



The GATEWAY

Quarterly newsletter of GATEWAYS for Youth and Families
April 2006

Issue 2, Volume 1

Suspension is a growth experience with help from GATEWAYS

During the 2004-2005 school year, over 6000 suspensions were reported across Pierce County for grades 6 through 12. These teens need to focus on where their choices are leading them and get guidance on how to make positive changes in their lives. The GATEWAYS Alternative Suspension program at Jessie Dyslin Ranch is doing just that-- equipping teens like Dorian with the skills they need to overcome today's tough challenges.

Thanks to support from Bethel School District, the Alternative Suspension program has the support of a certified teacher and a vocational instructor, as well as computers for instructional purposes. Students participate in group activities and also receive individual attention to help them turn their suspension into a learning experience. For more information or to enroll your student, please call 253.383.4361 or visit our website at www.gatewaysforyouth.org.

A GATEWAYS Success Story

The success of GATEWAYS is not measured by how much money we raise or spend, but by how many FAMILIES and CHILDREN we help. That's why our headline news is always about individuals. This quarter, we feature Dorian, one of the first young people to participate in the GATEWAYS Alternative Suspension program at our Jessie Dyslin Ranch. DORIAN represents one of the many ways GATEWAYS is growing to better serve needs in our community.

This is Dorian's story in his own words...

"The Jessie Dyslin Ranch is a great place for teens who have trouble in their lives or for someone who needs help with their attitude, listening, communication skills and caring and being responsible.

The Ranch did a lot for me. They taught me things I never knew, like how to control your anger by thinking about if you do this then you'll end up at this. They taught me that if you lose your temper, then you'll either end up at Remaan Hall or suspended from school. I never knew that before but now I do.

While I was there, I learned how to garden. Now, that was interesting to learn, plus it gave me something to do instead of sitting in front of the TV or playing games. Everybody at the Ranch is nice and treats you with tons of respect.

These people helped me a lot by helping my relationship with my mom and getting me back in school. These are great people that deserve great things. Overall, the Ranch is a magnificent place for teens who need to do soul searching or get their issues worked out."

GATEWAYS opens new Visitation & Safe Exchange program in Lakewood

Sometimes it's hard for parents to get along when their relationship works, but when it fails, they can be angry, frustrated, sad, scared, fearful, disappointed and so much more. Even when a positive relationship does not exist between their parents, it is important for children to maintain contact with both. That's why GATEWAYS established the Visitation & Safe Exchange (VASE) program.

Whether there is a history of

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domestic violence with court intervention requiring supervised visits or parents simple prefer to avoid face-to-face encounters, the VASE program can meet their needs. The secure facility provides supervised visitation services on site as well as a place for safe exchange of children. A third party assists in the drop-off and pick-up of children so parents have no physical contact.

VASE is designed to address a number of concerns in our community. First and foremost, it is the only secure facility and program in Pierce County that provides supervised visits for domestic violence perpetrators and their children. Until now, the closest resource was SafeHavens in Kent. VASE is focused on child safety, developing parenting skills,

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Dave Forrest (left), VASE Coordinator, gives a tour of the center to Mi-Yeoung Lee, a Korean Women's Association program director focused on domestic violence.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This month, I'm pleased to have the opportunity to share my perspectives with you on three unique topics, all of which impact GATEWAYS for Youth and Families and its continued commitment to serving our community.

DON'T LEAVE BETHEL SCHOOL KIDS BEHIND

At GATEWAYS, we are partnering with the Bethel School District to offer a great new program to the parents in the community in the event their children are suspended or expelled from school entitled Alternative Suspension.

During the 2004-2005 school year, there were over 6,000 suspensions reported for students in grades 6 through 12 across Pierce County, with an average length of 5 days. As a caring and supportive parent, it's frustrating to have your child suspended from school or exhibiting behavior problems that could lead to a suspension. It's natural to worry about your child during a suspension. Most families are unprepared to deal with a suspension or expulsion. Working parents have little or no way to ensure that their student stays home or to give their child adequate supervision. At home they still have access to television, phone, internet, music, video games and other distractions. During a suspension, you want your son or daughter to take responsibility for their actions and learn from their mistakes.

