



Renton H.A. Deputy Executive Director Mark Gropper with Destiny Delgadillo, scholarship recipient, Ruth Martinez, and William LeBlance both of Frontier Bank.

Renton Housing Authority Scholarship Winner

Ms. Destiny Delgadillo is the 2006 winner of a new \$10,000 scholarship created by the joint efforts of the Renton Housing Authority and Frontier Bank to benefit a participant in one of RHA's subsidized housing programs. The four year college scholarship is the result of efforts by Mark Gropper, RHA's Deputy Executive Director and William LeBlanc, President of Frontier Bank of Renton. It is intended to support the higher education of an individual committed to making a positive impact on the world and to helping others overcome obstacles.

The scholarship, which will be paid out in increments of \$2,500, will help to pay for Ms. Delgadillo's tuition, books, and other expenses over four years as she attends Seattle University. Ms. Delgadillo hopes to join the Peace Corps after college and eventually work for a world health organization such as one operated by the United Nations. □



Volunteers Needed!

As PNRC-NAHRO has grown over the last few years, it has become essential that qualified, dedicated volunteers be recruited to assist with handling the details of our expanded activities. Over the next 12 months, we will need help in the following categories. Look over these "job descriptions" and if there is something that you can assist us with contact Ron Oldham, PNRC Director, to volunteer. The pay is non-existent, but the appreciation and self-satisfaction are unlimited.

Puget Sound Chapter NAHRO

Volunteers from Puget Sound agencies (Bellingham to Longview & the coast to the Cascades) are needed to make the Chapter a viable organization again. For now, help is needed with the quarterly one-day "How Do We Do That?" workshops that PNRC-NAHRO is co-sponsoring in selecting sessions, registration, and logistical details. Later, we will need volunteers to fill offices when the Chapter is re-activated.

PNRC Annual Golf Tournament

The Golf Tournament is one of PNRC's chief scholarship fund raising tools, not to mention a lot of fun for those who golf in it. But

(Continued on page 7)



Chris Pegg
PNRC-NAHRO President

Message from the President...

Dear Fellow Housing & CD Professionals:

Most of us spend our every available working hour engaged in the business of helping low-income persons obtain and keep appropriate, affordable housing. As often happens when we focus so intently on a given subject/topic, we can lose our

perspective, forget really important issues, or worse, start to lose sight of the big picture.

One way to stay grounded and maintain a well-balanced perspective is to find out what others are saying and doing in this field. With respect to the latter, I would urge you to focus not only on your particular community, but to step outside your city or county limits to find out what your fellow housing & community development professionals are doing. Often cooperative working agreements and partnerships with “neighbors” can help to move your agency nearer to achieving your mission and vision. Participating in regional and national conferences can inspire and provide ideas that you would have never gotten if you had stayed home. Having just returned from Denver and the NAHRO Summer Conference, I know that I learned a lot from the opening session remarks of Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper and found inspiration in the life stories of Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, Sr. and Albert Mensah.

It’s also important that you stay “on top” of the thinking that comes from those who study our society and its needs. There is an incredible amount of information on the internet, but I also recommend keeping an eye out for the many wonderful and relevant books that are available. Earlier this year I bought a copy of [The Working Poor](#) by David Shipler. Mr. Shipler has written a very readable book that describes his study of the people who work at the lowest levels of pay in our society and who skate the thin ice between economic self sufficiency and income maintenance programs. His cases are eye-opening and heart-rendering, but more importantly he offers analysis that might have occurred to some of us but

more likely didn’t. I would like to share with you some quotes from [The Working Poor](#) and to encourage you to find a copy and to read it cover to cover.

Aside from hollow hunger, there is probably no more frightening void than the looming absence of shelter.

It used to be that we believed that the rising tide of a growing economy would “lift all boats” and rich, middle income and poor alike would be bettered by better wages, conditions. When this was true, if it ever was, the old “trickle down” theory of housing with the poor moving into what the middle class had just vacated on their move up the socio-economic ladder may have actually worked. But today, the more likely scenario is that the rising tide simply swallows up the “boats of the poor” because they are moored to the docks by ropes that represent inadequate education, training, job skills and socialization.

