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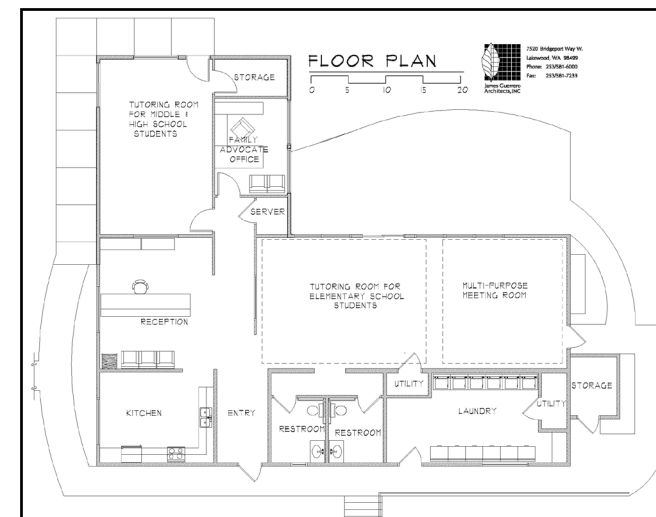
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Windsor Renovation



This month, the kids in the Windsor Heights' After School Program want to document their program space. From the mural of the world, to a bathroom that became a meeting space, to the worn linoleum in the kitchen, the kids will be taking pictures and writing stories about the space that has housed the After School Program, and all of Windsor Heights programs, for the past nine years.

They have to hurry, because at the end of February, our Windsor Heights site in SeaTac will be transformed! Our community center sits in the middle of the 326-unit apartment complex managed by the King County Housing Authority (KCHA). From there we run our After School and Youth Programs, offer families support with basic needs, and hold events for the entire community.

The renovation will nearly triple our youth program space, which is currently so small that our middle and high school teens can't meet there as a group. So Youth Program runs later in the evening when there is more space available for both homework help and our programming. The time right after school is especially critical to keep teens engaged, so it will be great to have the space to capture their energy and attention when they first get home from school. In addition, we will be separating our main room into two smaller rooms, to accommodate groups doing different activities; now our adult ELL classes can run in one room, while we provide child care in a separate space.

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WINTER 2007-2008

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Save the date!

2008 Get Inspired!
New Futures Benefit Breakfast
presented by **Safeco Insurance**

Thursday, May 8, 2008
7:30-9:00 AM
Sheraton Hotel, Seattle

Speaker: Ken Mochizuki,
author of *Baseball Saved Us*

Reserve your seat by April 15: www.newfutures.us/breakfastreg.html or by calling 206-248-9647

New Futures warmly invites you to our third annual Benefit Breakfast, honoring the commitment and achievements of New Futures students and families. Our keynote speaker is Ken Mochizuki, author of award-winning children's books *Baseball Saved Us*, *Passage to Freedom*, and *Heroes*. He focuses on presenting social justice themes to children and adults alike.

Thanks to our generous corporate sponsors:
Presenting Sponsor



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Our Mission

New Futures partners with families to create communities where children thrive.

Our integrated, culturally relevant programs in low-income apartment complexes build skills, foster connectedness, and promote strengths.

This Is a Child's Story

What does it mean to help children thrive? At New Futures, this elusive word becomes concrete.

Alex was a fifth grader when he first came to New Futures. His single mom was struggling to support him and his sister. Alex's family spoke limited English, and he was struggling to understand his lessons in school. He was failing most of his classes, and acting out in his frustration.

New Futures provided a safe place for Alex. One-on-one work with his tutor helped Alex build English and literacy skills, and more importantly renewed his confidence in himself. New Futures also supported Alex's mother, making sure she knew what resources were available to help her support her family. Alex flourished in New Futures programs, eventually improving his grades and becoming active in his school's computer club.

Today, as a successful high school freshman, Alex has made the choice to become a New Futures tutor. From a struggling child, he has become a thriving role model.

NEW BEGINNINGS

Dear Friends,

I've been thinking a lot lately about the magic of our work – the magic that happens when communities rally together to support children, and children discover a love for and success in reading and learning. In December, I had the great pleasure of attending the Arbor Heights talent show, held at our partner elementary school. Children and adults filled the auditorium to watch singing, dancing, and celebrate the talents of the community. Everyone made and brought a dish to share, and the highlight of the evening was the children performing their renditions of *Click Clack Moo*, *Cows that Type* and *Where the Wild Things Are*. It is one thing to read and love a story. But to see these children bring the stories to life on the stage, acting out the parts of farm animals or wild beasts, was a true joy. This was reading taken to a whole new level – this was a joyful celebration of the world of



books and learning.

