

Individual, Congregation and Business Donors

Congregation Donors
 AME Church
 Center for Spiritual Living
 Church of St. Rita of Cascia
 Community of Christ
 Disciple of Christ
 Grace Baptist Church
 Grace Lutheran Church
 Gretchen Grace/First United Methodist of Tacoma
 Immanuel Presbyterian Church
 St. Charles Borromeo Parish
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows
 St. Regis
 St. Vincent De Paul
 Urban Grace Church

Business Donors
 Fenton Finders of Puget Sound
 Grey's Lumber Company
 Pierce County Housing Authority
 Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
 Service Paper Company
 State Farm Insurance Fire TNT Team
 Tacoma Processing & Distribution Center
 The Kors
 Tacoma Public Library- Main
 Vision to Ink Grantwriting Services
 World Vision

Individual Donors
 Adam Ydstie
 Albert Bird, D.D.S. PS & Zachary Bird D.M.D.
 Bill & Carol Reed
 Bria Zimmermann
 Chellis Swenson
 Cheryl Peach
 Chris Wynne
 Cyndi Wolfer
 Dana Peregrine
 Darleen Price
 Debbie & Roy Orlando
 Denis Drevdahl & Jerome Haan
 Dennis & Diane Zimmermann
 Don & Audrey Clinton
 Dona Hamilton
 Douglas & Heidi Oberst
 Dr. William & Carol Baarsma
 Edward Hagen
 Esther Hill
 Heidi Calhoun
 Jacqueline Lownie
 Jan Leng
 Jean Jacobson
 Jerry & Jo Ann Le Jeune
 Jo Davies
 Joe & Carol Stortini
 Jon Seward/Joanne Henry
 Karla Toellner
 Kathleen Russell
 Kitty Gibbs
 Laura Schmidt
 Linh Tran
 Lynda Livingston
 Marjorie Koehler
 Melinda Chan
 Message Envy
 Michele Cotton
 Minnie Simon
 Rebecca Bianco
 Richard & Doris Allmer
 Robert & Sarah Woodall
 Sallie Shawl
 Sandra Bobrick
 Sierra Sharp
 Susan Woodall-Ford
 Sylvester & Roxanne Brown
 Tristan Turner
 Valorie Crout
 Virginia Priest
 Williette McKinney-Ferrell & Derick Ferrell

Strengthening the family unit

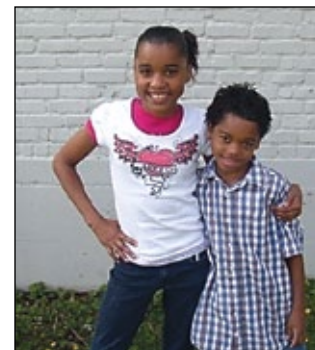
Project Interdependence staff recognizes the importance of offering activities designed to build up or strengthen the family unit.

Many families served through Project Interdependence are unable to afford activities that help build a child's self-esteem, autonomy, and interactions among family members.

In 2010, Project Interdependence was



Three young girls visit a polar bear living at the Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium during the 2010 Project Interdependence trip to zoo.



A sister, 12, and her brother, 9, show their excitement as they learn they were sponsored to attend Camp Seymour summer camp.

able to sponsor a total of three children to attend **Camp Seymour's summer camp program.**

One activity that is always popular among the families served through Project Interdependence is the annual trip to the **Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.**

In 2010, thanks to the sponsorship of our amazing volunteers, churches, and funding programs, Project Interdependence was able to escort **50 individuals** to the remarkable Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. In addition to the costs of admission, most of the families we serve are unable to afford the costs of lunch.

Help for the holiday season

In 2010, a total of **880 children** received gifts during the 2010 Project Interdependence Christmas events.

A total of **702 children** received toys at the Project Interdependence Christmas Toy Giveaway, while **178 children** received gifts through the annual Adopt-a-Family for Christmas program.

During the event, hygienists from Kids Cavity Prevention Program returned to provide free screenings for **30 children** while their parents shopped for presents. Parents were grateful for the free screenings and for the resources provided to ensure their children received needed dental health care.