Working poverty is a constellation of difficulties that magnify one another; not just low wages but also low education, not just dead-end jobs but also limited abilities, not just insufficient savings but also unwise spending, not just poor housing but also poor parenting, not just the lack of health insurance but also the lack of healthy households.

All of the problems have to be attacked at once. Whatever remedy is found for one may help but not cure unless remedies are found for most of the others. Granting a Section 8 housing voucher helps a family move into a better apartment, which may ease a child’s asthma and lead to fewer days of missed school. But it won’t carry the family far if the child is abused, or if the parent has few skills, works near minimum wage, spends huge amounts on transportation and day care, and can’t get affordable credit.

We lack the skill to solve some problems and the will to solve others, but one piece of knowledge we now possess: We understand that holistic remedies are vital.

Sobering thoughts for a country that has achieved so much technologically, yet has left so many behind in our quest for the American Dream.

Until next time,

Chris Pegg

President



RESIDENTS: THE UNSOLVED MYSTERY!

So why can't we solve the mystery of what residents want and need to be successful?

We try. We hold resident meetings, but have dismal attendance. Those who attend seem to be the same faces at every meeting. And do *they* speak for the majority?

We send out surveys. Again, we receive minimal responses and isn't it funny that the responses seem to come from the same folks that attend our meetings. So what about the others? Why can't we get them to talk to us? In fact when was the last time anything we tried got even a **50%** response from our residents? In truth, we hear from between **13% to 22%** of our residents at best.

Even with the reports and statistics we receive and all of the classes, seminars, workshops and conferences we attend, with such minimal direct information from *our* residents addressing *our* market, properties and programs, we simply don't have enough to make the quality decisions we need and our clients deserve.

What would it mean if we could gather meaningful, specific, and objective data from 90% or more of our residents? Is there even a way to do this?

WELL...IN SHORT...YES.

BUT, it's going to take a different approach and some time and effort on our part.

First of all, we have to make it easy. It needs to:

- be in a medium that the majority of our residents have access to
- be conducted in their primary language
- be non-threatening
- be customized to our individual and unique markets, properties and programs
- be in a format that elicits the most useful information for us
- let each resident know that we want their participation in determining the direction and management of *their* properties
- be conducted by a third party to insure confidentiality, objectiveness and honesty
- be convenient for the residents, and lastly
- be conducted on a regular basis.

For most agencies, none of their efforts now incorporates all of these elements. Public meetings involve barriers such as, transportation, child care, time constraints, language barriers, confidentiality, anonymity, public speaking, specificity of information and many others. Mailed surveys present their own limitations such as language, reading and comprehension abilities, writing abilities, anonymity, confidentiality, ease of use, convenience, etc. E-Mailed surveys have all the same restrictions along with equipment and technology problems.

So what is the answer?

A well-designed telephone Resident Service & Satisfaction Audit conducted by an objective third party.

Most of our residents have phones and if we contact them in the comfort and safety of their own homes in their primary language, participation increases substantially. This format affords them confidentiality and anonymity providing maximum honesty. It's verbal, which is our most developed communication skill. It's convenient; they don't have to find transportation or a babysitter. There's no expensive equipment or special technology required on their part. We aren't asking them to fill anything out and mail it back. There's no large group dynamics to contend with. It's focused on allowing the maximum quality of data with minimal impact. Most importantly, it is conducted by an impartial third party so the information is objective, uncensored, unbiased and therefore the most useful.

No matter how successful our Housing Authorities are, in this world of diminishing resources, we all need quality accurate data to make optimum quality accurate decisions. How else are we to know how well our programs are performing, if they are having the overall effect they were intended to and if our residents even know about them. Where should we direct our efforts to best meet the needs of the *majority* of our residents?

There's no question that pro-active well-informed management can be more successful. Our ability to manage day to day and plan is only further enhanced when we have concise, specific data and when we can accurately measure and monitor progress. When we can honestly say to our residents, "this is what the majority said were *your* priorities and this is where we directed our efforts," then we can begin to make more effective decisions. It is a fact that when residents feel they have a say and can impact their quality of life, they will also impact the quality of the community that they live in.

There is but one question left...

Can my agency afford to do this?

CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO?

