



PO Box 66958  
Burien, WA 98166

TEL: 206.248.9647  
FAX: 206.248.9649

EMAIL: [info@newfutures.org](mailto:info@newfutures.org)  
WEB: [www.newfutures.org](http://www.newfutures.org)

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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.

## 2008-2009 EVALUATION RESULTS

### FAMILY ADVOCACY

Based on results from the spring '09 Family Survey, since starting with New Futures...

- 70% of families said that they increased their involvement in their children's reading and homework.
- 82% of families are better able to meet their basic needs.
- 80% of families feel that their neighborhood is safer.
- 82% of families say that if they are concerned about their child, they now feel they can talk to someone at their child's school.



Partnering with families to create communities where children thrive.

New Futures

## PARTNERING with SCHOOLS for STUDENT SUCCESS

The phone rings in New Futures' community learning center at the Heights at Burien. A teacher from Seahurst Elementary School is calling to see if New Futures Family Advocate Lucia Martinez can find out why one of her students, who lives at the Heights, has missed school for the past week. The teacher hasn't been able to reach her student's parents, and she wants to find out if he's OK.

New Futures' close partnership with the teachers and principals at Highline Public Schools is critical to the success of the children and youth in our programs. For the many immigrant and refugee families we serve, the public school system can be daunting and the language and cultural differences confusing. A lack of transportation and swing shift jobs compound the challenges of good communication between schools and their students' families.

Each September, New Futures program staff starts rebuilding the connections between schools and the families of students most at risk of failing that are so critical to these kids' success. Talking to school principals and counselors about the services we provide, gathering referrals from teachers of the students most in need of our After School and Youth programs, and planning teacher and principal visits to our sites are just a few of the ways that New Futures partners with schools to build communities where children can thrive.

After receiving the teacher's call, Lucia walked directly to the apartment where the student and his family live. His mom was surprised and upset to learn that her son had been skipping school while she was at work. Together, Lucia, the boy's parents and the teacher created a plan to get him back in school and back on track.

FALL 2009



*According to Seahurst Elementary ELL teacher Mimi Krsak, "New Futures serves as a critical bridge between our school and all parents, especially those who are hardest for us to reach."*

## MEET A NEW FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

For Hansel Diego, finishing high school or going to college was not something he had in mind. He faced many difficult challenges and was ready to give up on his education.

Hansel visited New Futures' Arbor Heights site where he lives and there he met Elsie Gutierrez, community developer and youth program coordinator. Elsie constantly encouraged Hansel and he started coming in for homework help four days a week! Hansel's grades and motivation dramatically improved. His mother and twin sisters also got involved and received support from Family Advocate Lupe Benitez.

Hansel is now a high school senior and also holds a part-time job. Next year he will be attending South Seattle Community College and plans to pursue a career in autobody mechanics. He is the first of his family to attend college.



## LETTER from the DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

I have had the privilege of serving as interim executive director of New Futures since May. As a career interim executive director of nonprofit organizations for the past 14 years, I have worked with many outstanding organizations. Yet, the skill and commitment of the New Futures staff and board is impressive, as is its holistic service delivery model.



**Interim Executive Director  
Barbara Green**

One of my favorite moments since arriving at New Futures was during the Summer Fair at our Arbor Heights site in White Center. I was surprised to discover that the fair had been planned and executed by the kids themselves. As I was getting my tattoo put on and my face painted, I asked the artists (children) how their summer with New Futures was going. These kids had no idea who I was. The first child said, "Great!" When I asked another what he liked best he said, "Everything." Another told me that she was sad that the summer program was over.

In addition to a thriving present, New Futures has a strong, rich history that provides a solid foundation for its future. We have embarked on an exciting strategic planning process that will help us chart our course for an inspiring, sustainable future and determine the skills and experiences we are looking for in a new executive director. And true to New Futures' values, we will be seeking input from families, community supporters and organizational partners.

We look forward to sharing news of our progress in the months ahead. Thanks to all of you for your past and continued support. You are an essential partner in our work with children and families.

Warmly,

Barbara Green  
Interim Executive Director

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

We are thrilled to have Sarah Schieron, New Futures' former development director extraordinaire, back on board, contributing her extensive fundraising skills and experience as one of our newest volunteers.

Sarah left New Futures just over a year ago to focus on a new full-time job—raising her beautiful newborn son, Cooper. But as a strong believer in New Futures' mission, this summer she generously offered to continue to support our work as a volunteer. Sarah is now serving as a community member of our development committee; with her 10 years of successful nonprofit fundraising experience and her many connections to New Futures, she is providing invaluable fundraising assistance.

According to Sarah, "One of the most rewarding parts of volunteering is working with some of New Futures' long-time friends like Laura Silverstein and Roxanne Hood Lyons on the Development Committee."

If you are interested in volunteering at New Futures, please contact Development Associate Deandra Hee at (206) 248-9647 or deandrah@newfutures.org.

### SARAH SCHIERON



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

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- and
- Individuals like you!



Supporters are from September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009

## NEWS and NOTES



Children and families from our Arbor Heights site **sailed around Puget Sound** with Sound Experience, a nonprofit organization. Children learned firsthand the value of teamwork and responsibility.



Our Windsor Heights site **celebrated the graduation** of 12 children from Colorful Hands, our early learning program. The special day included a potluck and kids demonstrating what they learned.

More than 500 people gathered for a **community BBQ** organized by New Futures at The Heights at Burien. In addition to great food and company, kids received backpacks filled with school supplies donated by World Vision.



Teens in our Woodridge Park Youth Program **displayed their photos** at Café Rozella in White Center. At an opening night celebration, family and friends stopped by to admire their artwork.



# ReachOut



for New Futures

helping educators serve diverse students

"Could you learn to speak another language in one six-hour session?" ReachOut, New Futures' cultural competency training program, poses this question to participants in our trainings to remind them that learning to be culturally competent, like any skill, requires ongoing development and practice. Through New Futures' work, we know that building skills to work effectively with diverse communities requires much more than one six-hour training.

Over the past two years, ReachOut has worked with six schools in the Highline School District to test our Sustainability Series, a yearlong training and consulting approach to support educators in building their cultural competency skills. Our results show that this long-term approach has had a very real impact on teachers and students.

**A Teacher Reported:** *My greatest success this year was getting way more parents of my ELL Students involved in supporting classroom activities and even working on a regular basis, during my "learning centers" times. This has had the effect of making my class more of a "learning community, family-style", in which the kids really blossomed.*

**A Principal Reported:** *I see an increase in staff wanting to learn more about our students and their families. Evidence is teachers asking that their letters be translated, an interest in book study groups, and a genuine interest in other cultural groups represented at our school.*



**Marissa Tanimura, ReachOut Trainer, helps educators build their cultural competency.**

For more information about trainings offered by ReachOut for New Futures, visit [www.reachoutfornewfutures.org](http://www.reachoutfornewfutures.org).