NOW.
MORE THAN EVER.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT
TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS
IN KING COUNTY
When our community came together in 2005 to begin implementing the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, we had no idea that an economic crisis was looming. We pushed forward with our ambitious plan: creating partnerships to prevent homelessness; building affordable housing for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness; improving links to treatment and other supports to help people maintain their housing; strengthening our existing collaborations and encouraging the participation of others.

Our partnerships have made progress in all areas. In our third year, we:

- Helped over 5,000 individuals avoid homelessness thanks to increased prevention efforts
- Added 662 new housing units or dedicated subsidies
- Secured new fund sources to provide housing and supportive services to individuals and families countywide
- Proved the effectiveness of our work in nationally acclaimed studies.

But also in our third year, we saw the nation’s economy crash. Unemployment increased, and continues to rise. People’s retirement savings are being depleted. Families are losing their homes to foreclosure. Everywhere, people are struggling to make ends meet.

We are encouraged that, unlike many parts of the country, King County did not see a significant increase in our homeless street count earlier this year. Yet more than 8,500 people live every night without a permanent roof over their heads. That is unacceptable.

Now, more than ever, we must continue our efforts. We must find the resources to create housing and rental supports. We must ensure that every child has a safe place to go home to every day after school. Now, more than ever, we must refuse to accept anything less than success.

“So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improbable, and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.” – Christopher Reeve

In this report are examples of efforts by congregations, private citizens, social services and many others who are doing their part to help. Please join us as we continue this extraordinary community effort to end homelessness in King County. Now, more than ever, we need your commitment and support.

The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County guides a community-wide campaign to provide housing and support services to thousands of individuals and families who are living without a permanent roof over their heads or are at risk of losing their homes. Launched in 2005 by partners across the community, the plan will create lasting solutions to homelessness in our region.
PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

- Local prevention programs helped over 5,000 people with emergency assistance. Bellevue, Kent, Kirkland and Seattle all increased homeless prevention funding, as did the Seattle Foundation, Medina Foundation and United Way of King County.

- Outreach services to homeless people and access to treatment services improved. Discharge planning for people exiting hospitals and jails was enhanced. These improvements helped to provide the stability so crucial to preventing homelessness.

MOVING PEOPLE RAPIDLY FROM HOMELESSNESS TO HOUSING

- More than 4,600 individuals in almost 3,000 households were able to leave homelessness, due in part to our nationally recognized efforts to help people “graduate” from service-intensive housing to affordable community housing.

- A total of 662 new units or dedicated subsidies opened in 2008, with another 1,242 in the pipeline. Our cumulative total of 3,344 units opened or in the pipeline exceeds the entire ten-year plan goals of most major cities.

INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF EXISTING SYSTEMS

- The Funders Group, comprised of all the major funders committed to ending homelessness within King County, formed in 2008 to align resource and planning efforts focused on housing production and system efficiencies.

BUILDING PUBLIC AND POLITICAL WILL

- United Way of King County and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are pursuing major initiatives around ending homelessness, helping to keep this issue at the forefront of awareness. The Committee to End Homelessness continues its Speakers Bureau and education and outreach efforts across the county.
Preventing homelessness is the first pillar of the Ten-Year Plan. We continue to focus significant attention on rent assistance and other programs that help people avoid homelessness.

In 2008, we saw the Housing Stability Project quadruple in funding. This meant that the number served in 2008 rose to 672 households (up from 167 in 2007). This included 290 veterans in 123 households. New funding of nearly $1.5 million from the Veterans and Human Services Levy made these increases possible. After six months, 86 percent of these households were still housed.

A separate project focused on preventing people who are jailed for short periods of time from losing their housing while incarcerated. Many are people struggling with mental illness or chemical dependency for whom the loss of housing would be destabilizing.

