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BRIDGEVIEW EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT RESOURCE CENTER

PARTNERS. PURPOSE. PEOPLE. PLACE. IT ALL HAPPENS HERE.

Who We Are: Since 2012, Bridgeview has worked on the behalf of Vancouver Housing Authority (VHA) to connect low-income families to the resources necessary to break the cycle of poverty. Stable housing alone is not enough. Bridgeview connects low income families with education, employment, healthcare, and other vital supports through more than 90 community partners that share our perspective...and our network is growing.

The Challenge: In Clark County, from 2010 to 2013, the number of families living in poverty grew three times faster than our general population. This strains our businesses, service providers and the overall well-being of our community. For low-income families, the pressure is tremendous impacting their health, their children, their relationships, and their ability to think beyond the current crisis. Like all parents, low-income parents want a better life for themselves and their children. To get there they need the same tools we all do: Education, Job Skills, Parenting Support, Good Health, and Hope. Without these, they cannot break the cycle.

Right now, our system of support for these families is physically fragmented with each agency in a separate location. Even with our best efforts, this inhibits coordination of services, promotes duplication of efforts, and creates unintentional barriers for the clients we serve. Clark County service providers believe we can do better, but we need your help.

The Solution: The Bridgeview Education and Employment Resource Center - a central hub of service delivery - will strengthen access to, and effectiveness of, supports necessary to break the cycle of poverty. We anticipate serving over 3,000 community members in our first year alone. This new 8500 square foot facility will be located in VHA's Skyline Campus of Learners community. Skyline is currently home to 138 low income families who agree, as a lease requirement, to partner with Bridgeview staff to promote education and community engagement.

Project Scope: Our new Resource Center is an essential piece of a much larger transformation for this community which includes a new Boys and Girls Club (opening spring 2016), major upgrades to existing Skyline homes (underway), and 30 new housing units (2017). The result is a model that allows us to serve the whole family, parents and children, in a location where learning and engagement are part of the community structure. The Resource Center will break ground in 2016 upon completion of the Boys and Girls Club.

The Bridgeview Education and Employment Resource Center, adjacent to the Boys and Girls Club, will house classrooms, meeting spaces, a computer lab, teaching kitchen, office space and more. Staff from Washington Department of Employment (Work Source) and Bridgeview will be there to offer guidance and support. Community partners will bring employment readiness classes, job referrals, college classes, health and wellness classes, parenting classes, support groups, job and health fairs, financial counseling, and more on site.

How you can help: The total cost of this project is \$3.9 million. VHA has committed \$1 million and will cover ongoing annual operating expenses. We have accumulated other funding, totaling \$350,000. We will be asking for \$1.2 million in capital funding from the Washington State Legislature during its 2016 session. We have broad and enthusiastic support from our legislators for this request. To reach our goal and make our vision a reality, we need to raise an additional \$1.4 million through local philanthropy. We ask that you consider being part of this process of raising awareness and making financial investment in the new Bridgeview Resource Center.