

June 23, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



PHOTO OPPORTUNITY / MEDIA ALERT

After 100+ years of service local non profit & Seattle Rotary Open the Rotary Support Center for Families

WHAT: Wellspring Family Services & the Rotary Club of Seattle

WHO: Ruthann Howell, President/CEO, Wellspring Family Services
Nancy Sclater, President, Seattle Rotary
Greg Nickels, Mayor of Seattle

WHEN: **Wednesday, June 24, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.**
Seattle Rotary to hold weekly meeting on site for dedication ceremony

Thursday, June 25, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.
Media tour of the facility

Friday, June 26, 2009 with events starting at 3:00 p.m.
Official Grand Opening to the public

WHERE: **Rotary Support Center for Families**
1900 Rainier Avenue South
Seattle, WA, 98144
206-826-3039

DETAILS:

For the first time since 1892 Wellspring Family Services (formerly known as Family Services) will open the doors to the first true home for the agency. Named after the facility's lead donors, Seattle Rotary #4, the vision inside of the Rotary Support Center for Families is to prevent and end homelessness for 5,000 families over the next 10 years.

"The timing for this new facility in our community couldn't be more critical," said Ruthann Howell, CEO/President of Wellspring Family Services. "The current economic crisis has hurt many families – we've seen rates of housing instability, homelessness, domestic violence, and mental health crisis increase dramatically."

The Center will include programs for families such as specialized child-care, parenting support, eviction prevention services, counseling, domestic violence intervention, and housing support services and case management for families who are homeless. The Center will also house the agency's administration and Employee Assistance Program, the agency's social enterprise and a vital resource center that touches the lives of more than 100,000 workers in the region.

To commemorate the Club's 100 Year Anniversary, Seattle Rotary partnered with Wellspring Family Services to accomplish their largest service project in the club's history. The nearly 700 Seattle Rotarians donated personal gifts to this new family support center totaling \$4.2 Million. This is believed to be the largest donation to date by any Rotary Club in the world.

In addition to a leadership gift from Seattle Rotary, other notable contributions include \$1 Million for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, \$1 Million from Paul & Yaffa Maritz, \$950,000 from the Kresge Foundation, and nearly \$1 Million donated by the agency's board of directors and staff. Overall, the agency has raised more than \$12 Million of the total \$12.5 Million fundraising goal.

About Wellspring Family Services

On June 26, with the public Grand Opening of the Rotary Support Center for Families, Family Services will also reintroduce the name of the agency as **Wellspring Family Services**.

Every night in King County, more than 2,900 children and families are homeless. Approximately 23,000 children witness violence between adults each year. And 25% of the population experiences mental health issues. These are not merely sobering statistics; these are our neighbors.

Since 1892, Wellspring Family Services, a non-profit organization, continues to provide a breadth of services that address the sources of instability for families. We help homeless families find and hold onto a place to live, teach abusive partners non-violent behaviors, provide counseling for at-risk families and individuals, and empower parents to nurture their children. Together, we are working to build a community where everyone can thrive. For more information visit www.wellspringfs.org.

About Seattle Rotary

Since 1909, the Rotary Club of Seattle has been dedicated to doing good in the world. With nearly 700 members, Seattle Rotary #4 is the fourth oldest and largest Rotary club in the world. Our members include some of the region's most prominent business, professional, and civic leaders. We gather at weekly meetings and other functions to fulfill our commitment to the Rotarian ideals of friendship, fellowship, and service to others. For more information visit www.seattlerotary.org.

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