Many local cities stepped forward. The City of Bellevue approved a $105,491 increase in funding towards the community goal of Food to Eat and Roof Overhead, a 22 percent increase from 2007. The City of Kent significantly increased funding for emergency assistance programs, jumpstarting eviction prevention services for families hit by recent layoffs. The City of Seattle preserved funding for housing and human services, despite a serious budget shortfall and is preparing to send to the voters of Seattle a ballot measure to renew the Housing Levy in 2009.

Economic assistance programs across the region helped over 5,000 individuals in almost 1,600 households avoid homelessness.

James and his daughter Jasmine lost their home to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. After unsuccessfully looking for work in Texas, James and Jasmine moved to Seattle to live with his sister, as James held a series of low-paying jobs. Then, his sister’s home went through foreclosure, and James and Jasmine became homeless. He connected with Family Services Housing Intervention Program, which helped him with a subsidized apartment, job training and a connection to appropriate special needs schooling for Jasmine. Jasmine is now doing well in school and James has a part time job as he completes his training and works toward building a stable home for himself and his daughter.
In East King County, a community came together to help homeless women find a path to home. Here is their story.

In 2006, the Eastside Homelessness Advisory Committee set out to create a drop-in day center for homeless women. Bellevue First Congregational Church (BFCC) and the YWCA joined to open the doors to Angeline’s Eastside Women’s Center. Here, homeless women found a place where they could shower, enjoy a warm meal, do laundry, meet with a career counselor and form friendships. Parishioners stepped up to offer a range of helping services.

By the end of 2008, more than 225 women had visited the day center and the congregation voted unanimously to continue for another five years. The Rotary Club of Bellevue raised funds to renovate and remodel the space.

As the numbers increased, the congregation grew uncomfortable with the 3 p.m. closure. “How could we help the women find safe shelter at night?” they asked themselves. In the summer of 2008, the congregation hosted a series of community meetings involving Eastside faith organizations, the City of Bellevue, service providers and others. Over several months, they devised a plan. With the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council as their parent organization, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Lake Washington United Methodist Church, and the United Methodist Church of Redmond joined BFCC to form a 501(c) (3) organization to create an overnight shelter and an education program, giving women the tools to achieve more sustainable, independent lives. The Sophia Way opened its doors in December 2008.

The Sophia Way calls BFCC its home five nights of the week; on weekends it moves. Other faith organizations are preparing meals, donating items, and providing weekend host locations. Across the Eastside, city human services, businesses and private citizens have come together to support this fledging project. The Sophia Way has served over 30 women in the shelter program, offering life skills classes, case management and staff support to help each woman prepare for a home of her own. The Sophia Way will begin to provide apartments for its clients beginning in 2009.

This all began when Bellevue First Congregational Church signed on as a sponsor of the Ten-Year Plan, with the promise to help end homelessness. This partnership has made a profound difference in the community by creating a program that welcomes all – those in need and those who have help to offer.
The Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness has a goal of creating 9,500 units of housing. Thanks to the efforts of dozens of Ten-Year Plan partners and funders, 2,102 units dedicated to housing formerly homeless households had opened in King County by the end of 2008, our fourth year into the plan.

Another 1,242 units are in the pipeline for a total of 3,344 units, more than nearly every other ten-year plan in the nation. Our efforts in the early years focused on housing for chronically homeless individuals and we have funded 1,377 of the plan’s total goal of 2,500 for that population. These numbers — and our momentum — will continue to grow as our regional collaboration strengthens.

Our “Housing First” programs are showing significant cost reductions for people with serious mental illness and chronic chemical dependency, compared to the costs of providing emergency services or jail.

Other programs are providing a range of services and supports to help individuals and households achieve stability, such as Hopelink in East King County that helped 32 local families achieve permanent housing and Solid Ground’s Stable Families Project, which served over 100 individuals and helped 21 families find or keep permanent housing. Thousands have been helped through programs like these.

Other supports serve as an integral part of our community safety net, including:

- **Community Information Line / 2-1-1** provided housing referrals to 14,194 callers. Another 11,877 sought financial assistance to prevent loss of housing. These numbers reflect a marked increase in volume.