Article written by: Lynn L. Bolgen, President, Spot Check Incorporated, P.O. Box 650, Roslyn WA 98942, 509-649-2443. □



News from Around the Region

NEWHS Selects New Executive Director

Northeast Washington Housing Solutions (formerly known as Spokane Housing Authority) has selected an Executive Director to replace Dianne Quast who resigned in late 2005 to accept a position with Common Ground.

Steve Cervantes, joined NEWHS in late July from the Human Services Agency of San Mateo, CA where he served as Director of Housing. The San Mateo Human Services Agency includes the Housing Authority, Community Development Office, and the Office for the Homeless. Cervantes also headed up the local Redevelopment Agency in San Mateo. He has a Master's Degree in Architecture & Planning and a B.A. in Fine Arts.

In the interim period between Quast's departure and Cervantes' arrival, Merrill Wallace has served as NEWHS' Interim Executive Director and assisted with the search for a permanent replacement for Quast.

Cook Inlet Housing Authority Builds Partnerships for Special Needs Populations

Cook Inlet Housing Authority (Anchorage, AK) is partnering with the Salvation Army's McKinnel House and others to help homeless families obtain stable housing through its "Alloted Voucher Program." CIHA has also launched a "Group Residence Rental Program" in conjunction with The Partnership for Supportive Housing to provide affordable housing options for Alaskans with special needs. Individual participants will benefit by sharing rent and household chores and will support one another as they work to overcome addictions and make positive changes in their lives.

Two Oregon Housing Authorities Name New Executive Directors

North Bend-Coos/Curry Housing Authority recently hired (May 2006) Ned Beman as Executive Director to replace Paul Colbert. Prior to moving to the Oregon Coast, Beman was Director of Public Housing for the El Paso (TX) Housing Authority for 12 years where he was responsible for a combined total of 7000 public housing, Project-Based Section 8, and Farm Labor units. He received a B.A. in Public Administration from Empire State College in Rochester, NY.

Georgia Stone, Executive Director of the Lincoln County Housing Authority, retired July 31, 2006. The Lincoln County H.A. Board of Commissioners has selected Joann Troy to replace Stone who served at Lincoln Co. for 16 years. Ms. Troy was formerly the Executive Director of the Bath (Maine) Housing Authority (near Portland, ME on the Atlantic coast) and will assume her new position effective August 16 after a cross-country trek. Ms. Stone, who has also served on the PNRC-NAHRO Executive Board will relocate to Boise, ID to begin her retirement.

Seattle Housing Authority Explores New Market Tax Credits & Workforce Housing

In early July, 2006, Seattle Housing Authority announced that it will receive \$20 million in New Market Tax Credits to spur commercial development in the Seattle area. SHA is one of 63 organizations nation-wide and one of just two organizations in Washington State to receive such an award. These tax credits are intended to promote access to growth in urban and rural low-income communities. SHA created a new non-profit named Seattle Community Investments to oversee the use of these tax credits and is made up of community residents and service providers in SHA communities. SHA intends to use the New Market Tax Credits to stimulate investment in commercial development in its HOPE VI communities. The program is similar to the Tax Credit Program that encourages investment in low-income housing.

SHA will also participate in a partnership with the development firm Nitze-Stagen and OPUS Northwest to turn a four-acre site in Pioneer Square now used for parking into workforce housing containing 394 condominiums, 562 apartments, 1035 parking spaces and 25,000 square feet of retail and commercial space. SHA will own and manage 140 one- and two-bedroom apartments that will rent from \$875 to \$1,020 per month. Executive Director Tom Tierney said that SHA expects to contribute tax credit equity and bond financing to the units that it will own. The development will double the number of residential units in Pioneer Square and will create a new neighborhood where previously only surface parking existed.

Washington Families Fund Announces 2006 Grantees

Washington Families Fund, a public-private partnership established by the Washington State Legislature in 2004, announced grants worth more than \$1.4 million to five 2006 grantees at a ceremony in Tacoma, WA on July 27. WFF's mission is to expand service-enriched affordable housing for homeless families. The 2006 grantees are:

(Continued on page 5)



Pacific Northwest Regional Council's 2007 Resident Scholarship Program

PNRC-NAHRO awards four scholarships to residents from PNRC members' public and affordable housing programs each year. These four scholarships include:

- ❑ Two (2) Challenge College Scholarships to a graduating high school senior worth \$4,000 & paid over 4 years for attendance at a college or university of their choice.
- ❑ One (1) Continuing Education Scholarship worth \$4,000 paid over 4 years for attendance by a resident who has been out of high school for at least four years and wishes to attend a trade school, specialty school, college, or university.
- ❑ One (1) Community College Scholarship to a graduating high school senior worth \$2,000 over 2 years for attendance a community college of their choice.

