

Partner Families

Quarterly Newsletter — Fall 2009



A NOTE FROM THE FAMILY SERVICES MANAGER

Dear Partner Families,

As most of you know, Habitat EKC has been busy! In June we dedicated the final six homes at our Patterson Park development in Redmond and started four new homes in Issaquah Highlands in early September. We are finishing the final few homes in our Koinonia Ridge development and will hold a dedication for three of them at 3 p.m. December 5, 2009.

Two Family Information Meetings are scheduled for families interested in a two-bedroom home in our Snoqualmie development. Family Info Meetings will be held October 7 at 6 p.m. at Encompass in North Bend, and October 10 at 12:30 p.m. at the Snoqualmie library. If you have questions, contact me at efortman@habitatekc.org. Our current application criteria are posted on the Web site under the "homeowner" tab.

In an effort to "go green," the quarterly Partner Family newsletter will no longer be mailed

unless homeowners request a hard copy. The newsletter will be posted on our Web site every three months. I encourage you to check our Web pages often to learn about upcoming events, community resources, and information that might impact you and your family. As always, we are here for you so please don't hesitate to call or e-mail.

Andrea Parsek, our dynamite AmeriCorps Family Support Specialist, has joined us for another service term. She will be in the office two or three days per week. She is reachable by e-mail at aparsek@habitatekc.org.

I am interested in hearing what is new and exciting in your life. If you have a special achievement you want to share, please contact me. I hope you are doing well and enjoying the start of Autumn.

Best,
Emily Fortman



Emily Fortman
Family Services Manager
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Fall raspberries are in! Since raspberries naturally have pectin (a gelling agent) in their seeds, it is one of the easiest fruits to turn into a jam. Follow this easy recipe and you will have delicious jam to enjoy all year long.

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cups mashed raspberries
- 4 cups of sugar

DIRECTIONS:

- Use a very large pot because when the jam reaches a full boil it will double in volume.
- Heat mashed berries until they reach a full rolling boil.
- Boil 2 minutes.
- Add sugar and stir well.
- Bring to a boil, stirring constantly, boil for 2 minutes.
- Remove from heat.
- Beat with rotary beater for 4 minutes
- Pour in sterilized jars and seal.

www.pickyourown.org offers great advice on where to locally pick your own fruits and vegetables, as well as easy recipes to follow.



MEET HABITAT'S RECENTLY SELECTED PARTNER FAMILIES

Koinonia Ridge, Snoqualmie

Kearney Family – Marina Kearney and her four year old son Patrick currently live in Issaquah. Marina, originally from the Ivory Coast and having lived in Mexico came to the eastside three years ago. Marina does part-time work as an independent language translator and has begun selling custom bags at several local markets. Marina and Patrick enjoy swimming, farmer's markets, and the Pacific Science Center.

Issaquah Highlands

Aguirre Family – Olivia Aguirre and her 16 year old daughter Cyndi currently live in Redmond. Olivia came from Mexico to the eastside over twenty years ago in order to create a more stable life for herself and the family she would one day have. One previous landlord writes of Olivia: "You could not ask for a better candidate for the Habitat program. You will likely find her personal outlook and the mission of Habitat for Humanity will be closely aligned."

Cornejo Family – Erly and Veronica Cornejo are originally from Nicaragua, and currently live in a two bedroom apartment in Renton with their two children (Ashley 13 and Moises 9). The Cornejo family pays more than 60% of their income towards housing and their children must share a bedroom. The Cornejo family enjoys spending time with their extended family - camping, softball, and attending baseball games.

Reyes Family – Lola and her two sons Patrick (18) and Kyree (9) have lived on the eastside their entire lives. The family currently resides in a two bedroom apartment with rusty pipes, mold, and inadequate heat. Lola has recently received her Bachelors degree and has been accepted to an online Masters program in teaching. Her goal is to provide a safe environment for her two sons and to work in the non-profit and social justice sphere.

Thao/Mua Family – Barr and Tina and their three young children (Faith 6; Anthony 3; and James 1) live in a two bedroom apartment in Bellevue. Both Barr and Tina support the mission of Habitat and would love to spread the word about the program. Barr is a case manager at the Asian Counseling and Referral Service, and is the only case manager that speaks Hmong. The Thao/Mua family enjoys camping, swimming, and hiking.

Cornejo Family – Venus and Alvaro Cornejo from Nicaragua live in a three bedroom apartment with Venus's mother and their two children (Alvaro 6 and Amanda 18 months). The Cornejos would love to have a stable and safe environment for their children and be able to set aside money for college. A coworker of Venus states that the Cornejos are "the caliber of parents that we need more of, as they will instill their morals and character in their children which are the future."

Leon-Aguilar Family – Mirna Leon Aguilar and her three children (Alonzo 12; Eduardo 5; Aryana 3) moved to Washington for better job opportunities and schools. Currently the family lives in a three bedroom apartment with Mirna's brother. Working as dietary aid to the elderly, Mirna's coworkers rave that she is both patient and kind to her clients. Originally from Mexico, Mirna hopes to put her children through college and continue her education as well; specifically taking more English classes.

Mateas Family –Dorin and Lidia Mateas emigrated from Romania just four years ago with their four children (Emanuela 12; Ruben 10; Simona 7; and Cristiana 5). They currently are overcrowded in a three bedroom apartment infested with black mold. Lidia is currently a full-time student while Dorin has been working and taking business classes at night. The Mateas family loves to read, cook, and spend time together as a family.

Riziki Family – Domitilla Riziki and her four children (Axel 20; Jesus 18; Clelia 15; and John 11) currently live in a three bedroom home in Bellevue. The Riziki family escaped from a civil war in Burundi and sought refuge in Ghana before coming to the United States. Domitilla is a child care worker and has recently been sworn in as an American citizen. The Riziki family enjoys going to church and playing sports.