- **Urban Rest Stop** provided showers, restrooms and laundry services to 5,116 patrons, an increase of eight percent.

- **Public Health-Seattle & King County’s Health Care for the Homeless Network** recorded 98,683 visits by 22,161 people at 96 services sites in shelters, day centers and health clinics.
Poor credit, eviction or criminal histories, and lack of money for security deposits can be significant barriers to housing. The Landlord Liaison Project allows landlords to relax eligibility criteria in return for assurances that persons enrolled in the project will receive case management and the financial support they need to be successful tenants. Here is one example of a successful collaboration.

Jan and Wayne Griggs, owners of a six-bedroom house in Kirkland, had grown weary of the demands of managing their rental and planned to sell. United Way had funded a Landlord Liaison pilot and Steve Roberts, Executive Director of Congregations for the Homeless (CFH), approached the Griggs to see if they would maintain the home as a rental, if the Landlord Liaison Project provided risk reduction funding and CFH took responsibility for upkeep and finding good tenants.

The Griggs were familiar with CFH, which provides case management, life coaching, shelter and rental supports. They were impressed with CFH’s track record of helping men move from homelessness to housing and agreed to partner with them. First, though, there was work to be done. Former tenants had left the home in disrepair.

Congregations for the Homeless arranged a work party. Jubilee Services (a construction ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Bellevue) worked with shelter residents and congregation members to paint the interior, fix the drywall, landscape the yard, repair wiring, and add a bathroom. New carpets, appliances and materials were provided by the Griggs. Six CFH shelter residents moved into their new home.

“Jan and Wayne are terrific partners and landlords,” says Roberts. “Several of the men have found permanent work now that they have stable housing. Two have ‘graduated’ to their own housing, and Congregations continues to fulfill its mission of helping men leave homelessness.”

Says landlord Jan, “This partnership is an all-around winning solution. We have great tenants we can count on, and the neighbors are happy because the guys keep up the yard and are good neighbors.”

One of the residents shared, “I’ve come a long way since moving into the house. I have my own room where I feel safe. I work full time, pay rent, and I’m making plans for the future.”
New investments are necessary, but cannot be the sole solution. We must coordinate our existing resources and efforts, and create overall efficiencies.

Our region has a national reputation for effective collaboration, as evidenced by the extraordinary coordination of funding rounds and joint application process for housing and supportive services awards. In 2008, the Governing Board asked the funders to go a step further and create a high-level Funders Group. The new group agreed to set joint priorities, craft a strategic work plan to implement those priorities and establish metrics to measure success. The City of Seattle, King County, suburban cities, United Way of King County, the Gates Foundation and the housing authorities for King County and Seattle came together to accomplish this.

The Funders Group priorities will help to ensure that people leaving homelessness get the right supports and housing tailored to their needs. This will be accomplished by coordinating entry systems for chronically homeless single adults and for families, and increasing access to private market housing. Another priority is to bring the Homeless Management Information System known as Safe Harbors to full operation in 2009 to enable better tracking and evaluation of effectiveness. Finally, and central to our work, is the goal of constructing 250 new units and creating 300 new rental subsidies in 2009. The Funders Group has been nationally recognized as an exceptional “best practice” model for other jurisdictions.

Mayor Greg Nickels announces his proposal to renew the Seattle Housing Levy. The 2002 levy has funded over 1,100 units for formerly homeless households. Joining Mayor Nickels are: Seattle Councilmember Richard McIver; Donald Richmond, a formerly homeless veteran now living in levy-funded housing; and Donna Steensland, a former postal carrier who became homeless after a severe on-the-job injury.

We are continuing to help people move from expensive, service-intensive housing to more independent housing as they are ready, with new funding in 2008 for the Archdiocesan Housing Authority and the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), in addition to the ongoing Plymouth Housing Group “graduation” program.

