

Partner Families

Quarterly Newsletter — Spring 2011, Vol. 10



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAMILY SERVICES

Hello Partner Families,

Even though the weather feels more like winter than spring, the promise of a new (and warmer) season is all around us. The days are longer, the trees are starting to blossom, and Easter is just around the corner. Farmers markets will be open soon (see page 4 for market opening dates and locations) and baseball season is upon us. One of our long-time volunteers, Jim McWha, will be honored with the Governor's Award at the Mariner's game April 12.

Family Information Meetings are scheduled for late May (see page 3 for details.) Our Family Selection Committee will choose up to seven new homebuyers for new construction in Renton. Please pass on the information to anyone who may be interested in owning a home through Habitat EKC.

We continue to expand our repair and revitalization program, known as "A Brush with Kindness." The "A Brush with Kindness" program may be able to assist you with minor repairs that fall outside of the homeowner association's responsibility. Habitat pro-

vides volunteer labor and the homeowner is issued a small, zero-interest loan to cover the cost of materials for the project. Habitat EKC can work with your finances to make repayment of the small loan affordable. If this is something you're interested in, please contact me at efortman@habitatekc.org.

Habitat EKC observes Good Friday, which is April 22. Our office in Redmond and both our construction sites in Issaquah and Renton will be closed for the holiday.

Our annual Women Build event will be held at our Issaquah Highlands' site May 6-7. Women (and men) 16+ years old are encouraged to participate in this fun and empowering event. Contact Sarah or me for more information.

Did you hear that Habitat EKC is opening a store soon? Contact me for details. :)

Happy Spring!

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Director of Family Services



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VOLUNTEER FOR EARTH DAY



Celebrate Earth Day by labeling storm drains in Issaquah Highlands on Saturday, April 16th. Small labels or "buttons" will remind people that water entering a storm drain flows to streams, lakes and ultimately Puget Sound. This simple project could help to reduce much of our water pollution, 75% of which comes from human actions. This is a great family or group project - please join us and get involved!



Earth Day Watershed Event Schedule

11 a.m. Meet at Blakeley Hall (2550 NE Park Drive) for an educational presentation about our local watershed and ways we can protect it.

12 p.m. Break into groups, head into the assigned neighborhoods and begin buttoning!

3 p.m. Return to Blakeley Hall courtyard and turn in leftover materials.

Questions? Contact Laura Matter at (206) 633-0451 ext.110 or email lauramatter@seattletilth.org.



DOUBLE YOUR SAVINGS WITH IDAS

“IDAs” are matched savings accounts established to help low-income households purchase important assets. Every dollar a person saves is matched by one dollar. The Washington Access Fund has two pilot programs for IDAs -- an Assistive Technology IDA and a Business Equipment IDA.

Through the **Assistive Technology IDA program**, low-income individuals with disabilities and their families can save up to \$4,000 and receive an equal amount in matching funds to help pay for assistive technologies needed for any purpose: independent living, education, employment, recreation, health and safety, and family and community life. Assistive Technology is broadly defined to include any device that maintains or enhances the functional capabilities of a person with a disability.

The **Business Equipment IDA** allows participants to be matched up to \$4,000 for business equipment or assistive technology for employment/self-employment or training (related to the equipment) that will lead to employment/self-employment. Items include, but are not limited to, computers, printers, software and other assistive technology or equipment needed for a business.

For more information about how to apply for these IDA programs, visit the Washington Access Fund:

http://www.washingtonaccessfund.org/ida_program/ida_program.php.

JOB PREPARATION CLASSES FOR NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

Bellevue College is offering **free** Job Preparation classes for refugees, immigrants and citizens living in Bellevue. You must be interested in finding work now or in the near future. All applicants will be assessed and placed in the correct class depending on availability and level of ESL literacy.



