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a catalyst  
for ending homelessness

April 21, 2009

## Making a Difference in Cowlitz County



If you've ever wondered exactly how the work of Building Changes is impacting individuals and communities across the state, the Washington Families Fund grant awards announcement that took place on April 7th in Cowlitz County is a great example. We joined local nonprofit and government leaders and community members to celebrate nearly \$1 million in first-time grants to the Drug Abuse Prevention Center and the Emergency Support Shelter – and to hear from people whose lives have changed as a result of these local programs. Nicole Morgan (pictured above) shared her story about battling addiction and how “a community of people came together” to help her stop using, leave a violent relationship, exit homelessness, and get her children back.



[Read more and watch video clips from the event >>](#)

## Newsorthy Notes

On April 19th, Longview's *The Daily News* published an editorial titled, "**Building Changes' bold endeavor hits home**," stating:



## BE THE CHANGE: Five Reasons to Attend Our May 5th Luncheon

### 1) You know homelessness is a growing problem.

On any given night in Washington State, more than 20,000 people don't have a safe place to sleep, and the number of homeless families is growing fastest of all. These aren't just numbers—they're our family, friends, and neighbors.

### 2) You want to learn more about the issues.

Every day the news is full of heartbreaking stories rooted in the myriad complex causes of homelessness—poverty, domestic violence, illness and job loss, to name a few. In the midst of today's tough economy, too many people are one or two bad breaks away from losing their homes.

### 3) You want to be inspired.

You'll hear Danny Glover, actor, activist, and our Keynote Speaker. Mr. Glover recently recorded *My Name Is Not "Those People,"* a well-known poem about poverty and homelessness, and he also wrote the forward for the book, *Finding Grace: The Face of America's Homeless*.

### 4) You want to be part of the solution.

Everyone deserves the opportunity for a home, a healthy life, and a good job. Building Changes believes we must—and can—end homelessness if we all work together.

### 5) You want to make a sound investment.

Building Changes has a 20-year legacy of success and is committed to creating lasting change. Your gift to Building Changes will be MATCHED DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, so your investment will work twice as hard.

"Homelessness is a big problem here and in the state. According to Building Changes, more than 20,000 Washingtonians do not have a safe place to sleep on any given night. The Seattle-based group is focused on dealing with the hardest to house. It's taken on the most challenging part of the homeless problem, as have these many local nonprofits. Their efforts are commendable and, by all accounts, effective."

[Read the full editorial >>](#)

[Get links to more Building Changes press coverage >>](#)


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*A Benefit Luncheon for Building Changes*



Tuesday, May 5, 2009  
Noon to 1:30 P.M. (Registration opens at 11:30 A.M.)  
Washington State Convention & Trade Center

**REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!**

### **Unable to Attend the Luncheon? You Can Still Double Your Investment!**

If you are unable attend our benefit luncheon on May 5th, please consider making a donation to Building Changes today. Your gift will still be matched dollar for dollar, thanks to the challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. [Donate now >>](#)

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**Building Changes**  
Building Changes, 2014 East Madison, Suite  
200, Seattle, WA 98122-2965  
(206) 805-6100 | [info@buildingchanges.org](mailto:info@buildingchanges.org)