In our Alternative Suspension program, GATEWAYS and Bethel provide:

- A structured and supervised environment for youth between 12 and 17 years old
- A positive and safe setting-- for the safety of all students and our staff, all students will be searched by a metal detector
- Individual meetings with a counselor to look at needs & individual behaviors to help teach new skills and instruct them on goal setting (Referrals can be made to the GATEWAYS Family Services for more counseling if necessary or desired)
- A certified teacher and vocational instructor

On April 25, the voters in the Bethel School District will decide whether or not to support the school district levy and value-added programs like Alternative Suspension. We hope you will take the time to vote and we hope you will choose to put the unity back in community and leave no child behind.

JESSIE DYSLIN RANCH BIRTHDAY PARTY ON JUNE 23, 2006

On June 23, 2006, our GATEWAYS kids and families, along with our staff and volunteers, will be celebrating our 80 year history at Jessie Dyslin Ranch. Since most of the work we do for kids and families is very serious, we like to have some fun together a few times a year. The Ranch birthday bash will be held at Cheney Stadium beginning at 5:30 p.m. with a BBQ in the right field bullpen before the Tacoma Rainiers take the field, and the night is capped by a fireworks display. We hope you will attend and help us celebrate 80 years of service at this location.

If you can help out, we need \$200 sponsorships from 25 organizations or individuals to bring our kids and families to the ballpark that evening. If you are interested in sponsoring a child and their family, please call me at 383-4361. We will list you in our July newsletter.

DARREN MCGAVIN'S SPIRIT LIVES ON

Recently, one of former Dyslin Ranch clients, William Lyle Richardson (May 7, 1922 – February 25, 2006), passed away.

Better known by his stage name, Darren McGavin was an American actor recognized for playing the title role in the television horror series Kolchak: The Night Stalker. I remember racing home on Tuesday evenings after Hebrew School to watch him on my black and white television. I also remember his portrayal in the movie A Christmas Story as the grumpy father given to bursts of profanity that he never realizes his sons overhear. He also appeared as the tough-talking, funny detective in the TV series Mike Hammer.

Throughout his life, McGavin openly credited his stay at our boy's home as a turning point in his life. He lived there for a few years where there were farm chores assigned, along with several other boys who were abandoned like himself. McGavin said that the owners of the home helped him to establish a sense of pride and responsibility, and that this helped to turn his life around. While we grieve over his passing, he will serve as an inspiration to the countless boys and girls who will continue to cross the threshold of our doors at the Jesse Dyslin Ranch for whom we dedicate our lives to each and every day. Thank you Darren McGavin.

Jamie Beletz, President

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The GATEWAY

The official quarterly newsletter of GATEWAYS for Youth and Families

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We welcome your comments and suggestions via mail, phone, fax or email. Thanks for reading.

WHAT IS GATEWAYS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES?

GATEWAYS for Youth and Families is the oldest charity in the state of Washington and one of the oldest in the nation. We have been serving the greater Puget Sound region for over 115 years. As a gateway, we provide access to a variety of programs and resources that empower youth and families to get support, learn new skills and become positive citizens in the community. Current programs include Foster Care & Adoption, Family Services offering counseling, seminars and other resources, Alternative Suspension & Day Treatment to help youth make positive changes in their behavior and the Dan Quinn Project where youth develop practical skills in agriculture and business.

Though our history dates back to the 1800s, we are committed to discovering areas of need today in our community. New programs planned for 2006 include VASE: Visitation and Safe Exchange offering parents the opportunity to maintain relationships with their children in a safe, secure environment, and Aggression Replacement Training to equip youth with practical anger management skills through a 10-week, interactive group program.

