



New Futures

FALL 2002

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A New Name for Project LOOK

We finally did it. Project LOOK has become **New Futures**, and you can see us on the Web at www.newfutures.us.

It was not a decision we made lightly. For two years we have been assessing how we are perceived—by community and family members, staff, funders and individual donors, and agencies that we partner with. More than 200 surveys told us we are helping to make long term, positive change in the communities where we work and on the lives of the children and families who live there. But we also heard that the name Project LOOK was most often associated with children's after-school programs rather than our holistic model. For some people the name itself was confusing because it did not describe the depth and breadth of what we do.

Today we serve nearly 2,500 people with children's, family, and community programs that include leadership development, parenting and language skills, community events, family advocacy, and of course, after-school and pre-school programs.

Along with the name change comes a new look. Susan Rudolph Loos, a volunteer and professional graphic designer, created our new logo and the graphical representation we will use in all of our materials. Jennifer Sullivan, another volunteer, completely overhauled our website. We thank these gifted women for their guidance and hard work.

Our new name—New Futures—represents our most fundamental outcome. With your help, with the wisdom of community members who help us understand their needs and dreams, and with our staff who have devoted their lives to respect, justice and stewardship, we help create new futures for some of the most vulnerable children and families in South King County.

New Futures Trip to Nirvana Ranch

Last month Burien business owner Brian Gemeroy generously invited New Futures (then Project LOOK) to spend a day at his Nirvana Ranch, a sprawling ranch in Orting complete with cornfields and fishing holes. On August 25th, 119 New Futures community members

arrived at the ranch with a chorus of children yelling excitedly, "Vacas! Cows!" and "Caballos! Horses!"

Families poured from buses and cars and were welcomed by Brian to explore his ranch. It was a beautiful late-summer day, and some folks took off their shoes and waded in the water. Some picked blackberries and gathered corn to take home with them. Fishing was a particular favorite, and New Futures staff member Sue Carrasquillo remarked that this was the best Nirvana trip yet because every child who tried to catch a fish did! Brian provided the entire group with a hearty spread of



Families ate, played, and fished at Brian Gemeroy's Nirvana Ranch.

food, and kids were thrilled to see tables full of favorite foods like fresh-grilled hamburgers and hot dogs.

The annual trip to Nirvana Ranch is always special to families because it gives them precious time to spend together away from the hassles of everyday life. It is also an important way for people from different New Futures communities to socialize and get to know one another.

Thank you to Brian for his generosity! New Futures families and staff will not soon forget memories of our trip to Nirvana Ranch.

PO Box 66958
Burien, WA 98166



This Is a Child's Story

Ruiz is ten years old and was struggling in school. His English language skills were low, and he acted out in the classroom. Living in poverty had forced his family to focus on making ends meet, so there was no time or effort to help Ruiz with his schoolwork. Ruiz was discouraged and it showed in his behavior.

When he was referred to New Futures' after-school tutoring program, our bilingual teacher gave him special attention in their one-on-one meetings. She developed an innovative approach to appeal to Ruiz's multiple intelligences. By tapping into art, music, and other forms that attracted Ruiz's curiosity, the boy gained confidence and his skills improved.

Today he has a perfect attendance record at school. His English vocabulary, spelling, and sentence structure skills soared. Now, because of the trust developed through Ruiz, members of his family are exploring Leamos, the New Futures family literacy program.

New Futures

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M Y L O O K A T T H E F U T U R E

I don't like to say good-bye. It saddens me to move onto a new phase because in part, I fear the unknown.

When we decided to say goodbye to the name Project LOOK I felt a twinge of sadness. Many of us were there when the name was born. I saw it, and the organization, grow from coddling to crawling to walking, and now the sprinting we seem to do every day.

But as the organization matured we outgrew the name. While helping to create new futures for vulnerable kids will always be our most important outcome, over time we learned that for children to succeed we must impact all aspects of a child's life. We are committed to a respectful, holistic approach that builds on the inherent strengths and wisdom of family and community. Too often Project LOOK was characterized as serving only children.

Thoreau said, "Things do not change, we change" and so it is with our new name. Things at Project LOOK, er, New Futures, haven't changed. We are still grounded in the same values: respect, justice and stewardship. And we are still learning and laughing—and loving—every minute of it. As we say good-bye to Project LOOK and welcome in New Futures, I want to say how grateful we are for your support and commitment. With you, the future is bright.

Finally, if you are struggling with change please remember: "Change is inevitable—except from a vending machine."