As neighbors cheered for one another's children, I was warmed by the wonder of families literally from around the globe coming together to share and celebrate. As Max says in *Where the Wild Things Are*, "Let the wild rumpus start!" This type of rumpus is to me the magic of our work, the very best part. Thank you so much for your role in making the wild rumpus possible!

All my best,

 Ruth E. Dickey
 Executive Director

LEAMOS: LET'S READ!

Program Profile

Entering our Vintage Park site in the early afternoon, you will first hear children clapping and singing in Spanish and English. Then you will see a dozen 3-5 year olds circled around their teacher, participating in our *Leamos* program. They come twice weekly to our vibrant, bilingual kindergarten-readiness program.

During the program children have structured preschool activities like art projects, story time, and learning to wash their hands. During "journal time" the children get comfortable holding a pencil and begin writing letters. We focus on building skills that the children will be expected to have in kindergarten. Many of the children don't speak English, so these afternoons are also a time to get comfortable hearing and speaking an unfamiliar language.

Twice a month the children's parents attend a meeting where they connect with each other, learn about their children's progress, and build parenting skills. *Leamos* helps kids become kindergarten-ready and helps parents become involved in their children's education, which is critical to their success.



A special thanks to our funders and corporate supporters:

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- US Dept. of Education
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- Windermere Foundation

Supporters are from the past 9 months

RENOVATION

The center will also have a reception area to better welcome families to the site; new flooring to replace the worn linoleum; more storage space for books, board games, and supplies; space for staff to meet with privately with families (no more former restroom for this purpose!); and a new heating/air conditioning system to keep the space comfortable year-round.

A Community Development Block Grant we received from King County will cover the approximate \$170,000 total cost of the renovation, with additional support from KCHA. Construction will start in March and end in June. Our staff and families are thrilled and grateful that this much-needed renovation will now be a reality!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

New Futures is excited to welcome the following individuals to our Board of Directors:

Michael Cockrill is a Managing Partner at Atlas Accelerator, a boutique consulting and investment firm focused on very early stage IT startups. Previously, Michael spent the last 20 years working in the high tech and startup communities in and around Seattle including Microsoft. Michael was a partner in Seattle's Social Venture Partners when Project Look (now New Futures) was selected to be one of SVPs first social investments. He also serves as a Governor's appointee to the Washington Technology Council. A father of two small children (Savannah and Dashiell), Michael is interested in early childhood education and focuses his philanthropic efforts in that area. Michael is a graduate of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma.

Vicky Murray currently serves as the assistant superintendent for Student Services/Alternative Programs in the Bellevue School District. Prior to this post, she held a range of district-level and school-level administrative positions, including executive director of both K-12 and 6-12, director of personnel, and secondary-level principal and assistant principal. Throughout her career, she has worked with curriculum, teaching and learning, and various programs that serve students—ESL, LAP/Title, gifted, honors, and Advanced Placement. Vicky's current position focuses on ensuring that all students achieve and succeed at a rate that eradicates that achievement gap. In addition, she has served as a mentor principal for the Center's *New Principals Mentoring and Coaching Program* and has been a facilitator for the past three years at this Institute.

NEWS AND NOTES



For United Way's Day of Caring, volunteers painted the classrooms for the After-School and *Leamos* Programs at our Vintage Park site.



In October, over 100 Burien residents came together for the B-Town Rally, our scavenger hunt fundraiser. Thanks to their generosity, the event raised over \$12,000. New Futures is deeply grateful to the organizers, Kathy and Charlie Perkins, Dana and Kent Bailey, Julie Burr and Marco Spani, and Kim and Charlie Baisch.



In November, After School Program students spent an afternoon with a volunteer, learning to make their own beaded jewelry.

ReachOut welcomes their newest trainer, Dylan Simosko. She is excited to share the importance of cultural competency in order to promote attitudes and actions that positively impact communities.



New Futures is honored to have received a 2007 Neighborhood Builder Award from Bank of America, recognizing our leadership as a neighborhood builder in our region.

