

TOGETHER

Fall/Winter 2011-12 | THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS FROM TOGETHER CENTER

Campus redevelopment New and expanding services

From one end of the Together Center to the other, agencies are taking advantage of opportunities to join the campus or expand their suites to respond to growing demands for services. With large space available for the first time in a decade*, the campus is in motion, and more direct services than ever will be available on our one-stop campus in 2012.

Consumer Counseling Northwest (Apprised Financial Advocates)

Recently added, this agency helps people of predominantly low to moderate incomes master essential skills for successful money management, wise credit use, and asset building, including foreclosure prevention counseling.

Transition Academy

Also new, Lake Washington School District's Transition
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Participants Ryan Browne and Kaitlyn Bush

Transition Academy

New partnership benefits youth and agencies

When Transition Academy co-coordinator Mark Tornquist visited Together Center looking for a new location for the Transition Academy he knew he had found something different and special. "This is a campus of agencies which provide service to others, work together well and convey a message of hope. We thought we'd fit right in," he said.

Lake Washington School District's Transition Academy is a nationally recognized community based program for young adults with developmental disabilities in the Lake Washington School District who have finished high school and are interested in continuing their preparation for work and life in the community.

One of the Academy's key roles is readying youth for work with real life experience. "There is a value in work. It builds character, self-respect and dignity," Tornquist says. Their work program is designed to embed the students in the community to help them understand the responsibilities that go with being a partner with those in the community.
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"Front Door Services" to Grow

Imagine you need some help with finding mental health assistance for your mother or child. What if you struggle with English? What if you've been turned down for state assistance? Daily at Together Center, people visit to see if help can be located in the wide array of programs

on campus. Increasingly we are asked to help navigate to the right program, find some additional assistance or put a plan of action together.

Pressures are growing. Demands for services have skyrocketed. Increasingly, former middle-class
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TOGETHER... A HUNDRED WAYS TO HELP

New Partnership

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When these goals were outlined, Together Center operations coordinator Sondra Sciola had immediate ideas. Working with Tornquist, she created two positions: Map/Inventory/Stock Clerk to keep directory maps stocked throughout the campus and track map inventory and Conference Room Attendant to keep four campus conference rooms clean, stocked with necessary supplies and kept in configuration.

“This is a mutually-beneficial partnership that aids youth in the Transition Academy, while helping Together Center maintain key operations and lower operating costs,” Sciola says. “Collaborating with Transition Academy staff has been delightful and successful. The students have been doing a really great job.”

Front Door Services

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families and elderly retired people shell-shocked by the economy have newly sought services, adding to those who need help. In response, we have added free public phones in our lobby, and partnered with advocates to assist those struggling with homelessness, language barriers, domestic violence and other difficulties.

More is needed: Despite the array of services, people are falling through the gaps. It is obvious to us: they need more direction, resources and one-on-one time with caring professionals. We need to expand our Front Door Services. →

From the Executive Director Still a model after all these years



Pam Mauk

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to attend a conference hosted by the NonprofitCenters Network, an organization designed to promote and support nonprofit centers like Together Center (www.nonprofitcenters.org).

At The California Endowment, about 250 gathered from throughout North America. When we were asked how many were from 20-year-old nonprofit centers, only 4 others stood up with me. Perhaps a dozen represented agencies 10-years or older. Most had centers 5 years old or not yet created, with the bulk in the exploration stage.

Talking to others about low cost and shared models of service was inspiring both for our work to improve the center and to replicate it elsewhere, as we are working to do in the Issaquah area. For human services: we believe this human service access model continues to be an important community strategy.

Helping people: Tens of thousands of people each year receive help from the Center’s 18 agencies and other critical resources on our campus. All people benefit from finding help at one location with easy access, information and referral advocates, free phones and support for non-English speakers, those dealing with homelessness and other barriers to getting or staying on one’s feet.

Helping agencies do more: A nonprofit campus keeps lease rates as low as possible so agencies can focus their resources on clients. Together Center agencies saved more than \$230,000 last year in lease rates alone, in addition to other center savings. A one-stop human service venue also facilitates collaboration and partnership to improve client services and efficiencies.

Helping the community: Comprehensive services in one location are a means for planners to ensure services are available to citizens. In addition, small businesses and other organizations, such as schools, benefit by being able to direct their families to convenient local resources. A comprehensive campus where many human services can be offered in one convenient location is a benefit to everyone. Our innovative model, no longer new, is still a winner.



**With \$100,000 in new annual funds,
we can expand access to services.
Help us build Front Door Services:**

- private offices for people to meet off the lobby with advocates
- private carrels for those using free public phones
- addition of experienced referral staff with added partnerships
- increased multi-lingual navigators
- computers and other tools to aid in putting a plan of action together
- technological tools (touch screen!) for finding services and maps
- covered areas for wheelchair users and others awaiting Access transit

Thank you for your support!

The following are gifts received since we last published our donations. Thank you for your important gifts.