The Christmas gifts given out were very



Chandra Salmond, right, a Project Interdependence staff member and a TBA student assist a parent as she picks out a pair of shoes donated by St. Charles Borromeo.

much appreciated. Here are reactions from a few parents that received help during the Christmas Toy Giveaway:

Project Interdependence provides holistic, wrap-around services for families in need

In 2010, we served a total of **5,688 families**

For more than thirteen years, Project Interdependence has helped families overcome and recover from crisis. Homeless individ-



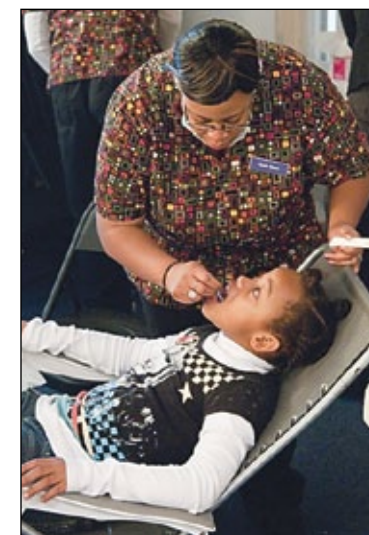
The family above (grandmother, son, and granddaughter) received a number of direct services through Project Interdependence; they were also able to spend the day together as a family during Project Interdependence's 2010 trip to Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

uals secured permanent housing through Project Interdependence housing services, and emergency assistance through the Family Emergency Fund.

Project Interdependence enables stabilization and/or the rebuilding process. Mentorship and case management services create support networks for families. Families experiencing homelessness become stable by having a place to receive important mail that will help them rebuild their lives. These and other services create stability

so families become stronger and are better able to achieve successful and independent lives.

Project Interdependence serves low-



To ensure children receive dental care, hygienists from Kids Cavity Prevention Program were invited to provide free screenings during the 2010 Project Interdependence Christmas Toy Giveaway.

income individuals and families, most of whom are single mothers with children that are facing a variety of barriers to successful employment; individuals with permanent disabilities; families in transition from welfare to work; the working poor, and recently unemployed.

Project Interdependence's mission is to help bridge the gap between the Work First participants and the rest of the community, with the

belief that by weaving the strands of community together families become stronger and better able to achieve successful and interdependent lives.

Project Interdependence creates and maintains support networks for families moving from dependence on welfare to self-sufficiency through employment. Services include:

- ◆ **Case Management Services:** Strengthens low-income clients within their home environment, the well-being of their children, and employment-related skills such as problem-solving and self-esteem.
- ◆ **Community Connections Resource Center:** Provides access to needed public benefits, and other community services/resources.
- ◆ **Family Emergency Fund:** Small grants made to assist individuals with unusual needs other agencies and outreach programs are not designed to meet.
- ◆ **Homeless Mail Services:** Provides mail services and a mailing address for homeless individuals and families so that their lives can be stabilized.
- ◆ **Housing Services and Advocacy:** Supports families moving into stable, affordable housing.
- ◆ **Mentorship Services:** Brings members of the faith community together to help individuals and families transition successfully from welfare to work.
- ◆ **Protective Payee Services:** Provides financial management services and counseling to parents and others who have difficulty managing their own finances and are in danger of losing their state benefits.

Creating support networks for families

Project Interdependence's **Mentorship and Case Management program** delivers services that enable stabilization and rebuilding; help individuals overcome crisis or emergency situations; and coach individuals how to balance life's responsibilities in order to respond productively to problems or obstacles that may come up in everyday life. More often than not, unforeseen obstacles or minor expenses can often lead to joblessness or homelessness. With the support of others, and the resources/services available, these issues can easily be identified and addressed as they arise, thus increasing the ability of individuals and families to become self-supporting.

In 2010, **five families were matched with mentor teams.** Volun-



Individuals come to Associated Ministries to access payee services, homeless mail services, and other needed services through Project Interdependence.

teer teams offer mentoring and friendship, along with practical assistance such as employment coaching, budgeting, household management, and transportation. Each team commits

to making weekly contact with their assigned family for one year. In most cases, the teams continue to work with their assigned family beyond the one-year commitment.

Meeting the basic needs

In 2010, **477 families** receiving Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and Social Security Income (SSI) benefits received **Protective Payee Services**. This service pays individuals' bills and manages remaining monies to meet other personal expenses. Each individual who receives this service has a specific budget designed to meet their needs.