The PNRC-NAHRO Scholarship program began in 1993. Since that time has PNRC has awarded 44 scholarships worth a total of \$101,000. Scholarships have the following eligibility criteria:

- ❑ Full time attendance at an accredited institution
- ❑ High school diploma (or G.E.D. Certificate if applying for the Continuing Education Scholarship)
- ❑ Minimum 2.80 GPA (except Continuing Education which only requires H.S. Diploma or G.E.D.)
- ❑ Residency or participation in a member agency's subsidized housing programs (family income less than 80% of area median income)
- ❑ Scholarships are not awarded for students wishing to attend graduate school.

Applicants for these scholarships are judged on Grade Point Average (GPA); College Entrance Exam (SAT and/or ACT) Scores, Community Involvement and Extra Curricular Activities, a written motivational essay, and recommendations from educators, community leaders & housing authority staff. The Continuing Education scholarship applications place less emphasis on grades and includes consideration of work experience. That scholarship does not require college entrance exams.

Applications may be obtained from Ron Oldham, Director, PNRC-NAHRO or from the PNRC-NAHRO website (www.pnrcnahro.org) and are available in early November of each year.

2007 Scholarship Schedule

The following table shows the 2006-2007 Scholarship Program Schedule.

November 3, 2006	Scholarship forms available on PNRC-NAHRO web site
February 9, 2007	Scholarship applications due to resident's Housing Authority
February 23, 2007	Housing Authority nominations due to Chapter Presidents
March 16, 2007	Scholarship applicants selected by Chapters are due to Regional Vice President of Member Services
April 6, 2007	Regional jury selects of the winners for the four scholarships
April 30 - May 2, 2007	Scholarship winners will be announced at the PNRC-NAHRO Regional Conference in Tacoma, WA

Member agencies may forward one scholarship application from their agency for each of the four scholarships available. This means that an agency can submit no more than a total of four (4) scholarship applications. These should go to the appropriate NAHRO Chapter President shown below by the deadline indicated above:

Inland Empire – Art Noll, Northeast Washington Housing Solutions – Spokane

Cascade Chapter – Alice Doyle, Vancouver Housing Authority

Idaho Chapter – Sheryl Putnam, Boise/Ada Co. Housing Authority

Alaska Chapter – Carol Gore, Cook Inlet Housing Authority

Puget Sound Chapter – Ron Oldham, PNRC Director.

From the applications that it receives from agencies, each Chapter will select no more than one application per scholarship (a total of not more than four per Chapter) to forward to the Regional selection jury (Pam Thompson, Vice President for Member Services – NE Oregon H.A.). The Regional selection jury headed by Ms. Thompson will select the successful applicant for each of the four scholarships, and the results will be announced at the Annual Conference held in April-May. Agencies will be notified of winners in advance and are encouraged to send them (by paying for their travel expenses) to the Scholarship Awards Luncheon to receive their award in person.

Questions may be addressed to Ron Oldham, PNRC-NAHRO Director at 206-901-0330 or RONALDLOLDHAM@MSN.COM. ❑

**IDAHO CHAPTER OF NAHRO
ANNUAL MEETING/TRAINING --
SEPTEMBER 14, 2006**

**IDAHO HOUSING AND FINANCE ASSOCIATION
1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
565 W. MYRTLE – BOISE**

It's time to mark your calendars to attend the annual training/meeting of the Idaho Chapter of NAHRO. The training session will be held from 8:30 - 3:00 in the first floor conference room at Idaho Housing and Finance Association at 565 W. Myrtle in Boise on **Thursday, September 14, 2006**. The business meeting will be held during the lunch break.

Seattle HUD staff will be here to conduct the training. The training is **FREE** for current chapter members. A continental breakfast and lunch is included. The cost to attend this training for non-members is \$15.00 per person. Contact Sheryl Putnam (sputnam@bcacha.org) by September 1, 2006 if you will be attending.