Talton Family – Alissa and Mikel Talton are both Washington natives. Currently deployed with the Navy, Alissa has been raising their three children (Mikayla 14; Hayleigh 3; and Isaiah 2) and working two jobs. The Talton family has an "open door" policy at their home and loves to have friends and family near. The Talton family enjoys going to parks, hiking, and kite flying.

Patterson Park Buyback

Kesselring Family – Penelope and her son Luis are originally from Guadalajara, Mexico. They currently live in adequate housing but pay more than 50% of the family income. Penelope and her son both enjoy being a part of any community they are around. They enjoy going to church, watching movies, and attending festivals. A friend states, "You will not find anyone with a bigger heart than Penelope. Luis is a great young man with unlimited potential. This is a dream come true for them."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOME DEDICATIONS

**LABEACH FAMILY
MILLER FAMILY
SHELTON FAMILY**

December 5, 2009 at 3 p.m.

Koinonia Ridge Community Center

36912 SE Gravenstein Court,
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Meet the Larson Family!

DoriAnn Larson is a single mother to her two boys; Tyson and Tristan. The Larson family will be moving into a two-bedroom home in the new Issaquah Highlands development. DoriAnn has lived in East King County her entire life and currently works as a Certified Nursing Assistant. DoriAnn and her boys enjoy going to parks, festivals, and spending time at Moses Lake. In the future, DoriAnn would like to go back to school to become a Registered Nurse.

Have you thought about going back to school?

People's Learning Center

2107 E Union St, Seattle, WA 98122

Offers basic reading, writing, math and public speaking in small groups for adults.

Contact: 206.325.8308 - Tuesday 10am-noon, 6-8pm; Every other Tuesday 4-6pm. Does not meet in the summer months.

Thinking about college, but hesitant to start?

Lake Washington Technical College

Lake Washington Technical College offers a wide range of technical higher education programs, including individual classes, special short-term training programs, professional certification preparation and adult continuing education options which include ESL courses.

Contact the Enrollment Office at 425.739.8104 or visit www.lwtc.edu

Need help completing your FAFSA , Free Application for Federal Student Aid? A financial aid advisor can help you apply online. Attend a FAFSA Online Workshop held in the West Building, Room #W403, from 3:00 - 4:00PM on the following Wednesdays: July 15th and July 29th; August 5th and August 19th; September 2nd and September 16th; October 7th and October 21st; November 4th and November 18th; December 2nd and December 16th

Bellevue College

Bellevue College, formerly Bellevue Community College, offers a variety of continuing education courses, degrees, and certificates. Financial aid is available and can be awarded once the FASFA is completed. Work Study options are also available which can help develop job skills and offer an opportunity to have a accessible job on campus.

For more information please call 425.564.1000 or learn more from www.bellevue.edu



Looking for a job? Goodwill can help.

Goodwill offers **free** job-training and education programs and services to the public. They also provide support services and assistance in finding a job. Goodwill has several programs that can help you find a job: **Retail and Customer Service Training program; Adult Basic education; Goodwill Works; Case Management; and Job Placement .**

All of these programs and services are offered free of charge.

Call 206.329.1000 or visit <http://www.seattlegoodwill.org/jobtraining/getstarted> for more information.

Washington State Low-Income Energy and Weatherization Program

Energy Assistance Program (EAP) services include: Payments made to energy companies in most cases, or directly to clients to help pay a portion of home heating costs. Client education and furnace repair/replacement are also offered.

Weatherization (Wx) services include: Installation of weatherization materials and minor home repairs that are made in the homes of low-income people. Energy consumer education is also provided.

Washington state gives priority to those families that are between 125% and 200% Federal poverty. For example a family of four (4) making between \$27,563 and \$44,100 a month is eligible for home weatherization.

To make an appointment to apply please call 1.800.348.7144. Hopelink in Redmond is one place you can apply for EAP and Wx services.



Child Care Resources

The cities of Bellevue, Kent, Issaquah, and Redmond, in collaboration with Child Care Resources, offer a child care financial assistance program to eligible families. Eligibility guidelines include: living in an area supported by the above cities; your children must be between the ages of one (1) and twelve (12); you are employed, in job training, or enrolled as a student; you are not receiving other child care subsidy (DSHS); and you are within income guidelines (i.e. family of 4 must make under \$5,333 a month).

For more information call Loretta at 206.329.1011 ext. 214 or go to www.childcare.org

Free Hopelink Family Development Program

State Certified Family Development Specialists provide your family with:

- Decision Making Support
- Information to become a great problem solver
- Financial Growth and Development Strategies
- Guidance to create lasting life style changes
- Assistance with education and career goals



Washington Telephone Assistance Program

If you are and adult receiving a DSHS program, you may be eligible for WTAP benefits. Benefits of the program include: 50% discount on telephone connection fee, when you move residences; discount on your monthly local telephone service, and a waiver of local

Deposit. For more information, you may call the WTAP office at 1.888.700.8800 or 360.725.4753

School Supplies

Hopelink offers free school supplies for the fall and may be of some help to you. Anyone wishing to sign up for school supplies may do so through the Hopelink center that serves the area where they live. You would then make an appointment to sign up for Hopelink services and at that appointment would also register for supplies. www.hope-link.org



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UPCOMING HOMEOWNER CLASSES

September

Basics of Investing

September 29th, 6:30pm at the
Redmond office

This class is optional and will discuss
topics regarding saving and investing
money wisely.

P.E.A.C.E. of Mind

September 30th, 6:30 at the
Redmond office

This class is optional and discusses
parenting and child safety.

All Partner Families are invited to homeowner classes.
Please RSVP to Emily or Andrea at **425-869-6007**.