“I would like to take time and thank the staff of Associated Ministries for being my protective payee. I consider you a pillar of support in my recovery and will always be grateful.”

Homeless Mail Services –This service helps homeless individuals stabilize by providing mail services and a mailing address so they can receive assistance and/or employment. In 2010, Project Interdependence held **3,060 homeless mail accounts**.

Housing services

Project Interdependence provided housing services by finding stable, affordable housing for those who were homeless or were at risk of becoming homeless.

In 2010, Project Interdependence housed **79 homeless families** through our housing program.



Tamarra Howell, Project Interdependence Housing Advocate (left), and Melissa, a landlord (right), work together to house individuals who have been struggling with homelessness for several months, if not years.

Foundation donors

- Catherine Holmes Wilkins Foundation
- The Glaser Foundation
- The Simpson Foundation

Improving access to needed services

There are a number of ways in which Project Interdependence services provide or improve access to needed services. These services are: the Family Emergency Fund, Community Resource Guide, Associated Ministries' website, Associated Ministries' e-newsletter, the Project Interdependence newsletter, Tacoma Power Aid energy assistance program, Back-to-School Supply Giveaway, and Community Resource Connections Center.

Family Emergency Fund

Project Interdependence manages Associated Ministries' Family Emergency Fund. This is a fund used to assist individuals and families with unusual and extreme needs that other agencies and outreach programs are not designed to meet. **In 2010, the Family Emergency Fund assisted 111 families.**

The Family Emergency Fund (FEF) not only improves access to needed services, but it helps prevent catastrophes that can lead to homelessness or joblessness. The requests through this fund are normally minor expenses that families are unable to afford, but if the need is met, this can enable or continue stability as well as self-sufficiency.

In 2010, staff had many requests for help with fees that were not budget breaking but highly important to success, such as proper identification, screening fees to secure housing, clothing and tools for work, and help with transportation to work.

Community Resource Guides

To increase awareness of available resources in the community, Project Interdependence uses an array of communication avenues to help circulate information to those in need.

In 2010, over 1,300 Community Resource Guides were distributed throughout Pierce County. In this



Melinda Chan, Project Interdependence staff member, works one-on-one with individuals in the resource center to assess their needs and ensure they receive needed resources/services.

guide, resources such as food banks, emergency and transitional housing programs, and health care services all across Pierce County are easily located.

Online information

In 2010, information about services and resources available through Project Interdependence was also circulated through the **Associated Ministries website**, as well as Associated Ministries' electronic e-newsletter (**eChannel**) to increase the awareness of available resources.

Monthly newsletter

Project Interdependence publishes a monthly newsletter that goes out to our clients, local clergy and volunteers. **In 2010, 670 newsletters were published each month.** The monthly newsletters provided ongoing information about available resources in the community, special events and more; thus improving access to needed services such as the **Tacoma Power Aid (TPA) energy assistance program.**

Tacoma Power Aid

In 2010, 600 families received energy assistance through the Tacoma Power Aid program (TPA). TPA is program that was started in March of 2009 via a partnership with Tacoma Public Utilities and Associated

Ministries. It is an energy assistance program that exists to help those who have traditionally not had access to energy assistance in the past.

TPA is an expanded the pool of people who can receive assistance in our community. This means that it operates with different income guidelines than the other agencies in our community who help only with low-income energy assistance.

TPA gives assistance to individuals and families that are 126%-200% above the Federal Poverty Guidelines. Families that struggle financially from paycheck to paycheck, recently lost their job, or are on a disability income are now eligible to receive energy assistance.

Community Resource Connections Center

In March 2010, Project Interdependence launched the Community Resource Connections Center.

In 2010, 53 families accessed needed services through this new resource center. The resource center offers a "one stop shop," where a staff member will work one-on-one with individuals



to thoroughly assess their needs, and then connect them to needed services.

Services/resources available through this center include benefits through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS):

Basic Food Program; cash benefits; Working Connections childcare; medical assistance programs; and benefits from the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Treatment and Support Act.

Additional resources available through the center include: high school completion/GED, job training programs, soft skills, computer training programs, parenting support and much more.