**Schedule of Events:
Idaho Chapter Annual Meeting**

8:30 – 9:00	Registration / Continental Breakfast
9:00 – 9:30	New Student Rule <i>Lillian Williams, PH Revitalization Specialist, Seattle HUD Field Office</i>
9:30 – 10:00	Asset Management, Operating Subsidy Stop Loss <i>Alfred Heston, Financial Analyst, Seattle HUD Field Office</i>
10:45 – 11:30	Capital Fund <i>Chuck Estep, Facilities Management Specialist, Seattle HUD Field Office</i>
11:30 – 12:00	NAHRO Presentation <i>Pam Thompson, Vice-President Member Services PNR NAHRO</i>
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch – Annual Chapter Meeting
1:00 – 3:00	EIV / PIC Presentation <i>Suzanne Manville, Program Analyst, Seattle HUD Field Office</i>



**CASCADE CHAPTER OF NAHRO
ANNOUNCES ITS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2006**

**Mount Bachelor Village Resort
19717 Mt. Bachelor Drive. Bend, Oregon
www.mtbachelorvillage.com**

Room rates are:

- \$99.00 + tax for a Ski House One Bedroom w/o Loft
- \$109.00 + tax for a Ski House One Bedroom w/ Loft (second bedroom)
- \$66.00 + tax for River Ridge Executive (hotel room w/one queen bed)

Call 1-800-452-9846 and ask for the NAHRO room block. The cut off date for room reservations is August 18, 2006. **RESERVATIONS MADE AFTER THE CUT OFF DATE ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AT A HIGHER RATE.**

We will have three tracks: Professional Development, Housing Operations, and Finance/Accounting - Plus a special one day training on meth units on September 20.

Planned topics for the Cascade Chapter Annual conference are:

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Are You Really Covered?, By HARRP
- Successful Evictions
- Why Feelings Matter: The Role Emotions Play in Work Relationships
- Tough Talk: Handling the Hard Conversations at Work

FINANCE/ACCOUNTING:

- PH-Asset Management
- PH-Budgeting & Operating Subsidy - CYE v. FYE
- VMS & Managing Your Voucher Program
- Finance/Accounting Round Table discussions.

SPECIAL MAINTENANCE SESSION:

- So You Have a Meth Unit, What Now?

HOUSING OPERATIONS:

- Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity Issues
- Energy Audits - What To Do With Them
- PH Conversion & Disposition, a PH Tool Kit
- Asset Management - What Is It - Worse, Better, or Just Different?
- The Student Rule - Smoothing Out the Occupancy Wrinkle
- Round Tables on EIV & PIC - Talk About Working the System

BE THERE TO BE IN THE KNOW!

(Continued from page 4)

- Helping Hand House (Rural Bright Futures) East Pierce County
- Serenity House (One Family One Home) Forks, Port Angeles, Clallam County
- Tacoma Housing Authority (Salishan I and II) Tacoma, Pierce County
- Volunteers of America (Lincoln Way) Lynnwood, Snohomish County
- Yakima Coalition for the Homeless (Yakima Families) Yakima, Yakima County

The award ceremony took place at Salishan, Tacoma Housing Authority's HOPE VI community that is currently being redeveloped.

Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) Breaks Ground for 415 Tenth Avenue

Mayor Greg Nickels, County Executive Ron Sims, HUD Secretary's Representative John Meyers were on hand on July 27th for the groundbreaking of a 75 unit multi-family apartment building in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood. Bill Hobson, DESC's Executive Director, said that the building will house homeless, mentally ill persons and will provide 24 hour supportive services aimed at enabling clients to achieve stability and the ability to eventually live in independent housing. The facility is expected to be completed and open in mid-2007. DESC operates a homeless shelter and a number of other supportive housing facilities including a multi-family apartment building in the Cascade neighborhood in which alcoholic clients who have not yet achieved sobriety are welcomed. A second development for mentally ill homeless has been proposed by DESC in the south Seattle neighborhood of Columbia City. □



PNRC – NAHRO Website Updates

The 2006 Edition of the PNRC Member Agency Directory has been posted to the PNRC-NAHRO website (www.pnrcnahro.org) and is available for use by all members and associates.

