes, KCR would enjoy hearing from you. Please contact earlylearning@kcr.org or by calling 360-473-2075 to share your stories with us.

With COVID-19, our classroom sites are not open yet we are still serving our children and families through distance learning. Weekly, learning packets are provided to our families.

Kitsap Community Resources administers Housing services, Energy assistance, Veteran's assistance, WIC nutritional food program, Early Learning/Preschool and Head Start, WIOA (Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act), BEST (Business Education Support Training), job training and placement services, food services for Meals on Wheels and childcare centers, Weatherization, Energy assistance, AmeriCorps and so much more. We operate 13 sites throughout Kitsap County.

For more information about KCR, please go to: www.kcr.org. Links can be found at the website for all KCR services and locations.

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