This **Spring Quarter** we offer three classes:

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|------------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Working in English | Level 4 | Saturdays | 9:00 am - 12:40 pm |
| 2. Preparing for Work | Level 5/6 | Tuesday/Thursday | 5:30 pm - 7:20 pm |
| 3. On the Job Communications | Level 6 | Saturdays | 9:00 am - 12 noon |

How to Register: Call (425) 564 2341 (front desk) or come to Room R-230 at [Bellevue College](#). You can also contact [Sylvia Chmielewska](#) at sylwia.chmielewska@bellevuecollege.edu for more information.

VOLUNTEER DURING WOMEN BUILD



You are invited to participate in our 4th Annual Women Build on May 6 and 7th! Women Build is Habitat's volunteer event for women who want to learn construction skills and make a difference by building homes and communities.

Brush up on your construction skills or learn something new while meeting other homeowners and volunteers onsite. This event will be a lot of fun!

We will be building at Issaquah Highlands. On May 6 and 7th, registration opens at 8:45 a.m. with lunch at noon. Clean up begins at 4 p.m. Contact Emily or Sarah if you're interested in volunteering! We'd love to see you out there.

HELP SPREAD THE WORD: WE ARE SELECTING NEW FAMILIES

Three Family Information Meetings will be held in May to select new families for our Renton development. We will be selecting families for 1 six-bedroom, 3 four-bedroom, and 3 five-bedroom townhomes in Renton. Please pass along this information to anyone who may be interested in our homeownership program.



Meeting Schedule:

- May 21st at 11:30-12:30 p.m. at the Renton Public Library, 100 Mill Avenue South, Renton
- May 26th at 6-7 p.m. at the Renton Highlands Public Library, 2902 NE 12th Street, Renton
- May 31st at 6-7 p.m. at the Bellevue Public Library, 1111 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue

EASTSIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM WISH LIST



When a family flees their home and arrives at our shelters at EDVP, they often leave everything behind. If you would like to donate to our Shelter & Program Wish List, please find a list of our most requested items below. Your donations are greatly appreciated!

For a complete wish list, visit our website at www.edvp.org. To donate goods to EDVP's programs and shelters, please call Karen at 425-562-8840 ext. 354.

Our Priority Needs	Laundry/Cleaning Needs	Most Requested Gift Cards
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning Products • Floor Lamps in Neutral Colors • Paper Towels • Toilet Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bath Mats • Bath Towels • Blankets & Comforters in Twin & Full • Deodorant • Detergent/Dryer Sheets • Feminine Products: Regular Tampons & Maxi Pads • Hand/Body Lotion • Shampoo/Conditioner • Shower Curtains with Rings • White Sheet Sets in Twin & Full 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Meyer • Target • Lane Bryant/Catherine Plus Sizes

EASTSIDE FARMERS MARKETS OPENING SOON



Bellevue Farmers Market

Thursdays from 3-7 p.m., Runs from May 12 - Oct. 13

Located at First Presbyterian Church, 1717 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue

Saturdays from 10-3 p.m., Runs from June 4 - Nov. 19

Located at Washington Square, 10610 NE 8th St., Bellevue

Issaquah Farmers Market

Saturdays from 9-2 p.m., Runs from April 16 - Oct. 8

Located at Pickering Barn, 1730 10th Ave. NW, Issaquah

Kirkland Juanita Friday Market

Fridays from 3-7 p.m., Runs from May 13 - Oct. 7

Located at 9703 NE Juanita Drive, Kirkland

Redmond Farmers Market

Saturdays from 9-3 p.m., Runs from May 1 - Oct. 30

Located at 7730 Leary Way NE, Redmond

Renton Farmers Market

Tuesdays from 3-7 p.m., Runs from June– Sept.

