



# Washington's Child

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## Resource Centers Help Families Hit Hard by the Economy

### Family Resource Centers serve as lifeline to those in need

CHSW's Family Resource Centers offer "one-stop shopping" for families in need in five communities throughout Washington. These essential centers allow children and families to access



The Sierra Villalobos family meet with Maria de Jesus at CHSW's North Seattle Family Center

parenting education classes and workshops, parent and child activities, support groups, home visiting services, youth and school success activities, health and nutrition programs, life-skills education, and short-term emergency assistance

Recently, the number of individuals served at CHSW's family centers has skyrocketed as a direct result of the weakened economy. In 2004 and 2005, for example, CHSW's Key Peninsula Family Resource Center served 800 individuals annually. In the following years, this number more than doubled to an average of 2,000 per year.

Ann Fuller manages the North Seattle Family Resource Center, a community

hub that serves a large and diverse range of clients from Lake City and beyond. Across the board, staff are noticing a dramatic need for help. The Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP), a program that helps families pay utility bills, has doubled the number of families served.

Participation in the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC), a supplemental nutrition program for pregnant women and children under five, has increased from 175 in 2008 to 320 so far in 2009. The numbers are expected to continue to grow quickly.

College-educated individuals who were formerly financially self-sufficient and independent are

now coming in for help, too. They are embarrassed to receive social services and have little idea what is available to them. Jud Morris, Program Manager of the Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, welcomes families from all walks of life. "Those people" have now become "us", says Morris. "We are all in this together."

Beyond basic needs, CHSW's family centers also help people develop a sense of community with other parents. Families receive career counseling, sign up for English classes, and participate in computer workshops that teach important job skills. Without these opportunities, it is likely that these

families would disconnect from their local community and re-locate to places where resources were more readily available. They might be forced to spend more money on gas or use public transportation to make the long journey to DSHS and other service organizations scattered throughout the region. Instead, facilities like the North Seattle Family Resource Center serve as a resource community gathering place where people can receive comprehensive and compassionate assistance.

Family centers are funded by a combination of local public and private dollars. While funding has remained steady, the same amount of money needs to be stretched to accommodate the increase in demand. Staff are learning to do more with less. "We just make it happen," adds Morris. "We run a little bit faster, and work a little bit harder and longer to serve more people."



CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON'S  
**Red Stocking Campaign**

**Special Issue**



# President's Message



Welcome to the Red Stocking issue of Children's Home Society's *Washington's Child!* For 100 years, the Red Stocking Campaign has reached out to our generous family of contributors, asking them to "fill a child's stocking with hope."

The past several months have brought unprecedented challenges

to our communities and nation. And as you might imagine, Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) has been right in the eye of the storm serving increasing numbers of children and families with ever-shrinking resources to get the job done. During an unstable economy, just when CHSW's resources begin to decrease, our "customers" increase, and they increase dramatically. For example, our Family Resource Centers (highlighted on the front page of this issue) have recently recorded a 60% increase in requests for short-term emergency assistance.

With vital support from donors like you and so many decades of experience and fiscal stability, Children's Home Society is well equipped to weather this storm as we have so many times since 1896.

In the months ahead, CHSW will face new challenges and will be asked to do even more for kids and families facing uncertain times.

Our supporters can rest assured that every dollar contributed to the Red Stocking Campaign will be used wisely. CHSW is a national leader in the field of child and family services and is recognized for our demonstrated accountability, efficiency, and measurable results.

To fill a child's stocking with hope, we must pull together now. Please join with us by becoming a part of the 2009 Red Stocking Campaign. Thank you for putting your holiday contribution to work where it matters the most – in the lives of local children.

Best regards,

Sharon Osborne  
President/CEO

***"Contributions to the 2009 Red Stocking Campaign are vital—they allow us to respond with services when and where children need them most."***

# CHSW News

## Iron Indians Host Back-to-School Picnic



This summer, the Seattle Iron Indians hosted the annual Back-to-School Picnic at Tacoma's Owen Beach for CHSW adoptive families. The picnic included a school supply drive, show-and-tell of the

Indians' awe-inspiring bikes, as well as entertainment by the Eagle Warrior Singers.

## State Representatives Visit CHSW

On July 7, Children's Home Society of Washington recognized Representative Ruth Kagi and Senator Jim Hargrove for their outstanding achievement as advocates for children and families in the state of Washington. Both were instrumental in ensuring that the needs of children and families were met throughout this year's legislative session.

## Regence Supports Vancouver Services

CHSW presented a certificate of appreciation to Regence of Washington for their generous support of close to \$40,000 to CHSW in Vancouver.



