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For More Information Contact:

David Brotherton, Building Changes  
(206) 448-1000, [david@brothertonstrategies.com](mailto:david@brothertonstrategies.com)

Kendra Howe, Building Changes  
(206) 919-6120, [kendrahowe@earthlink.net](mailto:kendrahowe@earthlink.net)

**\*ATTENTION EDITORS, NEWS DESKS, PRODUCERS\***

**WASHINGTON FAMILIES FUND ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$1 MILLION  
IN NEW GRANTS FOR COWLITZ COUNTY**

**WHO:**

**Alice Shobe, Building Changes**  
**Kurt Anagnostou, Mayor of Longview**  
**Iona Kerby, Lower Columbia CAP**

**Kim Thomas, Meyer Memorial Trust**  
**Sherrie Tinoco, Emergency Support Shelter**  
**Gus Nolte, Drug Abuse Prevention Center**

**WHAT:** Formal announcement of two new grants totaling nearly \$1 Million for the Drug Abuse Prevention Center (Phoenix House) and the Emergency Support Shelter (for Service Enriched Housing for Women and Children).

**WHEN:** Tuesday, April 7, 2009  
10 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Event starts promptly at 10:00 a.m.

**WHERE:** Lower Columbia Community Action Program (CAP)  
Altrusa Room  
1526 Commerce Avenue  
Longview, WA 98632

**WHY:** In December 2008, Building Changes approved eight grants totaling \$3,531,595 to service-enriched housing providers throughout the State of Washington. Grants were made in the following counties: Cowlitz, King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Spokane. Unique to this round is nearly \$1 million in first-time grants in Cowlitz County, where about 10 percent of families and 14 percent of the population live below the poverty line, including 20 percent of those under age 18 and 7 percent of those age 65 or over (2000 Census data).

Poverty is not the only problem faced by residents of Cowlitz County, however. With upwards of \$13 million in damages to homes and businesses from the January floods, it seems likely Cowlitz County will qualify for federal disaster assistance.

Building Changes is honored to support the [Drug Abuse Prevention Center](#) and [Emergency Support Shelter](#) in Cowlitz County. These providers bring hope to homeless families who may be even more impacted by unexpected weather or economic downturns. The details on grants made to each organization are as follows:

### **Drug Abuse Prevention Center**

#### **\$750,000 for Phoenix Housing (20 units)**

The Washington Families Fund will support an early childhood education and assistance program for this new project. It will serve homeless families consisting of single mothers who are pregnant or postpartum, have custody of at least one child, and have an assessed chemical dependency along with mental health and other co-occurring barriers. The project will provide supported housing, substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, specialized children's services, physical health care, domestic violence and/or sexual assault services, family reunification, individual case management, and access to vocational and other services as required on an individual basis.

### **Emergency Support Shelter**

#### **\$224,340 for Service Enriched Housing for Women and Children (8 units)**

Washington Families Fund support will be used to enhance case management services offered to women and children in the transitional housing program. The funds will also support a partnership with Lower Columbia Community Action Program to offer employment training and parenting skills for the women. In addition, there will be an enhancement to children's services: to help them learn to verbalize feelings and emotions as well as learn tools to allow them to make healthier choices when dealing with the trauma of having experienced or witnessed domestic violence.

### **About the Washington Families Fund**

The Washington Families Fund was created by the Legislature in 2004 to ensure that homeless families with children have the supportive services linked to housing they need to move from crisis to stability. It is administered by [Building Changes](#). To date, the Fund has awarded nearly \$13 million to 36 programs across Washington state dedicated to preventing and ending family homelessness. Public and private partners have contributed more than \$18 million and in 2008, 456 families—including 901 children and 549 individuals—received help.

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