



## NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2008

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### Home is the Heart of it All: Homelessness and Housing Advocacy Day happens in Olympia, February 14.

This is your opportunity to show your support for legislation that will improve funding and access to affordable housing. [Click here to register so you can be a part of this monumental day.](#) Then check in at the United Churches on Capitol Way, by 8:30 am on February 14. Governor Gregoire will address our group, and after a training session, we'll organize into teams based on the legislative districts in which we live or work. Once we're teamed up, we'll march to the Capitol. In the Capitol, designated team leaders will send notes to our legislators out on the floor, asking them to come out and speak to constituents about housing. This is called "pulling." We're told by groups who do legislator pulls on their advocacy days that it makes for an exciting day in Olympia – and that filling the Capitol building with hundreds of housing advocates is a sure way to show that affordable housing and supportive services have a real constituency in this state.

When we pull our legislators, we'll have only a brief chance to talk to them about our agenda. To help you out, we'll have talking points ready in your advocacy packet, but it's a good idea to think ahead about what you want to say so that you feel confident and prepared.

This is an exciting opportunity to stand together with our friends and colleagues in the housing community, making a real show of strength for our cause.

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### Tacoma Planning Commission to hold Public Hearing on New Multifamily Property Tax Exemption – 5 pm February 20 – City Council Chambers, 747 Market Street

On Wednesday, February 20, the Tacoma Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on its proposed amendment to Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 13.17 and addition of new Chapter 6A.110. The amendment will incorporate 2007 State legislative changes (HB 1910) which changes the Multifamily Property Tax Exemption period from 10 years to either an 8- or **12-year option, depending upon inclusion of affordability provisions.**

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow all interested persons an opportunity to provide comments. If you are not able to attend the hearing but wish to comment, you can submit written comments to the Planning Commission by 5 pm on Friday, February 29.

[Draft of Amended TMC Chapter 13.17](#)

[Draft of New TMC Chapter 6A.110](#)

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### State Legislature passes Housing bill to increase Washington Families Fund by \$6M

This week the Washington Senate approved Bill 6335, already passed by the House, to renew the Washington Families Fund. The law will appropriate \$6M for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the office of financial management for expenditure into the homeless families services fund for the purpose of replenishing the Washington families fund to match private donations. "This act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect immediately."

## Member News:

### Metropolitan Development Council helps entrepreneurs start or expand businesses

The Metropolitan Development Council is holding free entrepreneurial training sessions and workshops for women and disadvantaged residents in Tacoma who are seeking support to start or expand their small business ventures. The sessions are as follows:

**Business Start-Up Series:** 9 am - 1 pm on February 12, 13, 14, 19, 20 or 21

**Small Business Financing:** 9 - 11 am on March 6

**Marketing Your Business:** 9 - 11 am on March 20

*Pre-enrollment is required. For more information, call (253) 591-7026.*

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### Helping Hand House hosts events throughout the year

These "get togethers" are a chance for people within the community, our staff, our board, our supporters, and our families to meet on common ground. These are times to share stories of hardship, stories of success, and to renew and expand a commitment to preventing and ending family homelessness in Pierce County.

Whether they are introductory information sessions such as our House Warmings, an ASK Breakfast, or a celebration of our families' moves toward self-sufficiency, these events are designed to include the community in our mission. At Helping Hand House, we believe these human relationships are essential in the great work that we do.

If you are interested in learning more or attending these events:

Call Us: (253) 848-6096

or Email: [info@helpinghandhouse.org](mailto:info@helpinghandhouse.org)

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### Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity hosts Collegiate Challenge

For the past several years, the local Habitat for Humanity has participated in **Collegiate Challenge** - an alternative spring break program where high school and college students work with Habitat for Humanity affiliates across the country in their efforts to eliminate substandard housing. This year, these 7 college groups (125 students) are coming here to build for one week each during the month of March:

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> - March 9<sup>th</sup>:**

**Rice University** (12 Students)

**March 9<sup>th</sup> - March 15<sup>th</sup>:**

**University of Portland** (20 Students)

**Montana State University** (20 Students)

**March 16<sup>th</sup> - March 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

**Southern Utah University** (20 Students)

**North Central University** (15 Students)

**March 23<sup>rd</sup> - March 29<sup>th</sup>:**

**California Polytechnic University** (16 Students)

**University of Montana** (20 Students)

With so many groups this year, we need more support than ever to help create a positive experience for these students. One of the easiest ways to accomplish this goal is by providing **meal sponsorships** for the students. This could be anything from providing breakfast at the church where they are staying, catering lunch on the worksite, or, for those in the food business, opening up your restaurant for a celebration meal. If you are interested in supporting some starving college students as they build in Tacoma please contact Cassandra Jarles at (253) 627-5626 or by email at <mailto:cjarles@tpc-habitat.org>.

**Thanks for your ongoing support!**

## Korean Women's Association opens International Place at Salishan



Many thanks to our partners: U.S. Housing & Urban Development, WA State Housing Trust Fund, City of Tacoma Economic Development, Pierce County Community Services 2060, Washington Mutual Bank, Capital Impact, Common Ground, Environmental Works, Marpac Construction and Low Income Housing Institute.

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### **MORE MEMBER NEWS?**

**We want your stories, events, insights for our AHC Newsletter.**  
Please email [connie@affordablehousingconsortium.org](mailto:connie@affordablehousingconsortium.org)

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### **AHC CALENDAR**

**AHC General Meetings: 1323 S Yakima, Tacoma - PUBLIC WELCOME!**

**FEBRUARY: 02-13-08** [2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday - Noon - 1:30]  
*HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAMS*

**MARCH: 03-12-08 - 8:30-10 AM** **QUARTERLY BREAKFAST MEETING**  
*SUSTAINABLE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING*

**JUNE: 06-11-08 - 8:30-10 AM** **QUARTERLY BREAKFAST MEETING**  
*WORK FORCE HOUSING - NEW STRATEGIES*

**SEPTEMBER: 09-10-08 (TIME TBD)** **QUARTERLY MEETING**  
*LOCAL CANDIDATE FORUM*

**DECEMBER: 12-10-08 - 8:30-10 AM** **QUARTERLY BREAKFAST MEETING**  
*NEW NATIONAL POLITICAL HORIZON FOR HOUSING*

