



Because every child and family deserves to dream

New Futures

Arts Program for At-Risk Kids

"When I do art I feel as happy as a pink butterfly flying in flowers," writes Alicia in a poem for one of our Arts Corps classes. A New Futures partner, Seattle's Arts Corps places experienced teaching artists in after-school programs.



In fall, Arts Corps brought classes to all New Futures sites, including ceramics, dance, drumming, hip hop, and visual arts. At the end of the quarter, students performed and displayed their art at a gala event at Seattle Art Museum.

Arts Corps classes continued at our Vintage Park site through winter and will resume this spring. Students recently showed their outstanding work at two events: the widely-attended City of Burien 10th Anniversary and a local showcase at the Burien Highline Senior Center where students performed for about 80 of their friends, families, and neighbors.

These classes are essential for children in the New Futures after-school program. Working with kids from a variety of backgrounds, students develop social skills and a greater understanding of other cultures. Creating art, they improve communication and self-expression. Preparing for shows, they learn the effort required for excellence and the satisfaction that comes with accomplishment. Academic Coordinator Anna Carter says, "This experience should lead them to greater persistence and confidence when facing challenges in the future."



These classes are made possible by Arts Corps and Burien Parks and Recreation. New Futures thanks both partners for helping us provide a remarkable arts program to some of King County's most at-risk children.

SPRING 2003

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New Futures Earns Outstanding Educational Leader Award

This March, New Futures earned the 2002 Outstanding Educational Leader Award from the City of Burien. The award, given "in recognition and appreciation of excellence," acknowledges our decade of service to the Burien community.

Deputy Mayor Rose Clark presented the award at Burien's 10th Anniversary Celebration on March 1, 2003. Clark says, "New Futures is very important to Burien. It's not just helping children, it helps the whole community."

"New Futures is very important to Burien." 

– Deputy Mayor Rose Clark

The New Futures after-school program serves children in some of the lowest-income, highest-crime apartment complexes in the county. Still, 9 of 10 children in our after-school program improve their academic skills. For us, the award is an affirmation of this success serving Burien's children and families, but also of success in our partnerships with public organizations.

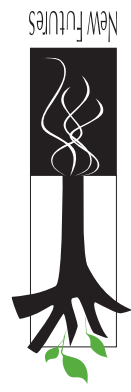
Essential for the stability of community-based programs like ours, we value our public partners, including City of Burien, City of SeaTac, King County, and Washington State. The public sector faces difficult economic times, but our public partners continue to support us because they know that when times are tough they must sustain work that makes transformative change.

Deputy Mayor Clark says of the friendship between New Futures and City of Burien, "It's a very important partnership. It benefits the city as well as the people." We celebrate the work New Futures and City of Burien have done together to help local children and families create the lives of their dreams.

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This Is a Family Story

One of our Academic Coordinators received an alarming phone call from the local elementary school counselor. The Garcias, a family in one of the apartment complexes we serve, had become extremely isolated — so much so that their children were scared to go outside.

A Family Advocate immediately visited the Garcia Family in their home. **This single visit threw many life-changing events into motion.** The Advocate referred the Garcia's youngest child to a partner organization for possible mental health issues. Their middle boy enrolled in the New Futures after-school program for help with his social and academic skills. The whole family received much needed emergency food and referrals for rental and utility assistance.

The Garcia Family is now a part of the New Futures community and they continue to attend our programs and community building events. Today, the Garcia children can be seen playing outside with the other neighborhood children and the family feels that they have a friend in New Futures who they can turn to for help.



Our Mission

Every child is born into a family with dreams for a future overflowing with possibilities. It is their gift and their right. When poverty and injustice put that gift at risk, we all lose a piece of our future.

New Futures helps children, families and communities create the lives of their dreams.

MY LOOK AT THE FUTURE

Dear New Futures staff and friends,

Thank you all for your devotion to children and families, and to the organization. It is a pleasure to return from my 2-month sabbatical to Mexico and hear many stories that demonstrate how people's lives are better — transformed — as a result of our important work. That is only possible because we have skilled and caring staff who work together to bring out the potential in people — even when people don't see it in themselves.