The next update for the website will be to make certain that the links to other relevant websites are current. If you have an agency or other website link that you think would be helpful to members, send it to Ron Oldham at RONALDLOLDHAM@MSN.COM. □

NAHRO's E-Procurement System Continues to Grow

As of last count more than 350 NAHRO member agencies have enrolled in and are actively enjoying the benefits of NAHRO's E-Procurement System. Procurement awards worth more than \$18,000,000 have been made by these members.

More importantly and to the benefit of those participating member agencies, over 3,400 vendors are participating in the system, insuring that members have access to multiple vendors and competitive bidding for just about every category of product and service when they issue RFQs.

PNRC-NAHRO member agencies have also discovered that E-Procurement is a useful tool with four agencies (Clackamas Co. H.A., NE Oregon H.A., West Valley H.A. & Yakima H.A.) at the top of the list of most active participants.

When E-Procurement first began with NAHRO, its chief benefit was thought to be reduced costs to members due to increased competitive bids from vendors. With recent enhancements to the system, however, a number of other benefits in the area of electronic management of procurement have emerged. These include the:

- efficient publishing, tracking, analysis, & awarding of RFQs & RFPs including a new QuickPost bid option
- paperless records keeping via E-Procurement's servers
- ability to generate reports including a new MBE/WBE report
- improvements to the Supplier Marketplace now available to all vendors

E-Procurement has advantages to agencies of all sizes, but it can be particularly effective for small- to medium-sized agencies where the Executive Director or Finance Director handles all procurement activities. E-Procurement features permit you to conduct procurement activities according to your agency's policies and to fulfill government requirements with a minimum of paperwork and steps.

For more information about signing up and participating in NAHRO's E-Procurement, contact Ron Oldham, PNRC-NAHRO Director at 206-901-0330 or RONALDLOLDHAM@MSN.COM. □



Home at Last

Adapted from an article by Chris Henry, chenry@kitsapsun.com

Jessica Edgmon, 15, gets teary-eyed remembering the time she spent in a homeless shelter with her mom, Donna Edgmon, and little brother Patrick Johnson, known as "Rick." Today the family not only has a roof over their heads, they have their own home, complete with a spacious backyard and huge climbing rock that's become 5-year-old Rick's favorite "fort." The family moved into their 1,100-square-foot, three-bedroom South Kitsap Rambler in May 2005, after Donna spent nearly four years getting her financial house in order.

Donna's dream of home ownership, which seemed so out of reach during her weeks in the homeless shelter and later in a "section 8" rent subsidized apartment, is now a reality. This was a result of Donna's own determination and a little help from her friends at Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority where she enrolled in the Family Self-Sufficiency program, which helps clients achieve personal goals, including home ownership.

The federal government pays up to 100 percent of rent subsidy for low-income families. Once clients become employed, however, the subsidy is reduced and the amount the government would have spent on rent is placed in an escrow account overseen by KCCHA. The money is the clients' to use when and how they want. Some clients work toward completing their education;

some use it for debt reduction; some need a work wardrobe to advance their careers. The possibilities, says KCCHA community services director Deb Howard, are wide open, and clients can take up to five years to achieve their goals.

Donna, who has now earned her associate degree, was clear from the start that her main goal was homeownership. She was raised in a large, stable family in Nevada, but she found it doesn't take much to unbalance a life: a divorce in 1999, an accident with an uninsured motorist and unpaid medical bills. She worked two jobs as a school bus driver and education assistant, and also as a manager at a shoe store. But it wasn't enough. By 2000, she was more than \$15,000 in debt and forced to file for bankruptcy.

She lived for a time in Spokane and moved to Kitsap County, WA in 2001 to be closer to a sister in Port Hadlock. Her low point was living in a homeless shelter, but it was also a new beginning.

Donna's dream of home ownership, which seemed so out of reach during her weeks in the homeless shelter and later in a "section 8" rent subsidized apartment, is now a reality. This was a result of Donna's own determination and a little help from her friends at Kitsap County Consolidated Housing Authority...

