

## Main Identity

**From:** "Seattle/King County Coalition on Homeless" <skcch@homelessinfo.org>  
**To:** <lcpomada@sacredheartseattle.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 22, 2010 3:15 PM  
**Subject:** SKCCH Update July 22: Thank Congress, fill Project Cool backpacks, & more!

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July 22 2010

7/26/2010

## Dear SKCCH Members and Friends –

This week brings us good news to share! Yesterday we got an exciting update about the process of figuring out how much money will be appropriated for McKinney Vento programs in 2011. As you know, we have spent months writing letters, calling, and e-mailing Congress to ask that lawmakers provide the \$2.4 billion we need to implement the HEARTH Act fully. The good news: Yesterday the House of Representatives actually INCREASED the number it was considering (to \$2.2 billion), and the Senate is currently matching the President's request of \$2.055 billion (this would be a 10% increase (= \$190 million more) over 2010).

Right now, Appropriations Committees in both houses of Congress are busily working to add and subtract from thousands of items in the HUD and Transportation budgets.

In the SENATE, the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (T-HUD) Appropriations Subcommittee (chaired by WA Senator Patty Murray) 'marked up' the spending bill, and **included \$2.055 billion for McKinney programs (a 10% increase over last year).**

In the HOUSE, the Full Appropriations Committee marked its FY 2011 T-HUD spending bill and **proposed providing \$2.2 billion for McKinney programs. That is an 18% increase over last year!** Even though the T-HUD Subcommittee had only proposed \$2.055 billion, the **full Appropriations Committee INCREASED that amount—which is apparently almost unheard of, according to our D.C. insider friends!** So, this is HUGE news. **Advocacy works!**

**Why not make a quick call to  
Senators Murray and Cantwell to thank them  
for their leadership on funding for McKinney programs, and for seeing that HOUSING is good economics?**  
**MURRAY:** Seattle: (206) 553-5545 D.C. Toll Free: (866) 481-9186  
**CANTWELL:** WA State Office: 1-888-648-7328 D.C.: 202-224-3441

**We're not yet at the \$2.4 billion we are requesting to fund the HEARTH Act fully, but we are definitely heading in the right direction, thanks to great advocacy. Stay tuned!**

Also – **Initiative 1098** just officially qualified for the ballot in November! All those signatures, and now the campaign to pass this measure begins. How can you let people know that this Initiative deserves a YES vote? Read a [message from Bill Gates, Sr. below](#), and click this link to [tell your friends about Initiative 1098 and why it will make Washington fairer for us all!](#)

And now, on with the rest of the Update:

- \* How to volunteer to **FILL the BACKPACKS** with **Project Cool for Back to School!**
- \* **How to Advocate for Homeless Students** – important information about the TIME and LOCATION of SKCCH's free training, and **HOW TO RSVP**
- \* Update about changes at the King County Bar Association's Community Legal Services programs
- \* A night at the theater that draws on one man's experience of homelessness in Seattle.
- \* Letter about I-1098 and steps towards the Nov. ballot.

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**SHORTER TIME! SPECIAL LOCATION!! FREE TRAINING!!!**

**Spread the word!**

**The SKCCH August 19 General Meeting will be ONE HOUR only (from 9.00-10.00 a.m.).  
The meeting will be followed by our FREE TRAINING from 10.15 a.m. to 12.15 p.m.**

## **SPECIAL TIME & LOCATION for AUGUST SKCCH MEETING**

The August 19<sup>th</sup> SKCCH meeting (9-10 a.m.) and our FREE Training on Advocating for Homeless Children (10.15-12.15)

will be held at

Catholic Community Services

100 - 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. South @ Yesler Way Seattle, WA 98144

(Entrance is off of 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave. So.; park on the street)

## **Advocating for students who are homeless: What you need to know for the new school year.**

**The training will cover the basics of McKinney-Vento as it applies to children's educational rights.** We will discuss case studies, ask questions, and problem solve with colleagues. Learn about no-delay enrollment, transportation, tutoring, and other services that public schools must offer to children who are homeless. YOU can help advocate for the school services and supports that children you work with may need.

Presenters include staff from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), and lawyers from Columbia Legal Services, as well as SKCCH members. They are all familiar with the details of the law, and with the ins-and-outs of helping children and parents get access to the support they need.

**Please note: RSVP required for the training! Space is limited.**

**If you plan to attend the training (and if you do ANY work with children, youth, and families who are homeless, we hope that you do!), RSVP to reserve your spot. Virginia (206) 357-3149 or [virginia@homelessinfo.org](mailto:virginia@homelessinfo.org)**

## **Project COOL for Back-to-School: Fill the backpacks for 1800 homeless students!**

Here's how you can still help out:

**1. Donate** <https://secure.groundspring.org/dn/index.php?aid=5862> It's secure, it's easy, and it's tax-exempt! Right now, every dollar you donate is going towards making sure that we can give each child a gift certificate for a new pair of shoes to start school off on the right foot.

**2. Volunteer with us** for a BIG DAY of sorting, organizing, and counting, and to fill the backpacks! It's fun! Just how big IS a pile of 1800 backpacks? Bigger than you think!

