

# groundviews



REACHING SOLID GROUND

## A web of networks

See story, pp. 2 & 3

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

### Brilliance... Kindness... & Persistence...

Our JustServe AmeriCorps team thanks these partners in creating alternatives to violence: 2 Brown Chicks Family Farm, Camp Indianola, Cannon House, Cash & Carry, Columbia City Cinema, Duwamish Longhouse, Duwamish River Clean Up Coalition, Grocery Outlet, Moss Alley Motors and Trader Joe's. ... The children's room at Broadview Shelter & Transitional Housing has a new floor thanks to Unimark Construction & CF Resource. ... Pirates & Pipsqueaks event sponsors – Not A Number Cards & Gifts, the Seafair Pirates (*esp. Mark Jensen!*), Seattle's Child, Starbucks, Trophy Cupcakes, Wallingford Chamber of Commerce and Wallingford Community Council – helped raise fun and funds for Broadview's children's services. ... Our Finance department is grateful to Moss Adams LLP for their audit expertise. ... Housing Counseling staff thank the Legal Action Center for being a tremendous resource. ... We are in awe of our friends at the CoHo Team

The NW Network staff (*l to r*):  
Community Advocate Shannon  
Perez-Darby, Program Manager  
Kristin Tucker & Community  
Advocate Nathaniel Shara

of Windermere Agents and the Fremont Outdoor Movies, who raised over \$7,000 this summer for Family Shelter. ... Spoke & Food dedicated their first annual biking/dining/fundraising event to support Lettuce Link! ... The volunteer group Friends of Lettuce Link hosted a successful fundraising garden party. Thanks to Beecher's Cheese, Big Island Bees, Big John's PFI, Blues for Food Fest, Cloud City Coffee, Essential Baking Company, Madison Market, QFC-Wallingford and Trophy Cupcakes for their support – brilliant *and* delicious! ●

PROGRAM NEWS

### From the Ground Up

**Preventing Homelessness:** While there are still too many homeless people in our community, without our King County Housing Stability Project (KCHSP), there would be many more. In the first half of 2010, KCHSP helped 307 families with eviction prevention or move-in assistance, keeping many of them from becoming homeless.

The program makes one-time loans and/or grants to homeowners and tenants in danger of eviction or foreclosure due to short-term financial difficulties. It also provides loans or grants to homeless families and individuals who need assistance moving to permanent housing, or with other moves.

Belying recent good news about the region's employment trends, 20% of the households seeking KCHSP support report they are unemployed and seeking work. About one-third of KCHSP households faced utility shut-off during the past year. Similarly, one-third resorted to payday loans to make ends meet. Another 1,800 households requested and were eligible to receive KCHSP support, but were not served due to lack of funding. ●

## REACHING SOLID GROUND

# A web of networks

Typically *Groundviews* presents the stories of people whose lives have changed through their engagement with Solid Ground's programs – yet much of our work is done with organizations, not individuals. To shed light on our National Service programs,\* we're profiling a partner agency, The NW Network – and how Martin Luther King VISTA Corps Member Yecelica Valdivia has impacted their work during her year of service.

**For 23 years, The NW Network has provided advocacy and support to bisexual, transgendered, lesbian and gay abuse survivors through education, organizing and direct service. Like Solid Ground, they believe that social change underlies service – and they embrace the notion that the work to end racism, classism, homophobia and other forms of**

oppression is as important as their work to end battering. With a staff of nine, their programs directly support hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people, and their outreach efforts aim to engage and educate many thousands more. And like most nonprofit organizations, The NW Network has more good work to do than available resources.

### Building grassroots organizational capacity

MLK VISTA is an active partnership between Solid Ground, the Corporation for National Service, and about 30 grassroots organizations in Seattle and King County. Developed in 1989, MLK VISTA creates innovative projects that strengthen, empower and support lower income communities.

