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Grantee Newsletter

July 16, 2009

Reporting Reminder



[Quarterly Activities Reports](#) from all WFF grantees are due next **Friday, July 17th!** Contact [Kelly Smith](#), (206) 805-6135, if you have questions.

Training Opportunities & Tools



Don't forget: [WFF Training Scholarship Funds](#) can be used to attend trainings of your choice! Each WFF-funded project can request up to \$650 to cover registration fees, hotel costs, mileage reimbursement, and other training-related expenses. Please contact [Erin Chambers](#), (206) 805-6140, if you have questions.

Job Development: Who, What, Where, When, and How? "It's not who you know, it's who you get to know" Do you want to learn a proactive, results-based approach to creating work opportunities for your clients? Attend this training for an in-depth look at job development in today's tough market. August 13, 2009, Everett, WA.

[Learn more >>](#)

Peer to Peer Learning Community Benefits Grantees

The Peer to Peer Learning Community (P2P) is a fantastic new opportunity for WFF grantee agency staff to share successes, ask questions, talk about

Grantee Highlight

[Sound Mental Health](#) (SMH), a Washington Families Fund high-level service grantee, has been providing comprehensive mental health services since 1966 and now serves more than 11,000 clients. Funding from WFF supports services for 15 units of housing for unemployed or low-income, high need, homeless families who may have mental illness, chemical dependency, and/or severe physical disabilities. Project Homestead, a new program of SMH, provides outreach to families, intensive case management, housing stabilization services, 24/7 crisis response, and vocational training for clients. "Even for those of us working in the mental health profession, it is hard to grasp what some of our families have been through. We are working with a very special population of people," says Rick Kenna, SMH case manager. "Our first family was a single dad and his daughter. When he signed his lease and they gave him the keys to his very own apartment, he broke into tears and said, 'I am so grateful to you for making this happen. I am going to make you proud of me. I'm going to be your best tenant.'"



Taking It to Practice (TIPs), and network with your colleagues! We've had three successful calls so far; the next P2P conference call will be on August 4th. Look for an invite soon, or contact [Erin Chambers](#), (206) 805-6140, to register.

Use Sosius to Share the Wealth

Have you heard the buzz about Sosius? Sosius is a free online document-sharing and networking tool that WFF grantees are using to access the latest training materials, ask and answer program-related questions, and stay up-to-date on WFF trainings. You can see notes from P2P calls, post discussion topics, share useful tips and tools, and more.

[Join now and get connected >>](#)

Resources



Find more tips, tools, and links for case managers and other program staff in our [Grantee Toolbox](#).

Maine Study Highlights Cost of Rural Homelessness

A study commissioned by the Maine State Housing Authority is thought to be the first housing study in the nation to look at the costs of homelessness in a rural setting. The report shows that providing permanent supportive housing contributes to significant cost savings for jails, emergency shelters, and medical facilities. Also, housing people first contributes to the quality of life for everyone involved.

[Read the full report >>](#)

Sound Mental Health case managers, Rick Kenna and Glenda Buchannan

Lauren, a single mother of five children and client of SMH, had been homeless, off and on, since she was 18. The longest period began in December 2007 and lasted until she became apart of Project Homestead. Her children were with her for the entire time she was homeless. "The hardest part about being homeless was the fear. Never knowing what was going to happen. Never knowing where we could go next. The kids cried all the time. I felt like a failure as a mom," she stated in an interview. "Project Homestead got us into permanent housing. At first I couldn't believe it. I just walked around our apartment looking at it and touching the walls. This was mine! Now I am filled with a new motivation and hope to change my life. I'm never going to be homeless again," she said.

Every quarter, the Washington Families Fund selects one grantee agency to highlight. To request that your program be featured in our newsletter, contact [Kelly Smith](#), (206) 805-6135.

In the News

WFF Funding Opportunities Coming Soon

In August, the Washington Families Fund will announce new funding opportunities for 2009.

[Read more >>](#)

Work is a Priority: Employment Training Energizes WFF Grantees

On June 16th, WFF staff hosted an employment training called *Increasing Earned Income for Homeless Families: Strategies for Being a Change Agent at Your Agency*. Twenty-five grantee staff participated, representing six counties: Pierce, King, Snohomish, Thurston, Clallam, and Whatcom. Mark Putnam and Sarah Cotton from Building Changes, teamed up with John Rio from Advocates for Human Potential, and trained participants on the idea that supportive housing isn't supportive without employment programming; introduced the mantra, "work is a priority"; encouraged empowering clients to look for work by talking to them about the "pursuit of purpose"; and of course, the

challenges, rewards, and strategies involved with being a change agent.

Mar Corpuz of [Tacoma Rescue Mission](#) reflected, “The training energized my perspective to view employment and housing as twins. To speak of housing the homeless family, one must also speak of employment opportunities for the client. Attendance at the training has provided a fresh motivation to ensure that employment is appropriately addressed in our program.”

We hope to see you at our next training!

Helping Hand House 25th Anniversary

[Helping Hand House](#), a 2006 WFF grantee, was the first organization to provide “housing first” to homeless families in Pierce County. The organization recently celebrated its 25th anniversary. An article by Kathleen Merryman in *The News Tribune* states: "In a perfect world, 4,618 families would show up for this month's 25th anniversary of Helping Hand House. A total of 12,554 moms, dads and kids would be there to tell how the Puyallup nonprofit helped them rebuild their lives after homelessness." [Read more >>](#)

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