GATEWAYS is funded by the generous donations of the community through grants, in-kind gifts, private contributions, donations of used clothing, patrons of our BINGO hall and our annual dinner and auction. Without the support of our neighbors, we wouldn't be able to provide vital services to youth and families.

At GATEWAYS, we continue to open new paths to tomorrow for youth and families in the greater Puget Sound region. For more information on our programs or to make a donation in support of GATEWAYS, please contact us at 253.383.4361 or visit our website at www.gatewaysforyouth.org.

VASE, Continued from page 1
preventing lengthy separations of child and parent and maintaining positive parent-child relationships.

Dave Forrest, VASE Coordinator, knows some experiences are accompanied by a great deal of emotional pain for children even when there is no overt pattern of violence between former partners. In instances of domestic violence, children may actually fear their parent. He is excited about the role that VASE will play in mending those parent-child relationships and preventing future injuries or episodes of violence.

“[Participating in VASE is] another step to help families heal from domestic violence, divorce and other family tragedies or issues following dissolution,” Forrest said.

An open house was held on March 21 to celebrate the grand opening of the GATEWAYS Visitation Center. Board members, staff and community members gathered to tour the facility. The current space limits the number of child exchanges that can happen while the center is open each day and allows for one supervised visit to occur at a time, but Forrest has clear goals for growth in the future.

“Eventually, we’ll have a facility and staff to supervise multiple visits and exchanges at once. Our vision is to become a program serving all of Pierce County and surrounding counties,” he said.

The visit and exchange area’s two rooms are furnished and decorated

VASE Quick Facts

Location:
11206 Bridgeport Way SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
(Bridgeport Center shopping plaza)

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday-Friday
10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Phone
253.983.7453

to provide a comfortable, home-like environment. One room is furnished as a living room, with a sofa, rocking chair, toys, books, television and movies. The other has a table for doing crafts, as well as a microwave and small fridge so that families can prepare snacks. Some of the items have been donated permanently, such as the generous toy donations from GATEWAYS Bingo Hall patrons, while others are only on loan for a short time. Other donations, as noted in our wish list, are greatly needed.

The GATEWAYS Visitation Center is located at 11206 Bridgeport Way SW in Lakewood. Kara Williams, GATEWAYS board chair, is glad to see the organization moving in this new direction.

“GATEWAYS is excited to finally have a program that gives back to the Lakewood community. Since 1982,

GATEWAYS Bingo Hall has been located a few blocks away from the home of the new Visitation Center, and the community has supported all of GATEWAYS’ programs by playing Bingo there,” Williams said.

Jamie Beletz, president of GATEWAYS, spent the past few months focusing on opportunities to have programs based in Lakewood.

“The Lakewood community has been generous and supportive of GATEWAYS over the years, so we are certainly thrilled to have the opportunity to provide a service in this area. We hope that soon we’ll be able to do even more,” Beletz said.

Interested participants can expect to participate in an intake interview, which occurs separately with each parent. The interview helps the staff get to know the client and evaluate his or her individual needs. Children will also receive a special tour of the Visitation Center to familiarize them with the environment and help them feel more comfortable when they come back for their first visit.

Visits are focused on having fun and building relationships between a parent and a child. There are protocols for each visit and exchange designed to make each experience pleasant. Ultimately, safety is the number one priority for all parties involved.

For more information on this program, please contact Dave Forrest, VASE Coordinator, at 253.983.7453.

Foster care conference to feature the hot topics

GATEWAYS for Youth and Families is pleased to host its first Foster Care Best Practices Conference on Thursday, May 18. It will be a conference filled with discussions on the most pressing issues in foster care today.

The highlight will be a legislative panel, including Senator Jim Kastama and others, addressing the future of foster care in Washington. All topics will take the format of panel discussions, allowing attendees the chance to actively participate in the day’s events.

Thanks to support from the GATEWAYS Foundation, the conference is free of charge. However, space is limited to the first 50 registrants.

