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New Futures 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.

GET INSPIRED



New Futures invites you to our fourth annual Benefit Breakfast

Wednesday, May 6, 2009

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Registration 7:00 am

Washington State Convention and Trade Center

Featuring Education journalist and author Linda Perlstein and
New Futures Youth Scholarship winners

Reserve your seat by April 29:

www.newfutures.org or 206.248.9647

Guests will be invited to contribute at the event



New Futures

NEW COMPUTERS OFFER ACCESS and OPPORTUNITY

Can you imagine not using a computer to pay bills, prepare your taxes, communicate with teachers, or find a job?

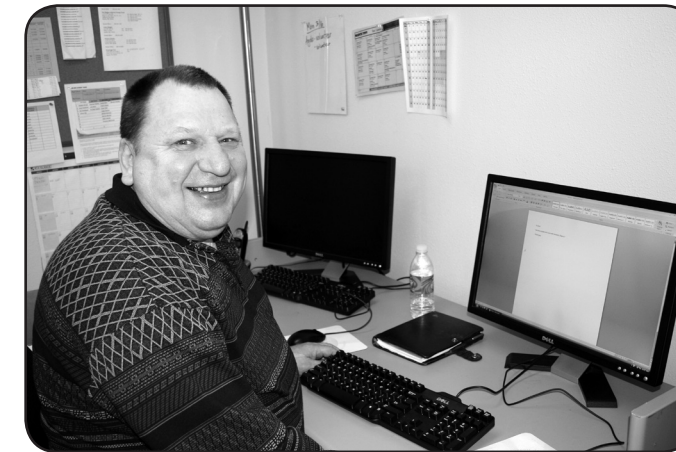
Without access to a computer, or knowledge of how to use one, many daily tasks become difficult if not impossible. If, like most of the children, youth, and families in New Futures' programs, you are also living in poverty and have limited English, the obstacles can be overwhelming.

Today, all of the families at the low-income apartment complexes where we work have easy, free access to high-speed Internet-connected computers, thanks to generous funding from the D.V. and Ida J. McEachern Charitable Trust and Washington State University's Community Technology Opportunity Program. New Futures has installed computer labs at all four of our sites. WSU funding is also providing computer classes that are tailored to each community.

New Futures offers adult computer training that is free of charge, onsite where families live, offered in English and Spanish, and provides quality childcare — addressing all of the biggest challenges that prevent parents in our programs from participating in other community technology classes.

The Wilderness Technology Alliance (WTA) led our first adult computer trainings at our site in SeaTac. Participants started with how to use a mouse, and by the end of the class could access the Internet, set up an email account, and use Microsoft Word and Excel. The WTA also refurbished the old computers that were replaced. Class participants may purchase a computer for \$50, and receive an additional two hours of one-on-one instruction on use and maintenance.

Continued on page 2



A student learns the basics of word processing during a computer class at our Windsor Heights site.

SPRING 2009



Our After School Program combines academic support with fun and engaging activities.

A CHILD'S STORY

Although 7-year-old Thomas is a capable learner who quickly masters his schoolwork, learning how to behave in a group was a big challenge for him when he began participating in New Futures' After School Program this fall. Working with Thomas's teacher and his mother, New Futures' After School Coordinator Mark Olson created a behavior plan for Thomas that focuses on channeling Thomas' abundant energy into positive activities and rewarding a job well done.

The results have been dramatic. As one strategy, Thomas receives homework help and then enthusiastically runs laps around the community center building to burn off extra energy. After that, he's ready to be a constructive participant in the group's activities. In fact, Thomas has so much fun running, the other kids wanted to join in. Now everyone in the After School group runs laps together!

LETTER from the DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

We know that children are more likely to thrive in school when they and their families are thriving at home. As Marian Wright Edelman, president and founder of the Children's Defense Fund, has said, "Children do not come in pieces. They live in families and communities."

We also know that too many families in our programs are struggling financially right now. Many of the parents we serve are immigrants and refugees who work in the lowest-wage service jobs and are now unemployed. The state and county are making cuts to crucial services. Our Family Advocates are reporting that parents who have never requested assistance before are now seeking help to meet their families' basic needs.

At New Futures, we are responding by drawing on our core strengths and long-term relationships with families. Our family advocates are reaching out, ensuring that everyone has access to our programs, and providing a vital bridge to services that many families have difficulty accessing, even during the best of times. Our community building work encourages neighbors to support each other and helps make their neighborhoods safer places to live. And, we are being careful stewards of our organizational resource, ensuring that we are using our resources efficiently and strategically as we stay true to our mission.

