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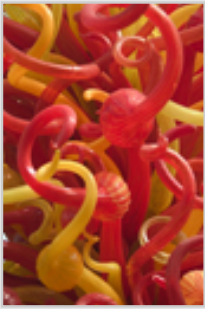
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a catalyst
for ending homelessness

March 15, 2010

[Chihuly Boathouse Benefit on March 18, 2010](#)



It's not too late! Join us this Thursday, March 18th, for a special evening at Dale Chihuly's glassblowing studio, The Boathouse. All proceeds benefit Building Changes.

[Learn more >>](#)

[Double Your Investment](#)



Thanks to a generous challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, your gift to Building Changes will be matched — **dollar**

for dollar!

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[What's The Buzz?](#)



Check out our **agency blog** for fresh insights and commentary from Building Changes staff.

Recent postings include:

- [*A Plan is Just a Plan – Until People Get Behind It*](#)
Sarah Cotton Rajski writes about Whatcom County's plan for increasing economic opportunities for people experiencing homelessness.
- [*Can You Hear Me Now?*](#)
Anne Marie Champoux writes about her first trip to Olympia as a housing and homelessness advocate.
- [*One Perspective on the One Night Count*](#)
Eric Glover writes about his experience participating in this year's One Night Count of people without shelter in King County.

[Taking Action: Building Changes in Olympia](#)

With a special session of the 2010 Washington State Legislature underway to help fill the \$2.6 billion budget shortfall, Building Changes continues to take a prominent role in ensuring that Washington state addresses critical issues regarding housing and homelessness. We are focusing our work on two important budget items that remain unresolved: the Washington Families Fund and the Housing Trust Fund.

[Read more >>](#)



Building Changes staff and board members at Housing & Homelessness Advocacy Day in Olympia on February 12, 2010

[Five-Year Outcomes on More Than 1,000 Families Served by the Washington Families Fund](#)



Building Changes recently released a report documenting five years of outcomes for homeless families served by the Washington Families Fund. The Fund supports innovative programs that offer affordable housing paired with support services such as employment training and education, children's programs, parenting classes, and financial planning that helps families stabilize their lives and become self-sufficient.

We're making progress. In the last five years, Fund programs served approximately 1,009 homeless families—composed of 1,860 children and 1,181 adults. After completing the programs, approximately 73 percent of

[Seattle Times Praises Washington Families Fund](#)

A recent editorial by *Seattle Times* columnist Lance Dickie states: "***Continued support of the Washington Families Fund is prudent use of taxpayer dollars by lawmakers properly concerned about the best use of scarce resources.***"

[Read the full editorial >>](#)

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families moved into permanent housing. With housing stability, the number of children who stayed in the same school increased by 80 percent. Families also improved their economic stability. By the time they completed the programs, the number of families who were employed rose by 53 percent, and income from employment increased by 27 percent.

[Download the report to learn more >>](#)

[Enrollment Begins for Building Changes' Economic Opportunities Initiative](#)

Funded through grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Strengthening Communities Fund, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation and The Boeing Company, Building Changes' Economic Opportunities Initiative is a new training and capacity-building program designed to help nonprofit agencies statewide address broad economic recovery issues in their communities. Applications for enrollment are due March 15, 2010, and selected participants will be announced in April.

[Learn more >>](#)

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