For more information or to register, please contact us at 253.383.4361 or visit our website for updates at www.gatewaysforyouth.org.

FOSTER CARE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

8 a.m. - 9 a.m. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
Sponsored by the GATEWAYS Foundation

9 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. Panel Discussions (Choose 1)
“The Use of Evidence-based Practices in Foster Care”
“The Increasing Costs of Providing Services”

10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Break

10:45 a.m. - Noon Panel Discussions (Choose 1)
“Improving the Overall Image of Foster Parenting”
“Mental Health Issues for Foster Children”
Moderator: Tim Farrell, Pierce County Council

Noon - 2 p.m. Lunch and Legislative Panel
Sponsored by the GATEWAYS Foundation
“The Future of Foster Care in Washington State”

2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Tour of Jessie Dyslin Ranch

VASE: VISITATION & SAFE EXCHANGE WISH LIST

MICROWAVE
SMALL REFRIGERATOR
TOYS FOR AGES INFANT TO 3
FULL SET OF DISHES (PLASTIC)
ROCKING CHAIR
TOYS FOR TODDLERS
PICTURES & POSTERS TO
DECORATE OUR WALLS
EXTRA DIVIDING DOOR
SECURITY SYSTEM
TOYS FOR SCHOOL-AGE
CHILDREN
BOARD GAMES
BOOKS
STORAGE SHELVES & BINS
FOR TOYS
MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION
(FOR OUR WAITING ROOM)
AND SO MUCH MORE!

**CALL DAVE FORREST,
VASE COORDINATOR,
AT 253.983.7453
TO MAKE A DONATION**

THANKS FOR HELPING OUR KIDS AND PARENTS HAVE A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO BUILD THEIR RELATIONSHIPS

GATEWAYS mourns loss of successful alumnus McGavin

One of GATEWAYS' most successful alumni, Darren McGavin, sadly passed away on Saturday, February 25, 2006. Darren was a resident at the GATEWAYS Jessie Dyslin Ranch, located in Tacoma, from 1936 to 1939. At that time, the ranch provided a residential program for adolescent boys who needed help and guidance—those who were not juvenile delinquents, but who were homeless through no fault of their own.

As with all boys at the ranch, McGavin was encouraged to focus on getting an education. The boys also had the chance to grow vegetables in the garden, pick berries and participate in extra-curricular activities at their schools and in the community. Life at the ranch was designed to be more like a home, not an institution.

McGavin was often quoted publicly praising his GATEWAYS experience. He told *The Tacoma News Tribune* reporter Charles Rice, in reference to his time at the ranch, "It was one of the formulating influences in my life."

McGavin so believed in the positive influence of the ranch that he returned to Tacoma for the grand opening of the Value Village thrift store in South Tacoma in 1967. Through a partnership with the thrift store, clothing was collected on behalf of the ranch and then sold to Value Village, generating vital funding for the ranch. GATEWAYS still maintains that partnership today, with funding benefiting all of its programs.

On the day of the grand opening, McGavin said, "When the boys come out of the ranch, they come prepared to meet life. It works. It really works."

McGavin also contributed to GATEWAYS for Youth and Families by serving on the board of directors. He was inducted into the GATEWAYS' Hall of Fame in 2005, an honor bestowed on board members who served at least five years and demonstrated outstanding service.

The Ranch is still an asset to GATEWAYS for Youth and Families, allowing the organization to provide a greater variety of services to disadvantaged boys, girls and families in the community. Current programs there include Alternative Suspension, ART: Aggression Replacement Training, counseling and parenting seminars.

*In celebration of National
Volunteer Week, April 23-29,
we give many thanks to those at*

GATEWAYS who **INSPIRE BY EXAMPLE**

- Tarie Barber*
- Blaine Butler*
- Audrey Chase*
- Mel Curtiss*
- Alisa deLeon*
- Raul deLeon*
- Steve Downing*
- Barbara Hansen*
- , Kevin Iverson*
- Clyde Kalahan*
- Patty Lee*
- Cory Manthou*
- Kevin O'Sullivan*
- Dale Pettit*
- Mike Sando*
- Kara Williams*

We appreciate our volunteers!

