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a catalyst  
for ending homelessness

May 6, 2010

## [Building Changes Announces 2010 Luncheon](#)

09.23.10  
save the date

Please join us on September 23rd for **Building Changes 2010 Luncheon: Honoring Our Partners**. We will be honoring three of our key partners in ending homelessness:

- **Stephen Norman**, Executive Director of the King County Housing Authority and Co-Chair of the Interagency Council for the Committee to End Homelessness in King County
- **Housing Hope**, Washington Families Fund Grantee in Snohomish County
- **Pat McCarthy**, Pierce County Executive and Washington Families Fund Leadership Committee Member

**Ron Sims**, Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will be our special guest.

[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!** [Donate now >>](#)

## [What's The Buzz?](#)



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

## [Event Honors Washington Families Fund Grantee in Clark County](#)

Community Services Northwest (CSNW), a Washington Families Fund grantee in Clark County, has made all the difference in Michelle's life. She spent most of her teenage years homeless, using drugs, and bouncing in and out of juvenile detention. Thanks to stable housing and ongoing support through CSNW, including parenting classes, chemical dependency counseling, mental health services, and job search assistance, Michelle has "found a new way to live." She has been drug-free for two years, works two part-time jobs, and is always looking for ways she can help others.

Hearing Michelle's story was just one of many highlights from a special event held on April 14th in Vancouver, Washington. Building Changes was joined by staff from local agencies, community members, business leaders, and funders to honor CSNW and to celebrate a new Washington Families Fund grant award of \$375,000 that will support an expansion of CSNW's family housing program.



(photo: Barbara Hill Photography)

[Watch video clips from the event >>](#)

The \$375,000 award is one of eight new Washington Families Fund grant awards recently announced by Building Changes. To learn more, go to: [Washington Families Fund Awards More Than \\$3 Million to Nonprofits Across the State](#)

## [State Budget Includes \\$1 Million for Washington Families Fund](#)

The 2010 Special Session adjourned April 13 after the Legislature passed both the Operating and Capital Budgets



Recent postings include:

- [\*Not Just Numbers, But Lives\*](#)  
Kelly Smith reflects on recently released evaluation data about "high-needs" families served by Washington Families Fund programs.
- [\*A Little Glitz, A Little Glassblowing, and A Lot of Heart\*](#)  
Lisa Govro writes about a unique fundraising event for Building Changes held at Dale Chihuly's glassblowing studio, The Boathouse.



## [\*\*Evaluation Data Reveal Families with Very High Needs\*\*](#)

A baseline assessment reveals that the **Washington Families Fund High-Needs Family program** is serving families with more complex needs than previous studies of homeless families have identified. The report, [\*Washington Families Fund High-Needs Family Program: Baseline Evaluation Summary\*](#), includes a summary of supportive housing programs similar to those funded by the Fund and a chart outlining similarities and differences between the programs on several key measures. [Learn more >>](#)

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and a revenue package that raised the \$757 million needed to implement those budgets. The Legislature also made more than \$750 million in cuts to K-12, higher education, and other state services.

Building Changes' Washington Families Fund survived the cuts, and will be receiving \$1 million from the state for its programs. Governor Gregoire signed the new state budget into law on May 4th.

Many thanks to our grantees, partners, board members, and staff who were so active in reaching out to our Legislators!

[Learn more >>](#)

## [\*\*Building Capacity in 19 Counties Across Washington State\*\*](#)

Building Changes is pleased to announce 25 new partners in 19 counties across the state who will participate in its Economic Opportunities Initiative. This intensive, 18-month capacity-building program is designed to support nonprofit service providers in Washington's most economically distressed counties. The Initiative is funded through grants from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Strengthening Communities Fund, Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, and The Boeing Company.



Through the Initiative, Building Changes will partner with participating agencies to help them develop the capacity to address broad economic recovery challenges in their communities, including helping low-income individuals access employment and benefits. Support from Building Changes will come in the form of training, consulting, and financial assistance. A total of \$600,000 will be granted in two rounds of financial assistance awards in 2010.

"These service providers are really striving to improve the job skills and quality of life for the people they serve," said Mark Putnam, Economic Opportunities Initiative Project Director. "Each agency is planning to use our training and grants to create new programs and partnerships, or in some cases, to improve existing programs. It's very exciting, and we are thrilled to have this opportunity to support 25 innovative projects around the state."

[Learn more >>](#)