



Press Release

For release on December 17, 2009

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**Payless ShoeSource Selects North Seattle Family Center
as Partner in the "Shoes 4 Kids" Program**
Grant to provide 200 pairs of shoes to children served by Seattle-area family centers

SEATTLE – December 17, 2009 – Payless ShoeSource recently named Children's Home Society of Washington's North Seattle Family Center as a partner in the Payless Shoes 4 Kids Program – a grass roots effort to deliver \$1.2 million dollars in shoes to families in need across the country this holiday season. The center was one of 700 recipients nation-wide out of an applicant pool of 2,800.

"We know that a great pair of shoes can lift spirits, bolster self-confidence, and bring a huge smile to a child's face, especially when they get to pick the shoes themselves," says LuAnn Via, the President and CEO of Payless ShoeSource in the press release announcing the grant. "And together we know what an amazing holiday gift this will be to so many families and children."

The grant comes at a time when children and families need more help than ever before. In recent months, there has been a 60% increase in the number of individuals requesting emergency assistance at family centers. Food, clothing, help with utility bills, and items for newborns are in short supply for families hit hard by the economy.

"Many of our families cannot afford to buy new shoes for their children," says Maria de Jesus, Direct Service Support Advocate at the North Seattle Family Center. "The generous grant from Payless will go a long way at providing a basic need – shoes – to families that need help during a tough holiday season."

The grant was written on behalf of a coalition of family centers funded by the City of Seattle. The vouchers, worth \$15 each, will be distributed to High Point Family Center, FamilyWorks Resource Center, International Family Center, New Holly Family Center, North Seattle Family Center, Rainier Beach Family Center, and Southwest Family Center. Together, the centers help more than 10,000 individuals each year.

About the North Seattle Family Center

The North Seattle Family Center assists children and families in securing needed services and support including parenting education classes, basic needs support, home visiting services, teen parent services, youth and school success activities, health and nutrition programs, and life skills education. To learn more, call (206) 364-7930.

About Children's Home Society of Washington

Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) is the largest statewide non-profit children's organization, serving over 39,000 children and their families. CHSW's mission is to develop healthy children, create strong families, build engaged communities, and speak and advocate for children. To learn more, visit www.childrenshomesociety.org.

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