Lending a hand



GATEWAYS board chairman Kara Williams (front) and staff member Richard Runions paint the foyer at Jessie Dyslin Ranch. Staff, board members and former residents recently held a work party to prepare the ranch for new programs.

GATEWAYS receives support from Boeing employees

Thanks to the generosity of the Employees Community Fund of Boeing Puget Sound, youth participating in programs with GATEWAYS for Youth and Families will be going places—literally. GATEWAYS is the recipient of a \$35,000 grant for the purchase of a new passenger van, awarded by the ECF board at their February meeting.

With this new van, GATEWAYS will be able to provide a number of off-site experiences as part of its programs. With transportation to the program site, more youth will be able to benefit from participation in the programs as well. Programs based at the GATEWAYS Jessie Dyslin Ranch, including Alternative Suspension, ART: Aggression Replacement Training and CERT: Community Emergency Response Team Training, will all utilize the van.

Jamie Beletz, president of

GATEWAYS for Youth and Families, said "Receiving funding for the van opens so many new doors for the programs at our ranch. With the ability to travel with large groups, the staff will have more opportunities to broaden the horizons of youth through our programs."

GATEWAYS was chosen to receive the grant because Boeing's employees see great value in the organization and its programs for youth.

"Helping youth get back on track is important to employees at Boeing. GATEWAYS for Youth and Families is working to make that happen," said Pearlie Welch, Employees Community Fund board treasurer. "The Employees Community Fund providing a van is a piece of the puzzle -- the vision is clear. Boeing employees and retirees together are partnering with local nonprofits to improve our communities."

Sponsor-a-kid for the ranch's 80th birthday party at Cheney Stadium

In June of 1926, two boys who had outgrown the age limit for the Children's Industrial Home became the first to make the Jessie Dyslin Ranch their home. Eighty years later, the ranch is still making a difference in the lives of youth in our community—that's certainly a legacy to be proud of.

In celebration of 80 years of service at the ranch, GATEWAYS will be hosting a night at Cheney Stadium as the Tacoma Rainiers take on the Portland Beavers. To support this event, GATEWAYS needs businesses and individuals to sponsor-a-kid to attend the game. Sponsorships are \$200 and include BBQ and admission for 2, Bullpen seating, 2 event t-shirts, fireworks,

inclusion in our event publicity and most importantly, the opportunity for our foster kids and their families to attend the game.

"Celebrating milestones like this with the community is very important to us. The community has been so supportive over the years, and we look forward to their continued support as we work to make the ranch a place where youth and families can learn, get support and most importantly, have fun," said Barb Gorzinski, GATEWAYS Foundation Executive Development Officer.

If you are interested in sponsoring one of our kids, please contact Jamie or Sarah at 253.383.4361 to obtain more information. See you at the game!

Foundation encourages you to consider leaving a lasting legacy

Volunteers make a difference in people's lives here, right now. Giving of your time is a great way to lend support, whether it's advocating for a cause in Olympia or driving someone to a doctor's appointment; organizing a large fundraising event for a local charity or answering phones in their office. GATEWAYS Foundation Services Executive Development Officer Barb Gorzinski, poses a question to those who like to serve: "Are you prepared to leave a legacy that will far outlast your lifetime?"

Leaving a legacy means planning ahead—taking time to consider how and where you'd like to make a difference when you're gone, especially when it comes to lending that lasting support to your favorite charity.

Gorzinski explains that all you

really need is a will that is tax-wise and identifies the people and charities you want as benefactors, along with the amounts or percentages of your estate designated to each individual or organization. It's also very important to ensure that the designated beneficiary of your retirement plan is kept current.