Grantmakers: Archibald Charitable Foundation, Rotary Club of Redmond, Microsoft, Washington State CTED

Eastside Volunteer Fair

Sponsors: Crossroads Bellevue, Bellevue Reporter/Reporter Newspapers, Alexander, Morford & Woo, McEachern Family Foundation, Peterson Sullivan, PLC, Falco Sult Consulting, City of Bellevue

20th Anniversary Event:

Boston Private Bank, Redmond Town Center, Rainier Welding, Emerald Heights, Evergreen Healthcare, PrintWest, Redmond General Insurance Agency, Tenhulzen Remodeling

Champions (\$5,000 - \$10,000):

Judy Pigott

Investors (\$1,000 - \$4,999):

Microsoft Matching Gifts, John Rittenhouse, King County employees, LICA, CCALL, Margaret & Bob Moore, Sher Family Fund/The Seattle Foundation, Rick Forbes/Forbes Family Advised Fund/The Seattle Foundation

Collaborators (\$500 - \$999):

Douglas Wyatt, Paul & April Bruno in honor of Aunt Louise, Paul & April Bruno in honor

of Fred & Constance Stevens, Redmond Medical Center/Terry Lavender, Michael & Kristin Johnson, Don & Mary Fowler, Barbara de Michele

Partners (\$250 - \$499): Sammamish Kiwanis, Tina Butt, Kurt Geisel, Cafes Inc/Michal Scott, Mickey & Bill Finnegan, Margaret Blackburn, John & Janis Spangenberg, Jim & Lesley Austin, Paul & Michelle Winterstein

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Friends (up to \$99): Wells Fargo matching gifts, GE matching gifts, Sandee Palmquist, Linda Atkins, Richard Ruhland, Ann Oxrieder, Dirk & Mary Kayser, Elizabeth Westburg, Glenn & Bertha Eades, David Kappler, Pat Hebner

In-kind Donations: Village Square, Emerald Heights, City of Redmond

New Services, Expanding Agencies
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Academy helps developmentally disabled 18 - 21 year olds live, work and play in the community. Businesses and Academy staff work together to provide realistic opportunities for students to sample jobs, build resumes and learn about the world of work.

Learning Disabilities Association of Washington

Learning Disabilities Association of Washington returns to a campus office. The program offers extensive information and referral services, social skills classes, anger management programs and life skills training for individuals and families affected by learning disabilities.

National Alliance on Mental Illness Eastside

NAMI Eastside completed a remodel and moved into a new suite which now offers private offices, while continuing a store-front presence.

Habitat for Humanity of East King County

Together Center and Habitat for Humanity have been partnering to meet their needs for more improved space to meet with clients in a new location on campus.

A Regional Coalition for Housing
ARCH plans to expand into another suite, as well, to gain space for growing programs.

HealthPoint

With space freed by the movement of other agencies, HealthPoint will expand its medical facilities to add a doctor, allowing 140 more patients to be seen each year, and add various clinics for diabetes, blood pressure and other important medical needs. The HealthPoint dental clinic will also expand so that another two dentists can be added to meet burgeoning needs.

***Why new space?** Our twenty-year partner, Hopelink, outgrew their space and moved business functions and service center to two buildings off campus, opening up space to others. Our collaboration to meet client needs continues.

Space is available

There is an unusual opportunity now to join the Together Center campus, which typically has 0% turnover. With suites available, we have added and moved agencies (see New Services). Several spaces remain available. Call Pam Mauk now at 425-869-1174 to discuss your needs.





16225 NE 87th, Suite A-5
Redmond, WA 98052

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pamm@togethercenter.org
Sondra Sciola, Operations Coordinator
operations@togethercenter.org

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New partnerships! New services!

News in pictures



John Spangenberg was named chair emeritus after many years of leading the Center. He received many accolades for his service.

There's a new rhythm to the campus, as Transition Academy buses arrive each morning and afternoon.



Three community leaders joined the Board of Directors: retired school administrator Tina Butt, The Bank of Washington Branch Manager Chandra Roussell and US Environmental Protection Agency Manager Mahbubul Islam. Welcome!

Join us on Facebook or sign up for our e-newsletter at info@togethercenter.org for more news about Together Center and other important human service news.



We create access to human services, so people can find help when they need it.



One of the first multi-tenant nonprofit centers in the nation, Together Center works collaboratively to improve efficiencies and to lower barriers to finding help. We build partnerships to meet gaps in services and provide information, referral and other assistance to ensure all people can find help when they need it. Tens of thousands of people each year receive help from eighteen essential agencies and other critical resources, including shelter, medical and dental care, counseling,

child care, supports for the disabled, mental health services, and much more at our one-stop, three-building campus.

TOGETHER... A hundred ways to help
(425) 869-6699 | www.togethercenter.org |

TOGETHER CENTER ASSOCIATION

- A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)
- Alliance of Eastside Agencies
- Child Care Resources
- Consumer Counseling Northwest (Apprisen Financial Advocates)
- Eastside Cultural Navigator Program - Chinese Information & Service Center
- Friends of Youth
- Friends of Youth Outreach
- Habitat for Humanity of East King County
- HealthPoint Dental
- HealthPoint Medical
- Learning Disabilities Association of Washington
- LWSD Transition Academy
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Eastside
- Public Health Seattle & King County
- Sound Mental Health
- Vet's Edge
- Youth Eastside Services