



**NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2008**

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## **Meet the Candidates for Pierce County Executive**



**Shawn Bunney**



**Calvin Goings**



**Mike Lonergan**



**Pat McCarthy**

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual candidate forum will focus on the role of the County Executive in shaping affordable housing policy and programs. **Dave Seago**, former Editor of *The News Tribune* will moderate the Q&A and discussion. Our co-host is the League of Women Voters of Pierce County.

**Date:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008  
**Time:** 4 to 6 pm  
**Location:** KWA Community Services Center  
125 East Pacific Avenue – Tacoma  
**Parking:** Available in parking lot  
**Cost:** Free – *Public Welcome!*

Please RSVP: [connie@affordablehousingconsortium.org](mailto:connie@affordablehousingconsortium.org) or 253.627.0949

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**HOUSING WASHINGTON 2008 – September 15-16 – in Tacoma!**



Progressive Partnerships –  
Sustainable Solutions

Mark your calendar to join colleagues to forge Progressive Partnerships — Sustainable Solutions at the leading conference presenting the best regional and national experts on affordable housing: Housing Washington!

Registration: <http://www.wshfc.org/conf/Registration.htm>

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## Affordable Housing Policy Recommended to Cities & Towns

The AHC local policy committee finalized its proposal for Pierce County cities and towns and mailed it to 149 elected officials and staff members in 16 jurisdictions July 1. We are setting up discussions with city governments on these recommendations and on affordable housing issues in general. To view the final document, please go to [www.affordablehousingconsortium.org](http://www.affordablehousingconsortium.org) and click on Advocacy... Local.

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## Providing Apartments for People with Disabilities – A Win-Win for WA

by Rob McKenna, Washington State Attorney General

**Washington is home to many citizens with serious disabilities. These disabilities make it much more difficult to live independently, leaving these people to rely on family members or professional caregivers, while they long for the feeling of self-sufficiency that would come from living on their own. This is something that you, as apartment owners, have the unique ability to put right.**

Unfortunately many of our disabled residents have a difficult time finding apartments that have the features they need to live independently. To live on their own, those with disabilities require units with special features that, over the years, builders have been adding to many apartment complexes. Some may need a fully accessible unit with amenities like light switches in accessible locations, while others may only need to be on a first floor or in a building with an elevator. I urge you to use a critical, free service – The National Accessible Apartment Clearinghouse (NAAC) – to market your vacant, accessible units to people with disabilities. The NAAC maintains the only national database of apartments specifically designed for renters with special needs. Because of sponsorships and generous donations, this service is free to apartment owners – and it only takes minutes to advertise your vacant units.

Once your properties are listed, those with disabilities will discover them when they visit the NAAC web site, fax a request or call the NAAC hotline looking for an accessible unit in the Puget Sound area. This is an incredibly effective way to match special units with the appropriate tenants. The NAAC database includes more than 155 cities and suburbs and is regularly mentioned in publications that target this market niche, including "UNITS," "Wheelchair Access & News," "For Rent Magazine," "Disability Rights" and "Kiplingers."

The process to register apartments is simple. If you own a vacant unit that you think might meet the needs of someone with a disability, you may register it at the NAAC Web site. It will take you through a simple process, confirming that your unit or units fit certain requirements. Once your apartments are entered into this national database, they will consistently appear in searches conducted by renters looking for apartments that fit their access requirements.

On a national basis, NAAC routinely receives up to 500 queries via phone or e-mail every month from prospective renters – its online database is searched more than 8,000 times. But even though our state is home to many residents with serious disabilities, there are currently fewer than 100 local units currently registered in NAAC's database.

Please take a few minutes today to participate in this terrific, win-win program. Our friends and family members with disabilities will win when they get a chance to live independently. And property owners will win by matching renters with previously vacant units.

To find out more and to register your property, go to [www.accessibleapartments.org](http://www.accessibleapartments.org).

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## **New Initiative Launched: The Supportive Housing Institute.**

Building Changes, along with Common Ground and other team members, is proud to be part of a new force in affordable housing: the Supporting Housing Institute. SHI aims to create new permanent housing units in rural communities across Washington State. For more information, please go to [http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/hrsa/mh/Supportive\\_Housing\\_Institute\\_Brochure\\_2\\_08.pdf](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/pdf/hrsa/mh/Supportive_Housing_Institute_Brochure_2_08.pdf).

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## **AHC to Publish Housing Guidebook**

On September 1, we will publish the *2008-2009 Guidebook to Affordable Housing in Pierce County*. The Guidebook includes information and resources, steps to finding affordable housing, family stories, and member profiles. Primary sponsors include the Sequoia Foundation, Franciscan Health Services, Tacoma Public Utilities, and Key Bank. Our largest advertiser is U S Bank along with many other members.

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## **New Members Join the Consortium**

We are happy to welcome new members this year: HomeSight, Jump Start, and Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities; new Affiliates include 1<sup>st</sup> Security Bank of Washington, BCRA, Building Changes, Cascade Park Vista, TACID, and Walsh Construction Company.

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## **United Way of Pierce County Introduces Community Wellness Indicators**

Go to <http://www.uwpc.org/ci/overview.htm> for UWPC's current data on Pierce County: Crises Services, Economy, Education, Employment, Environment, Family & Kids, Health & Wellness, Housing, Pierce County Facts, Public Safety, and Transportation.

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## **CALENDAR:**

### **CCS "Caring to a Tee" Golf Tournament**

September 12, 2008 | 10:30 a.m. registration  
Whispering Firs Golf Course, McChord Air Force Base

Proceeds benefit the families and individuals served by CCS through its family centers. Services include shelter, counseling, foster care, life skills training, nutritious meals, case management, education, and care for elderly and disabled persons.

Cost: \$80 per person, includes course fees, cart, dinner buffet, contests and awards.  
Contact: [Helen Vajgert](mailto:Helen.Vajgert@ccs.org), (253) 502-2679.

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PIERCE COUNTY  
**AIDS WALK**

University of Washington Tacoma

Saturday, September 6, 2008

9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.



Register: <http://www.piercecountyaid.org/>

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**AHC General Meetings - PUBLIC WELCOME!**

DEC-10-2008 8:30-10 AM QUARTERLY BREAKFAST MEETING - 1323 S Yakima, Tacoma

Topic: TBA

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**MORE MEMBER NEWS? Send your stories, events, insights for our AHC Newsletter.**  
Please email [connie@affordablehousingconsortium.org](mailto:connie@affordablehousingconsortium.org)

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