Gorzinski knows the joy that people have when they learn how their gift can help future generations.

"Leaving a gift that will benefit the youth and families in your community is such a wonderful way to continue your commitment to serving others, and it doesn't take much extra effort or paperwork as many people think," she said. "I love seeing the satisfaction on people's faces when they make a decision to give."

Ways to support your favorite charity are through charitable gift annuities and payable-on-death designations for bank accounts, money market accounts, CDs and more. You can also donate your possessions, such as cars, furniture and clothing.

Choosing what to leave is important, but it's who you leave it to that will determine the real value of your gift. We invite you to consider leaving a legacy with GATEWAYS for Youth and Families. Since 1890, GATEWAYS has served this community and with your gift, we will continue to grow to meet the needs of our youth and families. You can learn more about us at www.gatewaysforyouth.org, or call Barb Gorzinski at 253.383.4361 to find out about leaving a legacy with the GATEWAYS Foundation.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The GATEWAYS Jessie Dyslin Ranch has a long history of serving youth in our community, dating back to 1926. The list of alumni includes many whose actions now set a wonderful example for others and attest to the ways in which GATEWAYS is truly making a difference in this community. "WHERE ARE THEY NOW?" follows up with former participants to see how GATEWAYS has had a lasting effect on their lives.

Name: Kevin

Age: 21

Hometown: Tacoma



When did you first start getting into trouble?

"At the age of approximately 8, I got in trouble with the law. I got into a fight with a group of kids at the playground of my elementary school. The next morning, I was looking for clothes to wear for school; then I found a gun. I brought it to school with me...use your imagination of what the outcome came to be. I ended up spending one week in juvenile detention for that."

What led to you participating in the programs at the ranch?

"I was recruited by a gang at an early age. At the age of 11, I got my first grand theft auto charge. From the ages of 11 to 16, I was only out of jail about 6 months at the most; the rest of the time I was behind bars. One month before my 18th birthday, I was charged with 6 counts of possession of stolen property in the first degree. Originally, I was looking at serving six years, but it ended up being three years in juvie. The last 27 months of my sentence I was sent to Jessie Dyslin Ranch."

What opportunities did you have at the ranch?

"There, I continued my education through Pierce College and earned my GED. I also worked at H.D. Fowler; that allowed me to learn job skills and pay off \$9,402.64 of my restitution. I also completed 88 hours of community service."

What are you doing now?

"At the present time, I am still employed but with a different company, Evergreen Tree Care. I have my own place and four different cars. I'm 21 now and love raising my 4-year-old daughter with the help of my family."

How did GATEWAYS affect your life?

"I would like to thank the Jessie Dyslin Ranch staff team for all the support, motivation and helping me see my future clearly. Now my vision is better than Hi-Def."

We're proud of Kevin and all of the youth and families that we have served over the years who turned their lives around. If GATEWAYS had a positive influence on your life in the past, please contact Sarah at 253.383.4361 or info@gatewaysforyouth.org to share your story.

CURE YOUR CHAOS

Can't Have Anyone Over Syndrome

If your house is a mess and you're ready to do some spring cleaning, we're here to help. We'll gladly pick up your gently used clothing and small household goods.

Don't forget, we'll take curtains, bedding, purses, shoes, towels and pillows too! Just give us a call, put your donation on the front porch and leave the rest to us. All donations are tax deductible.

**CALL
253.383.4361
to schedule
a pick up!**

May marks nationwide celebration of foster care

As a licensing organization for foster homes, GATEWAYS is proud to celebrate National Foster Care Month in May. Over 9,000 Washington children are in foster homes right now, and the need for new homes continues to grow. GATEWAYS for Youth and Families helps adults become licensed to have foster children in their homes and provides them with ongoing support throughout their time as a foster parent.

Wende Wertley, Family Services Director with GATEWAYS, oversees the foster care program and strives to provide great service to our foster families.