Detailed evaluation programs are in place for many initiatives. In the first peer-review study of “Housing First,” an article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association showed that DESC’s 1811 Eastlake Project helped its formerly homeless chronic alcoholic residents to reduce their emergency services usage by $4 million in one year. Similar savings flow from programs that are moving hundreds of people from state psychiatric hospitals to supported housing.
EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

In prior years, the Ten-Year Plan built a solid base of support across jurisdictions and organizations. During 2008, we broadened that base to communities and individuals for whom the issue of homelessness had previously been a hidden or overlooked problem.

Partners from South King County developed and widely distributed a fact sheet highlighting local concerns, with individualized data for each south county city. East King County partnered with the Housing Development Consortium to expand its “Housing 101” forum. The CEH Speakers Bureau made more than 60 presentations to cities, churches and civic organizations while broadening outreach to groups like the Building Owners and Managers Association.

Our legislative breakfast heard an inspiring call to action from Bill Gates, Sr., and we partnered with a number of advocacy groups to forward a legislative agenda for housing and homelessness for the 2009 session. We are working hard to collaborate with the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, the Gates Foundation, Building Changes, and others who share our interest and goals in ending homelessness.

William Gates, Sr. speaks to state legislators and leaders of the Committee to End Homelessness about the importance of public and private sectors working together to end homelessness.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE: THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE EXCHANGE

United Way of King County’s Community Resource Exchange connects people experiencing homelessness with the services and resources they need – all in one place, all on one day. More than 400 volunteers joined with a range of service providers (about 80 in all) to offer free health services, haircuts, foot baths, voicemail accounts, portraits, legal assistance, information on housing referrals and job training, onsite enrollment in public benefits and counseling, and other assistance to the more than 1,800 people who attended the fall event.

“Accessing services can be challenging and confusing when you don’t have a permanent address or dependable transportation,” said Vince Matulionis, director of United Way’s ending homelessness program. “Not only does this event provide vital services in a centralized location, it offers a powerful personal connection for everyone involved.”

Health nurse offers blood pressure checks at the Community Resource Exchange
This report has listed significant accomplishments of the past year in preventing homelessness, helping people leave homelessness, and creating a more efficient and effective system. I am proud of this work.

In some ways, however, I am proudest of the simple fact that the momentum continues. We are moving toward the end of the fourth year of the Ten-Year Plan, a time when many political and social movements begin to falter. What I see instead is new and increased concern and commitment. In King County, suburban cities that had not previously been involved are committing resources and are seeing community awareness rise. I hear from counties across the state that their ten-year plans have raised understanding and commitment in communities for whom homelessness was synonymous with invisibility.

With continued commitment have come new resources. The Mental Illness and Drug Dependency sales tax is funding programs that are making a tremendous difference. A new Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation initiative will transform the family homelessness system. The Seattle Seahawks have joined with United Way of King County to raise funds to address family homelessness.

The City of Seattle made a commitment to address its deficits without cuts to human services, and several cities in east and south King County increased their funding toward human services despite similar budget challenges. Fortunately, the federal economic stimulus package will create opportunities in 2009 and beyond for housing and employment.

We all know, however, that the way has become harder, even as it has become more urgent. Families across the county are losing jobs and housing to the recession. The state made dramatic cuts in safety net programs and counties have found themselves with sharply falling revenues and limited revenue options.

The goal of ending homelessness has merged with the goal of keeping our nation the caring, supportive society we all want it to be. The test of a First World nation is whether it provides housing and healthcare to its citizens, even in hard times. It is up to all of us to make sure that we meet that test.

