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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.

A Teen's Story

Abeba and Abebe were leading parallel lives in nearby villages in Ethiopia (and even had similar names!)—but never met. When each of their families decided to move to the United States they both felt the fear and nervousness any teen feels when moving into a new country, a new neighborhood, and a new school.

What a coincidence that they should move to the same SeaTac apartment complex, attend the same High School, and meet at New Futures Youth Program! Now Abeba and Abebe are best friends as well as neighbors, and regularly come to New Futures Youth Program for homework help and a chance to spend time with other teens in their community.

Within the apartments that we serve New Futures provides a space for neighbors to get to know each other and celebrate their diversity—or remarkable similarities.

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New Futures Health Promoters



For many families participating in New Futures' programs, taking a sick child to a doctor is no simple matter.

They are navigating a complex, unfamiliar healthcare system in a foreign language. They

have little money. No health insurance. No car. And they have no friends or family to guide them along the way. It is at best daunting, and often, downright scary.

As a result, many children and youth in the very low-income, immigrant communities we serve go without annual check-ups, vaccines, and basic dental care.

Twelve mothers in the women's group at New Futures' Burien site have decided to change that. Thanks to New Futures' longtime partnership with Public Health – Seattle & King County, this summer all 12 women joined a new volunteer community health promoter program.

Through numerous trainings—at the New Futures' community center in the apartment complex where they live, in Spanish, and with childcare provided—the women are learning how families like theirs can access the new state medical assistance program called AppleHealth for Kids. The program is free for children in families below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (\$42,400 for a family of four) and covers major medical costs with special preventive benefits for children, including dental coverage.

Currently, 15,000 children in King County are without health insurance, according to Anel Mercado, health educator with Public Health – Seattle & King County. Of the families already enrolled in AppleHealth for Kids, 30 percent are not using the medical benefits and more than 60 percent are not using the dental benefits. The health promoter program is designed to increase the number of children enrolled and the number of children who actually access the care.

In addition to finding out how to enroll in AppleHealth for Kids, the 12 New Futures mothers are learning other topics:

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School Supplies

Purchasing new school supplies is one of the most exciting (and necessary) preparations for starting school in the fall. **For many of the families we serve, getting new school supplies every year is simply not possible.**

This August we partnered with World Vision to distribute **465 backpacks filled with school supplies** to New Futures kids and families.

At our site in Burien, New Futures hosted a barbecue for the community where these backpacks were distributed.

Our other sites, Windsor Heights and Arbor Heights, partnered with local management to arrange events for **National Night Out** on August 5, 2008 where community members gathered to heighten awareness of crime prevention, build community partnerships, and pick up new backpacks!

Thanks to World Vision's support, our kids have the supplies necessary to be successful in school this fall!

A W O R D F R O M O U R D I R E C T O R

Dear Friends,

When I came on board as executive director this summer, I knew that New Futures enjoyed an excellent reputation for the outstanding success of its programs. But after three months of meeting with our dedicated staff and our many, many supporters and partners, I realize just how deeply New Futures' work is valued in the community.



Executive Director
Karma Kreizenbeck

Local city and county leaders, school district staff, law enforcement officers, our board members, and our generous donors have shared with me stories of how New Futures has made a difference in the lives of children and families in South King County and of their investment in New Futures' continued success.

I've had the opportunity to attend a number of events organized by New Futures children, families, and staff this summer – all of them warm and exciting celebrations that demonstrate the strong sense of community in the apartment complexes where New Futures is present. Kids in our summer program enjoyed so many exciting activities – taking trips to national parks (a first for many of them), organizing a carnival, and playing soccer at a local sports complex, to name just a few.

It's been a wonderful way to get started at New Futures –and we all have so much to look forward to, beginning with the opening of our fourth site at Woodridge Park this fall! I am thrilled to be part of the wonderful team of families, staff, schools, community partners, volunteers, and supporters that makes New Futures' work possible.

Thank you so much for your amazing support.

With warm regards,



Karma Kreizenbeck
Executive Director

D E B R A S A M S O N

Volunteer Profile

For the past year and a half, freelance writer Debra Samson has been using her passion for writing to create beautiful, inspirational prose to creatively represent New Futures' work and mission. With a history of 15 years in newspapers, magazines, and the advertizing business, Debra has been an incredible resource for the creation of New Futures' communications materials.

We celebrate Debra for her gift of creative language, inspiring children, families, and communities!



A special thanks to our funders and corporate supporters:

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H E A L T H (continued from page one)

how to find a family doctor and dentist, the importance of preventive care for themselves and their children; and, most importantly, how to reach out to other families in their community to share this invaluable information.

"New Futures has done a wonderful job—it is so accessible to families, and the women have such strong ties to the community," said Anel, who leads the health promoter trainings. Because of this, Anel is confident that the New Futures group will be successful in helping children in their community get access to healthcare. "There really isn't another agency like New Futures."

According to New Futures staff member Norma Ortiz, who facilitates the Burien women's group, participating in the health promoter program has been a powerful experience for these mothers.

"As a health promoter, a woman feels like a leader and she begins to grow personally. They become professionals—it's like a self-esteem vitamin!"

The women agree. "I decided to do this for my family, for my daughters," said Maria Elena Aguilar, the mother of 11-year-old and 13-year-old girls, who are both very proud of their mom's new role. "I like to learn, and it feels good to be able to help others."

Beaming, Haydee Cano described coming home after her first training, with her tote bag and binder full of materials. "My husband saw me and said 'You are becoming so beautiful!'"

For more information about AppleHealth for Kids, contact Anel Mercado at anel.mercado@kingcounty.gov or (206) 263-8755.

N E W S A N D N O T E S

We are excited to introduce Marissa Tanimura as our newest ReachOut™ trainer. Marissa brings 11 years of experience teaching in Hawaii as part of a team with a "holistic, comprehensive view of educating for equity and social justice."

Dance groups from The Heights at Burien performed at various festivals in Burien this summer, including the Strawberry & Arts Festival and the Burien Family Fiesta.

Our Summer Programs were filled with field trips, including a snowy visit to Mt. Rainier!

Renovations are complete at our Windsor Heights location, increasing and improving program space.

