



The Washington Families Fund (WFF), a program of Building Changes, is a public-private partnership to expand service-enriched affordable housing for homeless families in Washington State. For more information visit our interim website at www.buildingchanges.org.

Fall 2008 Grantee E-Newsletter

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WFF Project Highlight – Villa Esperanza

Adelita* was six months pregnant when her boyfriend of two years became violent with her. Up until that point, he had been verbally abusive and aggressive, but when he started to hit her, she decided it was time to leave for good. She entered a temporary shelter program in King County, and then was referred to Villa Esperanza, a 23 unit newly-constructed apartment complex owned and operated by [Consejo Counseling and Referral Service](#). [Consejo](#) is one of the largest behavioral health agencies in Washington, and staff work diligently to address the diverse needs of adults, children, teens, and families in Latino communities throughout Washington State.

Clients that come to live at Villa Esperanza are women with children escaping domestic violence situations; many are unemployed or have very limited income. Staff provide culturally competent services including case management, legal advocacy, children's services, and domestic violence services. Washington Families Fund provides support for case management and advocacy services for 10 units of this supportive housing.

At Villa Esperanza, Adelita attends support groups which help her deal with her past experiences. "It helps me to remember what I have been through and helps with my stress and depression." Adelita has greatly benefited from the legal services offered by the program. She has successfully filed a protection order against her ex-boyfriend and is working to gain full custody of her son. "I couldn't afford an attorney," she commented. Her case manager is in the process of helping her to fill out paper work to

Welcome, Erin Chambers!

Erin is the newest member of the WFF Team. Before joining the Building Changes staff, Erin worked on a capacity-building grant for western Montana's Ryan White program, designing and presenting trainings on standards of HIV care for case managers, health care providers, and clients, as well as conducting trainings for other Ryan White grantees throughout the region on behalf of the AIDS Education and Training Center. She also spent two years as the Education and Communication Specialist for the San Francisco Food Bank, facilitating workshops for donors and clients on the Food Stamp Program and hunger in the Bay Area.

Erin will coordinate trainings for grantees and is the point person for training scholarship funds. She will be organizing trainings for 2009, with possible topics including housing operations and development; services planning; special needs populations, and federal, state, and local funding sources for homeless housing programs. Please contact Erin if your organization has specific training needs, or to register for an upcoming training. She can be reached at (206) 322-9444 x40 or via email at Erin.Chambers@BuildingChanges.org.

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obtain her Visa or work permit. She was able to get her kids enrolled in school right away after leaving her ex-boyfriend, which was her top priority.

Adelita is very thankful for the staff at Villa Esperanza. "They stop whatever they are doing whenever I need help," she said. Now, that she has access to a safe and secure home and the services that Villa Esperanza provides, she is successfully on the road to achieving her independence and a better life for her children.

*Client's name has been changed to protect privacy.

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Reporting Requirements – Mark Your Calendar!

Client Data Collection Survey Due Dates

Evaluations are an important part of the WFF program, and the survey due dates are summarized below. Links to surveys are available online at http://www.aidshousing.org/newsletter2210/newsletter_show.htm?doc_id=327085

Data Collection Survey Due Dates	
Event	Due Date(s)
Initial Intake into WFF Program	Within 60 days of Program Entry
Exit Interview (<i>includes families that disappear</i>)	Within 30 days of Program Exit
Post-Exit Follow-up	7 months after Program Exit (<i>and every 6 months thereafter until family disappears</i>)



Quarterly Financial and Service Activities Reports due **October 17th**

Please make sure your project narrative, service report, and financial report are complete and turned into Emily on time. If you have questions or concerns, email Emily.Nolan@BuildingChanges.org or call her at (206) 322-9444 x 36.

Quarterly Report Due Dates	
Activity Period	Report Due Date
July – Sept 2008 activities	Oct 17, 2008
Oct – Dec 2008 activities	Jan 16, 2009
Jan – Mar 2009 activities	April 17, 2009



We would like to give a huge thanks to all the case managers who worked tirelessly this past month to enter their client data. We very much appreciate all the time and energy it takes to make our annual report spectacular! Thank you, thank you!



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Technical Assistance – Saving Energy, Save Money!

With the economic downturn and increasing cost of living, it high energy bills are one more thing a family does not need. Follow these tips on how to save energy, save money, and help the environment!

- ✓ **Set your thermostat comfortably low in the winter and comfortably high in the summer.**
- ✓ **Use compact fluorescent light bulbs.**
- ✓ **Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.**
- ✓ **Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.**
- ✓ **Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power).**
- ✓ **Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120° F.**
- ✓ **Take short showers instead of baths.**
- ✓ **Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.**
- ✓ **Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline.**

For more information on how to save energy, visit the [U.S. Department of Energy Energy Savers website](#).

