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## Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless (WSCH) Board of Directors, we present to you our annual report for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

While the stock market has experienced a year of growth, homelessness is still on the rise. It will take years for the advances in the stock market to translate into jobs and prosperity. And even then, families and individuals will still struggle to make ends meet and keep a roof over their heads.

WSCH will continue to work toward increasing housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness, and on preventing homelessness for those on the edge.

We want to thank our members, sponsors and donors for supporting our mission of ending homelessness. We hope you will continue to support our advocacy and education efforts, and invite friends, family and co-workers to do the same.

We hope you will join us for our 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference, May 12-14, 2010 in Spokane, WA. Visit our website for more information.

Sincerely,

*Lael Duncan*  
Lael Duncan  
President, 2009-2010

Mia Navarro Wells  
Executive Director

## Program Activities

Our mission is to end homelessness. We work to accomplish this mission through advocacy, training and public education. We advocate at the state and federal levels for policy changes and increased funding for homeless programs. Each May, we hold an annual training and education conference for providers, government employees, elected officials, funders and members of the homeless community. Throughout the year we communicate with stakeholders and the public via our website, quarterly newsletter and other activities.

**Our advocacy** contributed to some major achievements during the 2009 Regular Session.

We were able to maintain funding for shelter, and expand transitional housing funding to include individuals in addition to families with children. Funding for the Independent Youth Housing Program was at risk of being cut, but was preserved in the end. These programs were funded by a temporary 4-year increase to the document recording fee. Legislators made it temporary in the hope that state revenue would increase during that time, reducing the need for additional recording fees. We need to start working now on strategies to preserve that increase or achieve general fund allocations to preserve our programs.

WSCH also participated in the campaign to save General Assistance-Unemployable. While funding was reduced by enacting some efficiency measures, the individual cash grant amount of \$339 was preserved. The 2010 supplemental session will make significant changes to the program.

Another success came in the passage of SB 5525 which provided funding for 90 day housing vouchers for ex-offenders being released from prison. Ex-offenders have a range of dates during which they can be released. Many ex-offenders earn days, weeks, even months off of their sentence from good behavior, but cannot be released on their earned release date because they do not have an address to release to. This bill provides rental assistance to those ex-offenders, giving them the opportunity for stability and to avoid recidivism.

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Program Activities, Advocacy, Continued

And finally, the Housing Trust Fund, a support item for WSCH, which provides capital funding for low income housing units, received a \$100 million allocation. The Housing Trust Fund is the primary tool for building supportive housing for homeless families and individuals, provides affordable units for people exiting homelessness, and creates jobs.

**Our annual conference** drew 450 people to Vancouver, WA this year. Attendance was down due to decreased training and travel budgets across the state, but this conference was still one of our best attended.

Richard LeMieux, author of *Breakfast at Sally's*, brought the house to their feet with his story of how he became homeless due to a job loss, lost hope, and regained it with the help of the Salvation Army and his canine companion, Willow. Richard is now dedicated to ensuring that every one has a safe, warm place to call home.



Attendees included housing and service providers, case managers, housing developers, executive directors, local, state and federal government employees, faith-based organizations, businesses, private funders, and members of the homeless community. Attendees participated in workshops on such topics as employment, housing first, motivational interviewing and messaging. Of note was a panel of formerly homeless people who shared their stories and suggestions for making it easier to exit homelessness.

We also use the conference as an opportunity to convene the leadership behind the local and state ten year plans to end homelessness.

**Our public education program** consists of our website, newsletter, photo exhibit and media activities. In spring of 2009, we launched the redesign of our website, [www.endhomelessnesswa.org](http://www.endhomelessnesswa.org). The work was done by Mary Holste Designs and GridworkDesign. We will continue to add more resources and interactive components to the website as we grow our communications activities. The photo exhibit was displayed in several communities around the state as well.

## Revenue and Expenses

July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

Revenue	
Contributions	\$138,630
Dues	\$65,367
Fee for Service	\$72,334
Fundraising	\$13,163
Interest Income	\$323
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$289,187</b>

Expenses	
Advocacy	\$29,548
Public Education	\$28,366
Membership Development	\$8,988
Spring Conference	\$181,245
Administration	\$21,856
Fundraising	\$5,998
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$276,012</b>

## Thank you to our Supporters

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