Ryanne

Peace,



New Futures staff and youth at a national conference this June.



Our youth PAR program gives Cassandra and Jaime a chance to try on their leadership hats!

Profile

Jaime Doerner and Cassandra Pullon

This June, New Futures (then Project LOOK) students Jaime Doerner and Cassandra Pullon were invited to an important conference in Oakland, California, to discuss how to develop youth programs that promote strong families and communities.

14-year-old Jaime and 15-year-old Cassandra, students from New Futures' Juanita Apartment School, attended this exciting meeting to represent the interests of youth in their community and to learn more about youth program development. Jaime and Cassandra will spend the next year assisting New Futures staff and other teens as they survey members of their neighborhood using Participatory Action Research (PAR) techniques, an

activist approach that works to empower local community members. This valuable research will be directly used to design a proposal to develop New Futures youth programs.

We are delighted to see our youth participate in the creation of their own programs! Jaime and Cassandra are tremendous assets to New Futures and to their community!

A special thanks to our funders and corporate supporters - without whose support our impact would not be possible:

- Alphagraphics
- Annie E. Casey Foundation
- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Burien Rotary
- City of Burien
- City of SeaTac
- Discuren Foundation
- DSHS
- Forgotten Children's Fund
- Geo. Gemeroy & Co., Inc.
- Highline Exchange Club
- Highline School District
- Impress Rubber Stamps
- Individuals like you
- Jack Scudder Memorial Fund
- King County Children & Family Commission
- King County Community Services Division
- Kirlin Foundation
- McEachern Foundation
- Microsoft
- OSPI—Readiness to Learn
- Paul G. Allen Foundation
- Rotary Club of SeaTac
- The Seattle Foundation
- Social Venture Partners
- South King County Community Network
- The Stuart Foundation
- Topics Entertainment
- United Way of King County
- White Center Rotary
- Windermere Foundation

V O L U N T E E R P R O G R A M S

New Futures has several opportunities for you to support our work. With your skill and help, we can continue to provide programming that assists vulnerable children and families as they work to improve their lives. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Cynthia Cantrill at 206-248-9647 or at cynthiac@newfutures.us.

Technology Instructor: (on-going)

Help shrink the digital divide by providing your expertise to families working to improve their lives. New Futures has been fortunate to receive a generous donation of computers from the Gates Foundation. Help us provide courses in computer usage to adults in our communities, and you will help us bring families closer to their dreams.

Volunteer Tutors: (on-going)

Become a positive influence to children as they struggle to succeed in school. The New Futures after-school program provides children with the academic and behavioral modification support that helps children realize their own abilities, and opens the door for all of the possibilities. Providing a positive experience for each child in our programs means that we need the support of caring individuals like you.



NEW FUTURES GOALS

Inspire children to realize their infinite possibilities and fulfill the vast potential in their futures.

Partner with families to create the futures they most want to achieve.

Foster communities where neighbors support each other.

Piano Instructor: (on-going)

Enhance children's educational experience by sharing your musical talents. New Futures has made a commitment to offering children an education in the arts. Our Juanita site has a piano, but no one to teach children the skills to use it properly. Your musical talents will support our efforts to close the educational gap for children in our communities.

Clothing Bank Operations: (one time or on-going)

Use your organizational skills to help families access one of the most basic needs: clothing. New Futures has a clothing bank that serves all of our sites. We frequently receive donations, but are unable to provide the staffing to clean, sort, and staff the clothing bank for optimal access to families. Your organizational skills can support our efforts to serve families in need.

Handy Person: (one time or on-going)

New Futures currently operates three sites, with a fourth on the horizon soon. Providing so many neighborhood-based services is central to our success, but presents a unique challenge for storage and organization. We frequently are in need of creative carpentry solutions. Your skills can help us remain organized in an environment that is always changing based on the needs of the community.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Leave a legacy gift to ensure new futures for generations.

Most of us give generously every year to support work that transforms our values into action. Your greatest gift may be to sustain a nonprofit organization you loved during your life by assuring its impact after you're gone. Plan your gift to the future now by including a charitable gift in your will. Here are some things to think about when considering how to make a lasting difference.

- Set aside a dollar amount or percentage of your estate after your family has been provided for
- Leave a paid-up life insurance policy or other financial investment
- Consider making a gift now in memory of someone who made a difference in your life
- Have your will and estate planning documents prepared by a professional

On the web check www.leavealegacy.org for more information and other links.