Adding MLK VISTA Member Yecelica Valdivia to their team last year “allows us to give projects the attention they deserve,” says Kristin Tucker, Program Manager at The NW Network. Though they interviewed a dozen candidates, Yecelica's homegrown experience as a leader in the Q Center at the University of Washington (a resource and referral center for queer folks at the UW)



Yecelica Valdivia, MLK VISTA at The NW Network

and other local organizing efforts made her a perfect fit.

Kristin says, “The piece that Yecelica has had the most work in is our Community Engagement and Outreach program. We have offered Relationship Skills classes for the last eight years [based on] material developed out of one of our support groups for survivors of domestic violence. Yecelica got actively involved in that class, supporting the facilitation and coordination.

“And then she co-created a new class specifically for LGBT people of color. That involved writing the curriculum, recruiting students – the whole nuts and bolts of it. There is no way that work would ever have gotten done without her.”

Yecelica has also co-coordinated publication of The NW Network's Relationship Skills

Curriculum. “People all over the country have been wanting this information,” Kristin says.

“Because in terms of engaging with the community as a domestic violence provider, people don't always want to talk about that. People will talk about how to have better lives, so we had to figure out how to share

***“It seems like a huge advantage to be able to tap into that network and have such developed leaders entering into organizations.”***

Continued on p.3

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

# Curtis Jacobson

Curtis Jacobson invested his time, talent and resources into making this year's Pirates & Pipsqueaks Carnival (a benefit for Solid Ground's Broadview Shelter & Transitional Housing) an incredible success. Curtis, the store manager for the Madison Park Starbucks, designed and built all of the game booths for this year's carnival and recruited 15 Starbucks employees to help set up and volunteer.



Curtis spent many hours and weekends building and painting the booths – and through Starbucks' *Make Your Mark* program, these volunteer hours were matched by the company.

Thank you, Curtis, for your amazing leadership and vision in support of the families and children at Broadview!

For more info on volunteering at Solid Ground, contact Indiigo Klyne, Volunteer Center Coordinator, at [volunteers@solid-ground.org](mailto:volunteers@solid-ground.org) or 206.694.6825, or visit <http://solidgroundvolunteers.tumblr.com/>. ●

*Continued from p.2*

this critical information in a way that people are going to actually engage with it. It is a massive undertaking. This is something that is going to be distributed nationally – one of the few revenue streams for the organization.”

## Building relationships

During their year of service, National Service Members receive extensive support through weekly team meetings and anti-oppression trainings – including Undoing Institutional Racism – all of which helps Members forge community connections for the organizations they serve.

“One thing that Yecelica's time at The Network really speaks to is the extent to which she has been able to build relationships to other organizations,” says Nathaniel Shara, Community Advocate at The NW Network. As a former JustServe AmeriCorps Member, he says that Solid Ground's National Service teams are part of a “web of networks, folks who were rooted in this community already and who have stayed. It strengthens the grassroots social service organizations to have that kind of spider web

of relationships. It seems like a huge advantage to be able to tap into that network and have such developed leaders entering into organizations.”

The shared experience and anti-oppression analysis that is so fundamental to Solid Ground's National Service teams helps keep Members well-grounded in their placements. “One of the important things that is so essential to our work at The Network is we all work in a big room together,” says

Shannon Perez-Darby, a Community Advocate who oversees youth programming.

“So personal relationships are paramount. Yecelica's being there and bringing a humor and a wholeness to her work is really wonderful – it really affects all of us. We want to create a reciprocal relationship. Yecelica is giving so much to us, we want her to feel that it is also feeding her.” ●

## \*National Service at Solid Ground

Solid Ground operates three different National Service programs (JustServe AmeriCorps, MLK VISTA and Washington Reading Corps) with a total of about 120 Members – more than any other nonprofit agency in Washington State. Our National Service Members promote violence prevention, teach kids to read, and develop a range of programs to help low-income communities overcome poverty-related challenges throughout Seattle/King County.