Bill Block, Project Director, Committee to End Homelessness
401 5th Avenue, Suite 500  Seattle, WA  98104
206 263 9001; cehkc@kingcounty.gov
www.cehkc.org
Governing Board

Dan Brettler, Co-Chair — Chairman/CEO/President, CAR TOYS Inc.
Ron Sims, Co-Chair — County Executive, King County
Shahla Aly — General Manager/Solutions Delivery, Microsoft Corporation
David Bley – Director/Pacific Northwest Initiatives, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Tim Burgess – Councilmember, City of Seattle
Tara Connor — Steering Committee Member, Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness
Jon Fine — President/CEO, United Way of King County
David Freiboth — Executive Secretary/Treasurer, King County Labor Council
Daniel S. Fulton — President/CEO, Weyerhaeuser
Michael G. Garcia – Consumer Advocate
Kathy Lambert — Councilmember, King County Council
Daniel Lessler, MD — Medical Director, Harborview Medical Center
Mike Lowry – Former Governor, Washington State
Keith McGlashan — Councilmember, City of Shoreline
Greg Nickels — Mayor, City of Seattle
Phil Noble — Councilmember, City of Bellevue
Blake W. Nordstrom — President, Nordstrom, Inc.
Sue L. Rahr — Sheriff, King County
Norman B. Rice — Former Mayor, City of Seattle
Sheila Sebron — Consumer Advocate
Father Stephen V. Sundborg, S.J. — President, Seattle University
Rev. Robert V. Taylor – Community Leader
John Wise — Mayor, City of Enumclaw

Interagency Council

Sue Sherbrooke, Co-Chair — CEO, YWCA of Seattle • King County • Snohomish County
Stephen Norman, Co-Chair — Executive Director, King County Housing Authority
Humberto Alvarez — Steering Committee Member, Seattle King County Coalition on Homelessness
Rhonda Berry — Administrator, City of Tukwila
Dennis Brown — Reintegration Program Manager, Washington Department of Veterans Affairs
Michael Brown — Director, Community Projects, Seattle Foundation
Tom Carr — City Attorney, City of Seattle
Doreen Cato — Executive Director, First Place
Mark Dalton — Administrator, WA State Social & Human Services, Belltown CSO
Lynn Davison — Executive Director, Common Ground
Dini Duclos — CEO, Multi-Service Center
Dr. Charissa Fotinos — Medical Director, Public Health-Seattle & King County
Bill Hallerman — Vice President, Archdiocesan Housing Authority
Mike Heinisch — Executive Director, Kent Youth and Family Services
Bill Hobson — Executive Director, Downtown Emergency Service Center
Reed Holtgeerts — Director, King County Adult and Juvenile Detention
Kate Jonas — President, Downtown Seattle Association
Clark Kimerer — Deputy Chief, Seattle Police Department
Paul Lambros — Executive Director, Plymouth Housing Group
Barbara Langdon — Executive Director, Eastside Domestic Violence Program
Emily Leslie — Manager, Human Services, City of Bellevue

Jackie MacLean — Director, King County Community and Human Services
Marilyn Mason-Plunkett — Executive Director, Hopelink
David Okimoto — Vice President, Community Services, United Way of King County
Alan Painter – Director, Human Services, City of Seattle
Randi P. — Representative, Consumer Advisory Council
Adrienne Quinn — Director, Office of Housing, City of Seattle
Michael Ramos — Executive Director, Church Council of Greater Seattle
David Ramsay — City Manager, City of Kirkland
Faith Richie — CEO, Valley Cities Counseling & Consulting
Kathleen Southwick — Executive Director, Crisis Clinic
Jim Theofelis — Executive Director, Mockingbird Society
Tom Tierney — Executive Director, Seattle Housing Authority
Christine V. — Representative, Consumer Advisory Council

Consumer Advisory Council

Dara C
Nina C
Michael G. Garcia
Jaclyn M
Margaret
Linda P
Randy P
Bill Perryman
Nancy S
Sheila Sebron
Christine V
Michael VanMieghem
Latrice
Leo