**We need helpers for 2 hour shifts on**

**Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> from 9.00 a.m. -5.00 p.m.**

**Tuesday August 10<sup>th</sup> from 9.00 a.m. -5.00 p.m.**

**To volunteer, contact Jen** ([jpargas@compasshousingalliance.org](mailto:jpargas@compasshousingalliance.org) or 206-926-9300) with your NAME, preferred Date and Time, and HOW MANY people you'll be bringing to help!

**3. Pick up some extras** to help fill in where our supplies are thin! We still need more **colored markers** (Crayola 8 count classic colors) and **pink erasers** (you know the ones!), as well as **5-tab colored index pages** for 3-ring binders.

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Our friends at the **King County Bar Association's Community Legal Services Department** have news about changes in their program, now known as **KCBA's Pro Bono Services Department**. They want to assure us that "although the names of our direct representation programs are changing you can rest assured that **we will continue to have staff and volunteers who are sensitive to the needs of homeless clients, clients with HIV/AIDS, immigrants and refugees, and low income people in general.**"

**The Legal Services for the Homeless Clinics have been folded into the Neighborhood Legal Clinics.** The direct representation programs (Volunteer Legal Services, Volunteer Attorneys for Persons with HIV/AIDS, and Newcomers Resource Project) have merged into one program, Volunteer Legal Services (VLS). The Newcomers Resource Project's Wage Claim Panel is moving from our Pro Bono Services Department to KCBA's [Lawyer Referral Services Program](#).

**The new Volunteer Legal Services has teamed up with the Neighborhood Legal Clinics (NLC) to make one group called Community Services.** Community Services will work to serve our clients more efficiently. A new system is being created at the Neighborhood Legal Clinics to refer clients who need ongoing representation directly from the clinic to VLS in the following legal areas:

Bankruptcy;  
Estate Planning;

Social Security Overpayments;  
Vacating Criminal Records;  
Debt

We see the most need in the areas listed above; therefore we plan to focus our energy there. Please keep in mind we can only serve clients in the legal areas listed above. If your organization would like us to make an in-office presentation regarding more in-depth information on these legal areas, legal issue spotting and what makes a successful referral to our programs, please feel free to contact [Connie Ritchie](#).

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**A night at the theater: View from the Tent**

Saturday, July 31, 2010, 7:00 PM

Saint Mark's Homeless Advocacy Ministry presents the dramatic monologue "View from the Tent: Thoughts from a Homeless Man" (based on the book of the same name compiled by M. Barrett Miller and performed by local actor Dan Niven).

WHERE: Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral (1245 Tenth Avenue East in Capitol Hill, Seattle, WA 98102)

WHAT: M. Barrett Miller's book is a collection of "thoughts, letters and notes from Atreus [that] were shared with me over a number of years. He was a homeless man living primarily in an outdoor shelter in Seattle. These musings come from a man who was crushed by violence and loss. His reflections give hope to many who find themselves in similar situations living on the outskirts of society."

TICKETS: \$10 for adults and \$5 for students/seniors, are available at the door and through Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/117494>.

Details: Liz Sloat 206.323.0300, ext. 219 or [lsloat@saintmarks.org](mailto:lsloat@saintmarks.org).

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**Read the letter from Bill Gates, Sr. about I-1098**

**Dear Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness:**

Late yesterday afternoon the Secretary of State's office confirmed what we already knew: I-1098 will be on the November ballot. It is clear that the people of Washington are ready for real tax reform. 384,382 of them signed the petition to make our tax system more fair.

**Thank you for everything you have done.** I have had the pleasure to meet many of the volunteers that worked on 1098, and I have to say I was continually impressed with the dedication and passion that I saw from Washingtonians who are ready for change. Our State has been penalized by an unfair and inadequate tax system for years. Initiative 1098 will change that.

We currently rank 46th out of the 50 states in the amount of our economy we invest in education, and we rank dead last -- 50th out of the 50 states -- in the basic fairness of our tax code. **Middle class families in Washington State pay four times the tax rate of the very wealthy**, while our reliance on the B&O tax penalizes small businesses that are struggling in the current economic downturn. That is scandalous. And it is wrong.

**When 1098 passes we will reduce taxes on middle class families, eliminate the B&O tax on small businesses, boost our economy and make our tax code more fair.** I know there is broad public support for this initiative and with your help I know we will win in November.

Washington is only one of seven states without some form of income tax and our opponents are already mobilizing to try and keep it that way. We can't let them win. The stakes are too high.

The very future of Washington hangs in the balance. Will we let our education system continue to deteriorate? Will we kick thousands of our most vulnerable citizens off the Basic Health Plan? Will we let Washington continue to be the most regressively taxed state in the country?

Or will we have the courage to lower taxes on small businesses, lower property taxes on working and middle class families and create a limited income tax on the very wealthy -- the top three percent of households -- that will generate \$1 billion per year in revenue dedicated to funding education and health care?

I think the right answer is commonsense. Won't you join me and tell all your friends to support 1098 as well? Please click below to send them a message about 1098 and how important it is to Washington's future: [Tell your friends about Initiative 1098](#)

[Initiative 1098](#)

Thank you,

William Gates Sr.

77 South Washington St. | Seattle, WA 98104 US

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