For more info, contact National Service Director Glenn Puckett at [glennp@solid-ground.org](mailto:glennp@solid-ground.org) or 206.957.4779 x109 – or visit [www.solid-ground.org/AmeriCorps](http://www.solid-ground.org/AmeriCorps).

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT

# UPS (United Parcel Service of America)

Solid Ground thanks UPS for their generosity in time and support. In fall of 09, UPS employees donated more than 50 service hours – gardening at our Giving Garden at Marra Farm and painting some of our Family Shelter units. Last winter, the UPS Foundation provided funding for all of the healthy snacks for Apple Corps, our school-based nutrition education program. They also funded expansion of our Partners in Caring program's ability to provide culturally appropriate bags of food delivered to seniors and people with disabilities living in affordable housing.

UPS' Eric Vázquez told us: “UPS is proud to support Solid Ground's countless efforts to build and better our communities. Our employees continue to make a personal commitment to support the essential services Solid Ground provides to the communities where we live and work.” Thanks UPS!

For more info on supporting Solid Ground, contact Zanne Garland, Individual Giving Manager, at [zanneg@solid-ground.org](mailto:zanneg@solid-ground.org) or 206.694.6862. ●



COMMUNITY NEWS

## Cool / Not Cool

**Cool:** Solid Ground's Apple Corps program is creating a new generation of Popeyes, according to surveys of students at participating schools. At the end of a year of nutrition education programming led by Apple Corps' team, 62% of the kids reported that they now like spinach. That's a 20% increase over what they reported in pre-program surveys.

**Not Cool:** During the next few months, thousands of Washington State residents will lose their Disability Lifeline (formerly called GAU) benefits due to a 24-month time limit approved by the State Legislature last session. Disability Lifeline provides \$339 a month in cash and medical benefits to people living on very low incomes who are unable to work due to a temporary physical or mental health disability. Benefits are now limited to 24 months in the past 60 months.

For information on how to appeal benefits termination, read our blog entry at: <http://solidgroundblog.wordpress.com/2010/08/11/you-can-appeal-termination-of-disability-lifeline-benefits/>.

**Cool:** Artists of Coyote Central, a nonprofit that recruits professionals from creative fields to share their talents and workplaces with adolescents, worked with the kids of Rainier Vista to create stunning scarecrows for our farm projects (*see photo*). ●



One of the scarecrows created by Coyote Central and children from Rainier Vista. Temporarily placed at Marra Farm, the scarecrows will move to the new Seattle Community Farm at Rainier Vista later this year.

TAKE ACTION

## Some Ways to Get Involved!

- For information on **National Service Opportunities** with Solid Ground, please visit [www.solid-ground.org/AmeriCorps](http://www.solid-ground.org/AmeriCorps). Questions? Contact National Service Director Glenn Puckett at [glennp@solid-ground.org](mailto:glennp@solid-ground.org) or 206.957.4779 x109.
- For **Volunteer Opportunities** at Solid Ground, contact Volunteer Center Coordinator Indiigo Klyne at [volunteers@solid-ground.org](mailto:volunteers@solid-ground.org) or 206.694.6825 – or visit <http://solidgroundvolunteers.tumblr.com/>.



Building community to end poverty

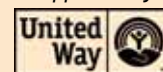
1501 North 45th Street, Seattle, WA 98103-6708

A Community Action Agency... Helping people, changing lives.

**groundviews** is Solid Ground's newsletter, published six times a year to highlight our efforts to create a just & caring community, free from poverty, prejudice & neglect.

**Reasonable accommodations for disabilities made on request.**

Supported by



United Way of King County

EDITORS

Mike Buchman & Liz Reed Hawk

EMAIL

[publications@solid-ground.org](mailto:publications@solid-ground.org)

PHONE

206.694.6716

TTY

7.1.1

WEB

[solid-ground.org](http://solid-ground.org)