For confidentiality reasons, some members have elected to use just their first name or have chosen not to be listed in any manner.
Municipal Endorsers
City of Auburn
City of Bellevue
City of Burien
City of Covington
City of Enumclaw
City of Federal Way
City of Issaquah
City of Kenmore
City of Kirkland
City of Pacific
City of Redmond
City of Renton
City of Sammamish
City of Seatac
City of Seattle
City of Shoreline
City of Tukwila
City of Woodinville
King County
Suburban Cities Association

Other Endorsers and Participants
24-Seven Ministry Center
A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)
Abu Bakr Mosque
Al Rahman Musallah (American Mercy Services)
All Saints Episcopal Church
Alliance of Eastside Agencies
American Jewish Committee
Archdiocesan Housing Authority
Assumption Catholic Church
Bethany United Church of Christ
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Blessed Sacrament Roman Catholic Parish
Bothell United Methodist Church
Building Changes (formerly AIDS Housing of WA)
Calvary Lutheran Church
Capitol Hill Housing
Catholic Community Services
King County
Central Lutheran Church
Child Care Resources
Christ the King Catholic Church
Church Council of Greater Seattle Cobweb Specialties LLC
Common Ground
Community Psychiatric Clinic
Compass Center
Congregation Beth Shalom
Congregation Eitz Or
Congregations for the Homeless Council on American-Islamic Relations /CAIR-Seattle
Crisis Clinic
Des Moines United Methodist Church
Downtown Action to Save Housing (DASH)
Downtown Emergency Service Center
Downtown Seattle Association
Eastside Domestic Violence Program
Eastside Friends Meeting
Eastside Human Service Providers
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
Evergreen Treatment Services
Family & Adult Service Center
Family Services
Fauntleroy United Church of Christ
First African Methodist Episcopal Church
First Congregational Church of Bellevue
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Place
First United Methodist Church
Friends of Youth
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Good Shepherd Baptist Church
Harborview Medical Center
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church
Hopelink
Housing Resources Group
International District Housing Alliance
IMAN Organization
Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center
Interfaith Community Church
Islamic Center of Eastside
Islamic Center of Shoreline
Isamul Musliman Cham Mosque
King County Housing Authority
Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing
Lake Washington United Methodist Church
Lake Ridge Lutheran Church
League of Women Voters
Microsoft Corporation
Minority Executive Directors Coalition
Mockingbird Society
Mount Zion Baptist Church
Multi-Service Center
Neighborhood House
Newport Presbyterian Church
North Urban Human Services Alliance
Northlake Unitarian Universalist Church
Northshore United Church of Christ
Ohana Youth Project
Operation Nightwatch
Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church
Overlake Park Presbyterian Church
Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church
Path with Art
Plymouth Congregational Church
Plymouth Housing Group
Public Health – Seattle & King County
Rainier Beach United Methodist Church
Renton First United Methodist Church
Sand Point Community United Methodist Church
Seattle First Baptist Church
Seattle First United Methodist Church
Seattle Foundation
Seattle Housing Authority
Seattle Mennonite Church
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Seattle's Union Gospel Mission
SHARE/WHEEL
Sisters of Providence
Sojourners Truth Ministries
Solid Ground
South King County Forum on Homelessness
South King County Human Services Forum
St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church
St. Andrew’s Housing Group
St. James Cathedrals
St. John United Lutheran Church
St. John Vianney Parish
St. Joseph Parish
St. Louise Church
St. Luke’s Lutheran Church
St. Mark’s Episcopal Cathedral
St. Mary’s Catholic Church
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church of Seattle
St. Therese Parish
Temple Beth Am
Temple B’nai Torah
Unitarian Housing Group
United Way of King County
University Baptist Church
University Christian Church
University Congregational United Church of Christ
University District Chamber of Commerce
University Friends Meeting
University Lutheran Church
University Temple United Methodist Church
University Unitarian Church
Valley Cities Counseling & Consultation
Vets Edge
Wallingford United Methodist Church
Washington Low Income Housing Alliance
Washington State Department of Corrections
Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Wedgewood Community Church
Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church
Woodland Park United Methodist Church
YWCA of Seattle • King County • Snohomish County