

## Melissa Ellis

*2009 Volunteer of the Year*



Melissa supervises a team of nurses and 36 beds at King County's only drug detox center for the uninsured. Her days are intense – 10-hour shifts of helping others who are desperately trying to get clean, the first step of getting into a drug treatment program.

More than most, Melissa knows what they're up against. Just a few years ago, she was addicted and homeless herself. Now she's clean, living in stable housing, with a successful career and a healthy three-year-old son.

She is also a courageous advocate for Wellspring Family Services. On numerous occasions Melissa has spoken to audiences of hundreds to share her story of making it from homelessness to home. "I want to reach out and instill hope in the hearts of as many homeless families as possible, and as many potential supporters as well.

"It's a beautiful way to transform my experience into something good and full of hope rather than shame," Melissa explains.

*Learn more at [www.Wellspringfs.org](http://www.Wellspringfs.org)*