We are deeply grateful to you for believing in and caring about our work. Together, we are ensuring that parents are able to provide for their families, that families live in neighborhoods that are safe and welcoming, and ultimately, that children are supported to succeed in school and in life.

Thank you again.

Warmly,

 Karma Kreizenbeck
 Executive Director

COMPUTERS, cont.

"Knowing computers helps me with the future of my kids at school," explained Carmen Mora. "My husband has his own tile business... knowing computers is better for his business."

"This class gives me the skills I need for a new job," said another participant, Anna Karptsova. "Dan (the instructor) has so much patience for us. We all have different languages, but when he explains we all understand."

Children in our After School Program and teens in our Youth Program — the vast majority of whom do not have computers at home — are also using the new computers to complete homework and school projects, and practice their language and math skills. New Futures' program staff is receiving training to better incorporate technology into their programs and to assist families with accessing community resources.

New Futures program participants and staff are thrilled with the technology access. "Bridging the technology gap is essential if children and families are to succeed. And now, because we have state-of-the-art equipment in our community technology labs, better-trained staff, and culturally competent computer classes," said New Futures Executive Director Karma Kreizenbeck, "families have an easier path to building skills, accessing services, and achieving their goals."

- A special thanks to our foundation, corporate, and public supporters:
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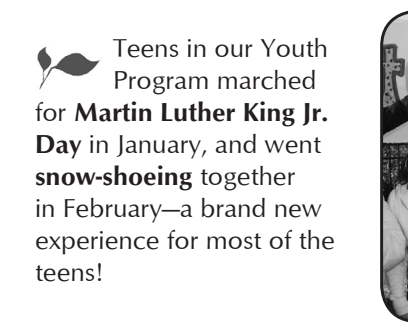
NEWS and NOTES



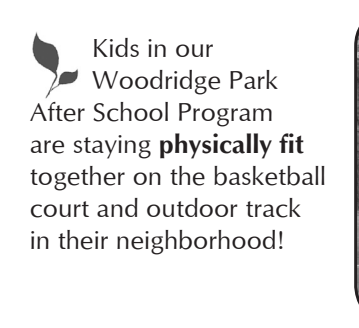
On **Music Day** at Arbor Heights, kids in our After School Program learned about rhythm and experimented with instruments like the mandolin, xylophone, and accordion.



Community members joined children, parents, and teachers in our two **early learning programs**—Colorful Hands and Leamos!—for Reading Day, reading books and singing songs together.



Teens in our Youth Program marched for **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** in January, and went **snow-shoeing** together in February—a brand new experience for most of the teens!



Kids in our Woodridge Park After School Program are staying **physically fit** together on the basketball court and outdoor track in their neighborhood!

Reach out

for New Futures

helping educators serve diverse students

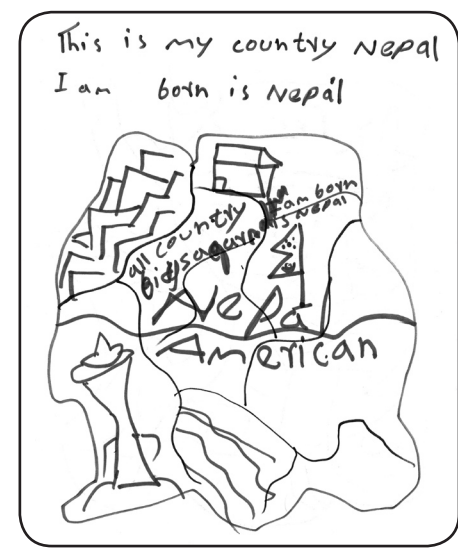
"Who are our students and families?" With increasing numbers of newly arrived immigrants and refugees settling in South King County, one middle school in the Highline School District — with the help of New Futures' social enterprise, ReachOut for New Futures — is asking all their teachers and staff this question.

ReachOut uses New Futures' 15 years of proven program results to share best practices and concrete strategies for building parent and community involvement and improving cultural competency at schools, government agencies, and other non-profits that work with diverse populations.

Since this particular school is located near one of the low-income apartment complexes where New Futures works, ReachOut was able to take this question directly to the students and families living there. With the help of two University of Washington Masters of Social Work interns, ReachOut is connecting with New Futures' Youth Program to provide the school with answers straight from their students.

By participating in activities like life mapping and community mapping, youth are exploring aspects of their identity and community, and providing new insights into their day-to-day lives for their teachers. This is just one example of the power and impact of ReachOut and New Futures' work with children, youth, and families.

ReachOut recently changed its name to ReachOut for New Futures to emphasize how ReachOut's approach is directly tied to the successful experiences of New Futures' direct service work. For more information, please visit www.reachoutfornewfutures.org.



The Life Map of a teen in New Futures' Youth Program.