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Preventing Youth Violence, Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug Use

## eShare

March 2011

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[TOGETHER! is hiring a community coordinator. Click here for details.](#)

Dear TOGETHER!,

We've been doing some cleanup to our newsletter list lately. Some addresses were not being processed through our email server, but we have fixed many of them. If this is the first newsletter you've seen from us in a while, we apologize for the missing ones, and you can certainly catch up on them in [our newsletter archive](#). In the meantime, enjoy, and thanks for helping to keep our kids healthy and safe!

### Boeing Employees Fund New Computer Lab

#### Neighborhood Center Gets Tech Upgrades from Grant

This past fall, the [Boeing Employees Community Fund](#) (a group of Boeing employees who give grants to those of their choosing) gave us money to set up a new computer lab at our [Evergreen Villages Neighborhood Center](#). We really needed it! Before, we had only 4 computers, with monitors so bulky they had to sit sideways on the narrow desk. They were old and slow and the whole area was mismatched. The few chairs we had were all broken. Staff and students shared the same area.

Our Boeing ECF grant outfitted the lab with 8 new computers complete with 8 flat-panel monitors, 8 doctor-style stools, and a new laser printer, as well as a security camera. Everything is on a surge protector now. We also added new administrative items to support the lab, such as new server software and new computers for those in the office that support the Neighborhood Center. The additions were just in time because the office computers were starting to fall apart! We also were able to create a separate desk/office area for Program Manager Brenda Jones, complete with storage.



**Here's our new Neighborhood Center computer lab, thanks to the Boeing Employees Community Fund!**

The lab is used by children and youth for homework help and educational tools. Adults in the Evergreen Villages apartment complex use the lab to apply for economic assistance programs and search for employment. The lab is invaluable to residents because most don't have computers in their homes and many also have no transportation to access computers at libraries or other public spots.

We can't thank the Boeing Employees Community Fund enough for this new lab! The day the lab opened, the kids walked in after school and their jaws dropped! The kids love it, and the adults have been able to get much better access to services. We can also help more of them at a time since the lab size doubled, which is crucial for services that are first come first served.

[Read more about the Evergreen Villages Neighborhood Center and see videos/pictures of the kids.](#)

### **Advocacy Work at the Capitol**

**Flavored tobacco, smoking in cars with kids, medicine disposal, other prevention issues in bills this session**

Through our coalition work with [WASAVP](#) (The Washington



[Meghan Sullivan testifies on the health effects of secondhand smoke at a hearing for SB 5016. Video courtesy TVW.](#)

Association of Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention) and also as [TOGETHER!](#), several of our staff have made trips to the Capitol in January and February to attend legislative hearings and give testimony on several bills.

Check out [our Facebook page](#) for videos of Operations Director Meghan Sullivan and Executive Director Jim Cooper testifying.

Some of the bills we testified on include:

- Creating a statewide program to collect and dispose of unwanted medicines (SSB 5234)
- A ban on flavored tobacco products (other than menthol) and things like tobacco lozenges and dissolvable strips (SB 5380 and HB 1246)
- Making it a secondary infraction to smoke in a car with a child (SB 5016)
- Insurance coverage of tobacco cessation treatment (SB 5093)

We also schedule educational meetings with elected officials from our region. We sit down with the official, explain what we do in the community, and answer any questions they have about how we do that work. We also provide information about topics they are interested in.

To track a bill as it moves through the state Legislature, [go to the Legislature's website](#), click "Bill Information" on the left, and enter the bill number (just the number, not the letters).

### Doing Anything for Kick Butts Day?

[Kick Butts Day](#) is April 2. This is a national day of activism that empowers youth to speak up and take action against Big Tobacco at more than 2,000 events from coast to coast.

If you are part of a local organization that is having an event for Kick Butts Day, please let us know about your event! We'll be happy to list you on [our calendar](#) or promote your event on [our Facebook page](#). We also encourage you to [list your event on the Kick Butts Day website](#).

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### Last Chance to Register: Champions for Kids



The 10th Annual Champions for Kids Celebration will be March 7. Come help us honor the members of this community who are being recognized for their service to kids. There's still time to register for this heartwarming event! It includes dinner, a raffle and a program honoring the Champions.

[Click here to register or get more information.](#)

The 2011 Champions for Kids are: Bill Munro, Patty Gregory, Donna Doerer, Michelle Ryder, Alejandro Romero, Renee Buell, Cathy Gudgel, Katie Hurley, Norma Loree, Robert Coit, Penny Meier, Carla Carter, Kathy Owen, Eunice Santiago, Jaime Card, Loraine Nelson, Karen Huggins, Kathy Clark, Susan Rhea Zoccola, George Egge, Don Secena, Linda Wolfe, Ryan Hirotaka, Drew Phillips, Sylvia Raatz, Judy Prochnau and Jon Peterson.



TOGETHER! prevents youth violence and substance abuse through awareness, advocacy and action to support youth and families. Our vision is for all young people in Thurston County communities to be supported, healthy, safe and valued.

To learn more, [visit us online](#) or call us at 360-493-2230.

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