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a catalyst  
for ending homelessness

October 11, 2010

## From Homelessness... to Hope

See the video that debuted at our annual luncheon. It features some of the voices, faces, and places that benefit from the work of Building Changes and our partners.



[Watch the video](#)

## 2009-2010 Community Report



Take a moment to look through Building Changes' 2009-2010 Community Report. Learn more about our work and the impact of your support.

[Download the report](#)

## Double Your Investment



Your gift to Building Changes will be matched **dollar for dollar**, thanks to challenge grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation and Lucky Seven Foundation. [Donate now](#)

*Share in our hope for a better future for the thousands of homeless individuals and families in Washington State.*

## Annual Luncheon Inspires



Building Changes' Honoring Our Partners luncheon on September 23rd was a huge success, thanks to all who participated!

Christena Coutsobos, Director of Development, reflects on the true meaning of the event and what

inspired her.

[Read Christena's blog post: More Than Just Lunch](#)

During the luncheon, board member Aana Lauckhart shared her personal story about living on the fringe, and how Building Changes' work to end homelessness inspires her role with the Board of Directors.

[Read Aana's blog post: For Bear-child, Lena, and Edith](#)

## Rolling Up Our Sleeves and Digging In

Building Changes' Economic Opportunities Initiative (EOI), a capacity-building program focused on supporting 25 nonprofits throughout Washington State, has been gaining traction since it first kicked off April. Credit goes to the remarkable vision and drive of the participating organizations. Ranging from startup nonprofits with a single staff member to large regional nonprofits, EOI participants are working hard to improve the lives of the neediest members of their communities.



*Nick Codd, Building Changes' Economic Opportunities Specialist, works with EOI participants during a training.*

## In the News

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### Seattle Journalists Uncover Family

**Homelessness:** Recent in-depth reports on family homelessness showcase the work of local journalists participating in a unique fellowship program at Seattle University. Hear from them at two upcoming events: October 20th in Tacoma and October 21st at Town Hall Seattle. [Learn more](#)

**A plan and a helping of hope are the best tools to fight homelessness.** Tacoma Tribune op-ed highlights work being done in Pierce County to address family homelessness. [Read the op-ed](#)

### Thank You, Day of Caring Volunteers!

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Many thanks to the amazing "Day of Caring" volunteer team from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, who helped us thank donors and prepare an assortment of mailings in our office on September 24th. We really appreciate your hard work, good humor, and spirit of giving!

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Likewise, Building Changes is working hard to support EOI participants through a strategic combination of financial assistance, training, and consulting services. Recently, we awarded more than \$375,000 in financial assistance grants to 16 participating nonprofits. The grants help organizations improve employment services and access to public benefits for their homeless and at-risk clients. [Learn more](#)

### Puget Sound Shines for Federal Partners

In mid-September, Building Changes and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation hosted a delegation of federal policy makers from the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Health & Human Services.

The purpose of the visit was to meet with local state, county, nonprofit and philanthropic partners to discuss innovative ways to address the needs of vulnerable families and children. The Puget Sound Region is increasingly viewed as being on the cutting edge of systems changes that benefit the homeless.

In seeking to align their own work in the area of housing and services, our federal partners are looking at how this region is doing a better job at coordinating the mainstream public systems that serve homeless families: from employment and higher education to child welfare and school stability to information management and data sharing.

The delegation visited Building Changes grantee partners, YWCA Opportunity Place, Wellspring Family Services, Housing Hope, and Tacoma Housing Authority.

### New Board Advocacy Resource



With support from the Champion Foundation, Common Ground has launched The Board Advocacy Project. The project seeks to leverage the authority and persuasive power that nonprofit board members can have as advocates, helping them reach the public funding and policy goals needed to end homelessness. [Learn more](#)

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