



## Press Release

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### **\$70,000 Grant to Provide Emergency Relief to Seattle Families**

*Children's Home Society of Washington named Paul G. Allen Foundation grantee*

**Seattle - July 20, 2010** – Children's Home Society of Washington is happy to announce the receipt of a \$70,000 grant from the Seattle-based Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. The funds will support the creation of an Emergency Relief Fund at CHSW's North Seattle Family Center.

Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) is Washington's largest statewide non-profit children's organization, serving over 39,000 children and their families each year. The North Seattle Family Center allows children and families to access parenting education, health and nutrition programs, life-skills education, youth and school success activities, as well as emergency assistance support. The Center serves the highest number of CHSW clients statewide, with close to 17,000 visits annually.

In recent months, the North Seattle Family Center has reported significant increases in requests for emergency financial assistance. In 2009, 88% of clients reported their income as low or very low and made more than 1,500 requests for information, referral, family advocacy services, and financial assistance. 60% of these requests were for emergency financial assistance related to rent and eviction assistance, foreclosure, move-in funds, utilities, basic needs like food and medicine, transportation assistance, etc. These emergency service requests have increased more than 30% from 2008.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation for their investment on behalf of kids and families in need of emergency support in the midst of a struggling economy," states Jim Laugen, CHSW's VP of Resource Development. "This support will enable us to respond immediately and effectively when and where kids and families need it most."

The economic stress felt by families can lead to harmful results. They tend to experience more extreme problems such as mental health issues, alcoholism, drug abuse, and domestic violence. The effect of highly stressed parents with mounting bills and a family to support leave the children vulnerable to depression, anger, acting out, and poor school performance.

The grant will help decrease these difficulties faced by North Seattle families and increase their ability to face life's challenges head-on with new skills and resources. Families will receive assistance with rent, security deposits, move-in fees, mortgage payments, utilities, job training fees, class and GED tuition. They will also receive help with medical bills and assistance and referrals for accessing public benefits.

“Over the last 20 years of giving, the Foundation’s core mission and values have remained steadfast. We are committed to supporting vital nonprofits that make a difference in our lives and the health of our communities,” states Susan M. Coliton of the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, on their website.

The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation supports nonprofit organizations focused on making positive and measurable change in the Pacific Northwest. The Foundation’s vision for transforming lives and building healthy communities guides its funding areas, which include nurturing the arts, engaging children in learning, addressing the needs of vulnerable populations, advancing scientific and technological discoveries, and providing economic relief amid the downturn.

For more information on Children’s Home Society of Washington, visit [www.childrenshomesociety.org](http://www.childrenshomesociety.org).

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