



Press Release

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North Seattle Family Center Receives Technology Grant

SEATTLE – The North Seattle Family Center (NSFC) recently received \$10,800 from the City of Seattle's Technology Matching Funds Grant. These resources will finance the purchase of new computers, software, as well as technical support for their computer lab. Over \$250,000 was given to various projects throughout the city to help provide families with building the technology skills they need for employment during this economic crisis. "Technology Matching Fund projects will provide crucial support to our most vulnerable neighbors at a time that it's needed the most" said Mayor Greg Nickels.

The North Seattle Family Center works with parents, children, and by assisting them in securing needed services and support. The grant came at a time when the Center needed to update the computer systems to better serve the needs of the community. According to Ann Fuller, Program Manager, NSFC hopes to "improve employment opportunities for low income and limited English speaking clients as well as better communication skills through language training available on the new software programs."

The Technology Matching Fund was established in 1997 to support the community's efforts to close the digital divide and encourage the use of information technologies for civic engagement. The city named the matching fund in memory of Bill Wright, a Central District community leader who embodied the program's goal of using technology tools to build strong neighborhoods. Since the program began, the city has contributed over \$1,850,832 to 153 projects with community contributions totaling more than \$3,963,000. The fund furthers the city's commitment to education, inclusion, and race and social justice. For more information on the Bill Wright Technology Matching Fund, visit www.seattle.gov/tech.

The computer lab at North Seattle Family Center will re-open in Fall 2009. Classes will teach computer skills, job readiness (resumes, job searches, interview techniques, etc.) as well as English language learning skills.

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The North Seattle Family Center is operated by Children's Home Society of Washington, statewide children's organization that has provided exceptional and innovative services to children and families since 1896. CHSW supports over 39,000 children and families each year. For more information, visit www.childrenshomesociety.org.