

Betsy Lieberman, AIDS Housing of Washington & Building Changes

In 1988, Betsy Lieberman and a group of dedicated volunteers started AIDS Housing of Washington (AHW) to build Bailey-Boushay House, the nation's first skilled nursing facility for people living with AIDS. Over 20 years, AHW developed more than 160 units of supportive housing in Seattle and King County, including Shirley Bridge Bungalows and the Lyon Building. AHW developed unparalleled expertise in pairing housing with services. Betsy has been a leader both regionally and nationally in raising public awareness about the value of supportive housing.

Building Changes evolved out of the recognition that what worked in AIDS housing can work to end homelessness across the board. AHW's leadership saw how widely its approach could be applied to help homeless and vulnerable people. In November 2007, AIDS Housing of Washington officially became Building Changes to reflect our broader mission and programs.

Our vision: End homelessness together.

Today, Building Changes advances smart solutions to end homelessness in Washington State. Our service areas include:

- Grantmaking & Evaluation – We identify, fund and evaluate innovative programs that prevent and end homelessness, and fund collaborative approaches to change how public systems work.
- Consulting & Technical Assistance – We provide consulting, training and individualized technical assistance to nonprofits across the state that serve homeless and vulnerable people.
- Advocacy & Policy – We promote strategies for ending homelessness through policy reform, legislative outreach and advocacy training.

Our strategies:

- **Prevention:** Keep adults and families on the edge of homelessness housed and linked with the right services. Prevention efforts are cost-effective and reduce stress on systems and people.
- **Coordinated entry:** Implement a common way for adults and families to access homeless services and for providers to quickly link people to the resources they need.
- **Rapid re-housing:** Whenever possible, vulnerable people should rapidly move into permanent housing. Shelters and transitional housing are not long-term solutions.
- **Tailored programs:** Get the right services at the right level—and at the right time—for each person. Adults and children benefit more when services meet their unique needs.
- **Economic opportunities:** Create stronger connections to living-wage jobs for the recently homeless. Housing stability and self-sufficiency depend on gainful, long-term employment.