Located at the Renton Piazza in downtown Renton

Sammamish Farmers Market

Wednesdays from 4-8 p.m., Starts May 18

Located at 801 228th Ave SE, Sammamish

GROWING WITH HABITAT BREAKFAST

You are invited to attend the Annual Growing with Habitat Breakfast on April 27th. Enjoy a complimentary breakfast while interacting with Habitat supporters and homeowners and learning about our vision for the future. The event is held at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue, 900 NE Bellevue Way. Registration opens at 7 a.m. The program is from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Parking is complimentary at the Hyatt Regency Bellevue. Make sure you bring your ticket into the hotel to be validated. **Contact Emily if you want to attend the Habitat Breakfast.**



NATURAL DISASTERS: HOW HOA'S CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES

After the crisis in Japan, emergency preparedness is on people's mind. Is your homeowners' association ready for a natural disaster?

Most association documents—and many state statutes—direct associations to operate for the "health, safety, comfort, and general welfare" of the members. Preparing for natural disasters cannot be overlooked in meeting this operating standard. Yet too often, managers and boards do not make plans or preparations to protect life and property in the face of a natural disaster. Understandably they expect that municipal services and civil agencies will respond to the community's needs during a disaster; however, this isn't always the case. The U.S. Citizen's Corp, a program under the aegis of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has stated that,

Following a major disaster, first responders who provide fire and medical services will not be able to meet the demand for these services. Factors such as number of victims, communication failures, and road blockages will prevent people from accessing emergency services they have come to expect at a moment's notice through 911. People will have to rely on each other for help in order to meet their immediate life saving and life sustaining needs.

If we can predict that emergency services will not meet immediate needs following a major disaster, especially if there is no warning as in an earthquake...what can government do to prepare citizens for this eventuality?

The same question should be asked by community association leaders: "What can community associations do to prepare residents for this eventuality?" The Citizen's Corp goes on to answer the question with a direct four-step approach that provides a model for community associations:

First, present citizens the facts about what to expect following a major disaster in terms of immediate services. Second, give the message about their responsibility for mitigation and preparedness. Third, train them in needed life saving skills with emphasis on decision making skills, rescuer safety, and doing the greatest good for the greatest number. Fourth, organize teams so that they are an extension of first responder services offering immediate help to victims until professional services arrive.

To achieve some or all of these goals, the association's manager and board must initiate a preparedness project, work closely with residents to analyze the association's needs, develop a workable plan, and familiarize all residents with its execution. And they must do it now. Natural disasters create chaos and stress—conditions in which people who are unprepared cannot function effectively. Therefore, association leaders and managers must develop disaster plans and put them in place before they're needed so that they are able to cope with the situation during and after a disaster.

This guide addresses natural disasters and catastrophes resulting from mechanical breakdown or equipment failure. Homeland security, terrorism, acts of war, and other similar crises are beyond the scope of this guide; however, additional information on these topics can be found online at www.ready.gov.

KEY POINTS

- Community associations must prepare for disasters in advance by developing comprehensive plans based on their exposure to various perils and the nature of the community.
- Associations must communicate extensively with residents and members about their disaster plans, involve them in preparations, and facilitate their implementation.
- Successful disaster planning includes anticipating the financial ramifications of each type of disaster and being prepared to meet all costs. This involves a thorough examination of insurance coverage and requirements and establishing a contingency fund for all needs not covered by insurance.
- Working effectively with association members, residents, management employees, and contractors before, during, and after a peril is essential to developing a workable natural disaster plan, preparing the community for a natural disaster, and restoring the community after the peril has ended.

Associations can minimize damage and facilitate recovery by taking practical steps to secure physical assets, inform residents, and proactively prepare for all perils in advance.



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UPCOMING HOMEOWNER CLASSES

APRIL

Disaster Preparedness Training

April 7th, 6:30-8 pm @ the Habitat Office

Learn how to prepare your family in the case of an emergency or disaster.

Parenting: Positive Discipline

April 14th, 6-7:30 pm

@ Blakely Hall in Issaquah Highlands

Learn how to discipline your children in a positive way.

MAY

To be announced...

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