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Program to Watch- Youth \$ave in Portland!

For twenty-five years, [REACH Community Development](#) has provided quality affordable housing and opportunities for individuals, families, and communities who are thriving in Portland, OR. In addition to owning and operating housing, [REACH](#) has developed resident services programs for adults and youth that help families improve their circumstances and build stable futures.

In the early 1990s, Portland's schools received budget cuts which resulted in the increase of student fees for activities, making it more difficult for low income families to participate in school programs like summer camp, band practice, music, and art lessons. [REACH](#) responded by launching Youth \$ave, with the goal of addressing the financial barriers that prevent youth from becoming involved in extra curricular activities, and to teach youth to set goals and take personal responsibility in managing their own money.

Youth \$ave helps 9 to 18 years olds become savvy consumers and disciplined savers. Youth meet with program staff to set a savings goal and identify an item they would like to purchase once they reach the target amount. Along with their own savings, matching funds are tied to community service hours which also help boost their savings account. Once the individual reaches their goal, they make the purchase and then start a new goal.

Program participants learn to become educated consumers, put off impulse buying, and learn the value of a worthy purchase. Many participants begin to see goal oriented spending and planning as part of a new life style. Youth are encouraged to open their own accounts, manage their own statements, and make their own deposits. For some, this is the first time using a commercial bank. In addition, youth learn the ins and outs of debt and the importance of a good credit history. They also learn skills in critically thinking about advertising and the dangers of consumerism. Youth \$ave started with 11 participants, and over the years the program has grown to support dozens of youth and their families in developing better financial habits for a brighter future.

For more information, visit the [REACH Youth \\$ave website](#).
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Upcoming Events

Dealing with Mental Health Issues in Housing – October 17th

The [Dispute Resolution Center](#) offers an opportunity to learn how to increase effectiveness in dealing with this population of tenants using a model that respectfully addresses situational constraints. To register go to <http://www.kcdrc.org/registration.html>.

Practical Fair Housing for On-Site Personnel – 3 days, 3 locations

[Affordable Housing Management Association](#) offers 3 trainings in different locations (Bothel, Spokane, and Bremerton) on defining "discrimination" in real, everyday terms. Explore real life cases and analyze scenarios that will help participants recognize and avoid potentially discriminatory situations or behavior. Discuss what to expect in the event of a complaint of discrimination, and how to avoid it. Visit <http://www.ahma-wa.org/even.html> for registration information.

Election Day – November 4th

Don't forget to vote! The deadline to register via mail or online has passed, but don't think you have missed your opportunity. The last day to register in person is **October 20th**. Visit the [Washington Secretary of State](#) website for information on where to vote and how to register yourself or your clients.

Panel Discussion with the Veteran's Administration – November (Date TBA)

Panelists will provide an overview of resources for veterans living in Puget Sound. Coffee and an optional networking session will follow the discussion. If you are interest, please contact [Erin Chambers](#) at 206-322-9444 x 40.

Seattle University Service in Action Seminar Series

The following two workshops are offered to the public through Seattle University's Service in Action Seminar Series. For additional seminar descriptions and registration information, go to the [Service in Action Seminar Series](#) website.

Winning the Grant Game - November 14th

From developing relationships to preparing the grant package, this seminar is designed for both beginning and experienced grant seekers.

From Awareness to Action: Skill Building for Cultural Competency – January 23rd, 2009

Learn to build a foundation for understanding cultural competency as a means for developing equitable systems that promote social justice. Participants will examine institutional racism to address racial tension and conflict, identify tools and principles that improve effectiveness, and develop skills and strategies to enhance cross-cultural relationships.

For more information on the Seattle University Service in Action Seminar series, contact Danielle Potter at potterd@seattleu.edu or 206-296-6143.

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Contact Us

Emily Nolan, Washington Families Fund Manager

Emily.Nolan@BuildingChanges.org

(206) 322-9444 x 36

Contact Emily with questions about contracts, RFPs, quarterly reports, monitoring, changes to your program.

Erin Chambers, Training Coordinator

Erin.Chambers@BuildingChanges.org

(206) 322-9444 x 40

Contact Erin for information on accessing WFF training scholarships.

Ranita Jain, Performance Measurement Specialist

Ranita.Jain@BuildingChanges.org

(206) 322-9444 37

Contact Ranita for information about WFF high-level services evaluation activities and related HMIS questions.

Kelly Smith, Program Coordinator

Kelly.Smith@BuildingChanges.org

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Contact Kelly Smith with questions SurveyMonkey questions and to provide suggestions for E-Newsletter content

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Don't forget to use your WFF scholarship funds by the end of 2008. Use it or lose it! Click [here](#) to access the application.