



## Volunteer Chore Services

Bringing Community Home

Volunteer Chore Services  
Catholic Community Services  
1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Narrative

April 8, 2011

Spring Greetings,

The changing economy has presented many challenges for everyone in our community and especially for those served by our program. Requests for services are increasing for older adults and those living with disabilities as a result of a growing aging population, the demand for in-home services and the reduction of available services. Because of our dedicated volunteer pool, VCS King County successfully responded to many of these requests providing 44,637 hours of caring, personalized chore assistance to help over 800 seniors and adults living with disabilities to remain in their homes in 2010.

We are looking ahead to our ability to deliver services in order to continue meeting the needs of older adults and those living with disabilities in our community in these turbulent economic times. However, a budget deficit resulting from County budget cuts and state budget reductions has necessitated staffing changes. One coordinator position has been eliminated and all staff are working reduced hours. The reduction in staffing and hours may impact our ability to deliver services at the same levels. Service Units from City Funding will not be affected by this staffing change, however we do expect a decrease in 2011 service unit numbers from all funding sources.

To share a few examples of the tasks VCS undertook this past quarter, I have added the stories below.

*This quarter in Covington we celebrate 8 years of service to Ms J. Ms J, now 88, was living alone and losing her vision. She was no longer able to drive and her family didn't live close enough to always help. So since 2003, VCS has been able to provide monthly assist with grocery shopping and errand runs as needed. In 2009, VCS volunteers were able to coordinate a move on her behalf so she could live in a healthier and safer apartment building.*

*In Renton, we've been able to help a real variety of individuals so far this year. One of our simplest requests, was a one time assist for a wheelchair bound senior to help change the batteries in her smoke detectors. Our largest undertaking was a group project for a disabled woman living alone in her family home. Due to her extreme limited funds she has not had garbage pick up for close to three years and had no way to dispose of the trash that acquired. As a result of severe grief, depression and physical limitations, trash began to pile and her home became very unhealthy. With Dump Vouchers acquired through the Renton Code Compliance Office, volunteers spent a day removing three truck & trailer loads, close to 6000 pounds of trash, recycling and broken furniture. She is now able to use her kitchen and sleep on her bed and on her way to making her home a safe and healthy place to live.*

*In Auburn, VCS received a referral from the Auburn Home Repair Program for a client*





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*need of additional home repair. The needs of this client were more than the Auburn Home Repair program was able to cover and it looked as though several repairs were to go undone due to a lack of funds. VCS was able to call upon a volunteer who brought both skill, and kindly some materials, to fix & stabilize the wheelchair ramp, reinforce the back stairs and re-hang the door so it closed properly.*

*In February, a group of volunteers from the Seattle Archdiocese and AAA combined their efforts to help several residents at Bow Lake Mobile Home Park in SeaTac with spring cleaning and yard work, even when they were faced with icy rain and a windstorm the morning of the project. The residents and management were so impressed and thankful that the volunteers worked through all weather! They were able to clean gutters, remove moss from driveways and porches, take care of debris that had gathered in yards over the winter, and fill a total of 20 yard waste bags with dead leaves, plants, and weeds. Volunteers also helped indoors with chores for a client who recently had knee surgery. "Next time, my knees will be the knees of a teenager!" she said, "And I'll be volunteering instead!"*

*Bow Lake Mobile Home Park has become a great collaborator with VCS, and we are thankful that management allows us to use their community room to warm up (or cool down), take breaks, and store belongings. The manager or assistant manager always thank the volunteers personally, sometimes bringing them treats or warm drinks. Residents of Bow Lake who don't need VCS assistance also love to see the volunteers, and offer to loan them tools, feed them snacks, or just give them thank you hugs. Volunteering at the park is always a wonderful experience for volunteer groups.*

Volunteer Chore Services exists today because of the support of local city governments and community members like you. Many thanks for your dedication and support of older adults in our community.

Sincerely,

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