In Mexico, we saw a Huichol artist working with a piece of wood. As he carved, an animal began to emerge. Soon we looked into the face of a fierce jaguar. His wife covered the face in beeswax and pressed colorful beads into the wax to create intricate, symbolic designs that tell the story of their people. The result was a fantastically beautiful, one-of-a-kind piece of art. I imagined this is the face the wood wanted to bear.

It seemed very like the work we do at New Futures. Working with people using gentle hands, big hearts, and skill, together encouraging them to become the works of art that they are and want to be. It seems that we do that for one another as well. Thank you all for encouraging me to be the best that I can be, and for welcoming me home.

I appreciate you all.

Peace,

Executive Director



Executive Director Roxanne Hood Lyons on sabbatical in Mexico this winter



Wendy LaBoyne and pooch Shelby

Profile

Wendy LaBoyne: Volunteer Extraordinaire

Children at the Windsor Heights Apartments frequently stop Wendy LaBoyne for a hug. They adore Wendy because she is a dedicated volunteer who has given hundreds of hours of her time to the New Futures site at their complex.

Wendy first began as a field trip chaperone last summer and she quickly became a key volunteer in New Futures programs. While planning for a massive re-organization project at our clothing bank, Wendy noticed that there was a desperate need for someone to regularly maintain the facility. She immediately began going to the clothing bank after hours to sort and clean. She would even take home clothing to mend, and during the holidays she cleaned stuffed animals to give to children in our after-school program.

Wendy became such an important part of the clothing bank operations that she soon directed any renovation of the bank and supervised other volunteers that came to help. Unfortunately, Wendy has developed health issues that keep her from certain activities, but she will continue to train and supervise other volunteers in the clothing bank.

Thank you Wendy for all of your hard work! We couldn't do it without you!

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. Gerneroy & Co., Inc.
- Highline Exchange Club
- Highline School District
- Highline Women's Alliance for Youth
- Impress Rubber Stamps
- Individuals like you
- Jack Scudder Memorial Fund
- King County Community Services Division
- Kirlin Foundation
- McEachern Foundation
- Microsoft
- Montrail
- OSPI-Readiness to Learn
- Matt Patterson
- Paul G. Allen Foundation
- Rotary Club of SeaTac
- The Seattle Foundation
- Social Venture Partners
- South King County Community Network
- The Stuart Foundation
- United Way of King County
- Windermere Foundation
- The WYCO Fund

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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.

Youth Development Assistant: (on-going evenings)

Do you have a special talent for working with teens? We are looking for volunteers that want to help youth make a difference in their community and have some fun in the process. New Futures currently hosts teen activities at all three sites. Activities vary from site to site as they are driven by youth ideas, needs, and concerns for their peers and their community. With your support, we can offer these amazing youth more comprehensive programming that fosters their growth into positive, caring adults.

Piano Instructor: (on-going evenings)

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.

Volunteer Tutors: (on-going afternoons)

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

Staff Computer Training Support: (on-going days)

The staff at New Futures is highly trained in their fields of expertise, but many lack the computer knowledge that would make their jobs easier to perform on a daily basis. We are looking for a volunteer who is willing to provide one on one tutoring to staff in internet and computer application usage. Skills required: proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, Outlook, and Publisher, as well as internet usage, e-mail and network trouble shooting.

NEWS AND NOTES



This spring, KOMO television's "Northwest Afternoon" ran a public service announcement featuring New Futures.

In December, the **Forgotten Children's Fund** threw five amazing holiday parties for kids and families at our sites.



This winter **Montrail** donated about 200 pairs of shoes to children and families in New Futures programs.

In March, New Futures staff introduced the **First Lady of Indianapolis** to our award-winning **Capacidad** program.



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Partnerships Can Leverage Your Charitable Gifts

We all look for ways to stretch dollars—especially financial contributions to nonprofits that put our values into action. As you think about organizations you affiliate with, ask:

- Does your employer have a matching gift program? A \$1,000 gift can become \$4,000 through matching.
- Does your trade, professional or service organization make "mini-grants"? New Futures gratefully receives funding from area Rotaries and the Exchange Club.
- Fraternal and military organizations often make contributions to nonprofits of their members' choice.
- Faith-based groups often have social action budgets or partner with nonprofits for projects/in-kind donations.
- Fraternities, sororities and alumni groups offer opportunities to match gifts.

If you are involved with any of these types of organizations your contributions to them—and your favorite nonprofit—may really pay off.