Donna hooked up with KCCHA and worked hard to clean up her credit rating, which can be the hardest but most crucial step toward financial stability. Donna, who works as a caregiver for a child with special needs, was able to set aside more than \$3,000 in her escrow account. She used part of the money to cover closing costs and other expenses related to the home purchase. The rest she used for home improvements.

Donna purchased the \$197,000 home with a low-interest, rural development loan from the USDA whose generous (zero down, 1.5 percent interest rate over 39 years) terms made payments manageable despite her modest income.

Donna is not the first KCCHA client to become a homeowner through the Family Self-Sufficiency, or FSS, program, one of a series of "progression programs" hosted by the agency and from which KCCHA has "graduated" about 20 FSS clients. □



PNRC-NAHRO Legislative Committee Update

The PNRC-NAHRO Legislative Committee has met twice (via conference call) since the last edition of the PNRC News and has made progress in its work plan.

PNRC Director Ron Oldham continues to work on developing the Legislative Network Listing by which PNRC will communicate with members and partners when letters, e-mails, telephone calls are needed to elected officials regarding legislative issues.

The Committee strongly endorsed a more proactive stance in involving elected officials in our activities including:

- Adding them to our newsletter mailing list
- Inviting them to the PNRC Annual Conference with “comp” registrations
- Adding a Legislative Roundtable session to the Conference concurrent sessions agenda
- A Legislative reception (in addition to the existing Exhibitors’ Reception)
- Collecting and distributing “success” stories involving clients from various agencies.

The Legislative Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month by conference call (in person on August 21 in conjunction with the PNRC Executive Board meeting in Tacoma). If members have issues or questions that they would like added to the agenda, they may contact Ron Oldham at 206-901-0330 or Chris Pegg, PNRC President 360-423-0140 X15.

NAHRO’s Advocacy Center is online at www.nahro.org for information and contacting your elected representatives. All you need is your NAHRO Associate’s ID number and password. Be sure to check out this very informative and useful website. It makes telling your elected officials what you think, a “snap.” □

Volunteers Needed!...*(Continued from page 1)*

organizing it can be a lot of work, particularly if you are not a golfer! The 2007 Tournament will be in the Tacoma area and a Chairperson and several Assistants are needed. The PNRC Director pays the bills and handles the proceeds, but organizing the format, recruiting players, contacting financial contributors, and working with the golf course that will be chosen are critical to making the Tournament a success.

Scholarship Fund Raising Committee

PNRC needs dedicated volunteers who can help organize a second fund-raising event at the 2007 Annual Conference in Tacoma. In past years, we have had silent auctions and basket auctions and could consider other types of events. We also need volunteers who will

contact potential donors (corporate and otherwise) to make contributions to the Scholarship Program.

Regional Executive Board and National Committees

It seems that there are always several vacancies that could be filled in the leadership roles at either the Regional or National levels. Sometimes these are full terms that are available and others are partial terms created by resignations and retirements. If you are interested in becoming more involved, contact Chris Pegg, PNRC President at 360-423-0140 X15 or Ron Oldham, PNRC Director 206-901-0330.

As you consider these needs, keep in mind Margaret Mead’s quote, **“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”** □

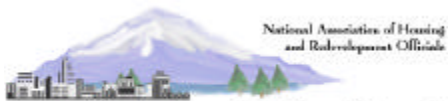
NAHRO's *Mission...*

The purpose of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) is to be the leading housing and community development advocate for the provision of adequate and affordable housing and strong, viable communities for all Americans, particularly those with low- and moderate-incomes, and to enhance the professional development and effectiveness of NAHRO's members.

Inside this edition of **PNRC News**:

Renton Housing Authority Scholarship Winner	1
Volunteers Needed	1
Message from the President	2
Residents: The Unsolved Mystery	3
News from Around the Region	4
PNRC's 2007 Resident Scholarship Program	5
NAHRO's E-Procurement System Continues to Grow	7
PNRC-NAHRO Website Updates	7
Home at Last	8
PNRC-NAHRO Legislative Committee Update	9

If you have questions or comments about PNRC News, or would like to submit articles or other material, please contact PNRC, c/o Ronald Oldham, 10832 – 36th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98146-1731, or RONALDLOLDHAM@MSN.COM



National Association of Housing
and Redevelopment Officials

Pacific Northwest Regional Council

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