(from L to R) Jim Laugen, CHSW VP of Resource Development, Francisco Garbayo, Regence Manager of Corporate Performance and Emerging Markets, and Bridget McLeman, CHSW Community Service Manager, along with Vancouver area children

Their donation will provide outreach and culturally appropriate services to the local Hispanic community.

## TCMS Golf Tournament Supports Local Kids



(from L to R) Amelia Vassar, CHSW Administrative Coordinator, Jim Laugen, CHSW VP of Resource Development, Bill Moore, TCMS Chief Executive Officer, Michelle Martinson, TCMS Business Systems Manager, and Jud Morris, Program Manager of CHSW's Key Peninsula Family Resource Center

Thank you to our friends at Temp Control Mechanical Service Corporation (TCMS) who, for the sixth year in a row, made CHSW the beneficiary of proceeds raised from their annual golf tournament at Hawks Prairie in Lacey. TCMS has generously raised more than \$30,000 to support CHSW's services through the years.



**You can join the Red Stocking Campaign in three easy ways:**

**1** Respond to the upcoming mailing

**2** Send in the enclosed envelope

**3** Visit [www.redstocking.org](http://www.redstocking.org) and donate online!

# Planned Giving: A Personal Profile by Virginia Root



## Virginia's Investment in Children Comes Together Where Her "Heart Meets Her Head"

"Think before you begin," my father was known for saying. He was a musician, craftsman, and scholar. For me, it was time to think in 2004, when my long-time physician delivered some potentially serious news. It wasn't surgery that I found daunting, but the impulse to clean the closets, purge the personal files, and update my will!

I had been pondering my charitable giving habits and felt the need to become more focused philosophically on the issues that had come to have special meaning for me. Fewer, more significant gifts became my goal. I could see that it would take both my head and my heart to make the decision to designate planned gifts to be made from my estate a true commitment. I went about establishing basic requirements for making my choices.

I had to:

1. Know the organization, it's leadership and mission
2. Know the people. Meet staff, volunteers, and board members
3. Know the financial soundness and ethical standards of the organization.

Next, I applied these requirements to the organizations I knew best and to which I regularly made gifts. I also thought about less familiar nonprofits that I read or heard about consistently. My interests kept returning to children, medicine, and education.

The "heart" unfolded easily. I wanted to honor my family. I wanted my dollars to make a difference. I sought to select organizations that demonstrated strength of character, innovation, and a vibrant strategy for its future. That is how Children's Home Society of Washington came to be on my "A" list.

In 2000, when I had known CHSW professionally for 10 years, had done a little homework and had made some modest contributions, President/CEO Sharon Osborne unexpectedly invited me

to become a trustee. Sharon is a leader and a listener, a teacher and innovator, and a highly effective collaborator and advocate. She knows and understands the needs of children and families. I became a true believer.

As a new board member, I came to know other members and CHSW staff. They all made a difference.

I saw that CHSW met all the "requirements" of both my head and my heart.

As a parent and grandparent, I now have

the experience and knowledge to understand that there are few things more important than providing a good start in life for a child, providing support for a family, and maintaining that relationship for as long as it is needed.

Please join me and all who do their best work as advocates for Washington's children and families.

*For more information about CHSW and planned giving opportunities, please contact Jim Laugen, Vice President of Resource Development at (206) 718-5907 or jiml@chs-wa.org.*

***"I wanted to honor my family. I wanted my dollars to make a difference."***

## CHSW News (continued)

### CHSW to Highlight Red Stocking Campaign Courtesy of Bonneville Seattle

CHSW is the proud recipient of the November 2009 Charity of the Month Award from Bonneville Seattle, the parent company to 97.3 KIRO FM, 770 KTTH AM, and 710 ESPN Seattle. The program provides substantial media exposure to local Seattle non-profit organizations as well as a cash donation of \$2,000. CHSW will promote the Red Stocking Campaign through this partnership.



Great weather and an outpouring of generosity prevailed at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual KIRO-7 Kids Classic on Thursday, September 10, at The Golf Club at Redmond Ridge. The event, hosted by Steve Raible of the KIRO-7

news team, included a golf tournament, dinner, and silent and live auction. The event raised over \$72,000 to support Washington's children and families.

### IRA Charitable Rollover Gift Option Ends This Year

Do you intend to make charitable gifts in 2009? Are you over 70 and own an IRA? If so, you can make distributions directly from your IRA to CHSW without the distributions being included in taxable income or subject to withholding.

**At this point, these tax-free distributions can be made only in 2009.**

For more information and examples of how this works, visit [www.childrenshomesociety.org/RetirementFunds.html](http://www.childrenshomesociety.org/RetirementFunds.html)



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*Fill a child's stocking  
with hope.*

Visit **[www.redstocking.org](http://www.redstocking.org)**  
for information or to donate today!

Check your mailbox  
the week of  
November 23