“As a private provider, we are able to act as a communication channel between the state and the foster parent so that they can give their energy to the children. By GATEWAYS providing these services, we are lowering the cost to Washington tax payers,” Wertley said.

Foster children range in age from birth to 17, are both boys and girls and are from a variety of ethnic backgrounds. The average Washington foster child spends 23 months in a foster care home, compared to the national average of 30 months. Washington is also able to successfully reunify 63% of children with their biological parents.

Families of all shapes and sizes can open their homes to foster children—you can be single or married, you can be an experienced parent or a novice, you can be a young adult or you can be a senior citizen—you simply must desire to have a lasting, positive impact in the life of a child. Foster children come from environments where they were unsafe or neglected, so they need a great deal of TLC and patience as they experience the transition into your family.

Joan Reed is one of the foster parents at GATEWAYS. She knows that she is making a difference for the kids she cares for. When it comes to the rewards of foster parenting, she said, “It’s hard to put into words-- you know you are doing all you can for a child. It’s things like when they look back and smile or give you a kiss goodnight.”

There are several types of foster care, providing opportunities for those who can make a long-term commitment and for those who are only available to help on an occasional basis. Some children only require a standard level of care, while others need extra support to cope with their past experiences. Regardless of the level of care, foster

parents are provided with respite opportunities—a time of rest and rejuvenation for them and a time for a respite foster parent to lend a helping hand for a short time.

The commitment to being a foster parent is a great undertaking but rewarding at the same time. Foster parents with GATEWAYS know that they have support readily available to them through our organization and others in the community. GATEWAYS provides on-going training, monthly reimbursements to provide food, shelter, clothing and personal items for each foster child, medical and dental coverage for each foster child, counseling services for the foster child, a supportive case manager and assistance with transportation for visits with biological parents.

Reed first became a foster parent with GATEWAYS and has been with the organization ever since. “It was the best choice I could have possibly made. I’m glad I’m with GATEWAYS because you don’t feel like you’re on your own,” she said.

Join us in celebrating National Foster Care Month by becoming a foster parent today. Let your home be a “GATEWAY” to love, support, dedication and stability. Please call 253.383.4361 and ask to speak with the foster care licensor to find out more about how you can get involved.

Minimum Licensing Requirements

- You must be at least 21 years old
- Pass a criminal/CPS background check
- Be in good physical/mental health
- Possess a nurturing, non-punitive attitude towards children
- Have room in your house or apartment for a child
- Provide a stable and loving home suitable for a child

THE BEST JOB EVER

Foster Care program seeks new enhanced receiving homes

GATEWAYS for Youth and Families has its roots in foster care and adoption, going back to the days of the orphan trains and the establishment of the organization in 1890 as the Children’s Industrial Home. We are still tied to that history today through our current foster care and adoption program and are always in need of new homes for our kids.

Currently, we are looking for parents interested in providing temporary foster care for children entering care. We hope to build a network of foster homes within each school district in Pierce, Kitsap, South King, and Thurston Counties. At this time, it is very difficult to find comfortable, home-like settings for children entering care. We hope you can provide the security and warmth these children need during their transition.

We are encouraging families with one stay-at-home parent to contact us at 253-383-4361 for further information on this type of foster care. We want to provide these children as much stability as possible.

These enhanced receiving homes focus on serving children entering temporary foster care within the school district where the foster home is located. This allows for continued attendance at their current school or day care center when it is safe to do so. Foster parents are needed for children of all ages and both genders. You may specialize for age and gender based on your preferences. Keeping children in their current school district allows them to experience the security of continued friendships and support from educators who play a huge part in their daily lives.

Foster parenting is a very rewarding experience. Make the choice to make a difference in the life of a child. Open your heart and your home to the possibility of foster care. Call now, 253-383-4361.

Life experiences enhance Chase’s service to Board

Audrey Chase has only been a board member for three months, but she has known about GATEWAYS for Youth and Families for many years. Living at the corner of Vickery and 132nd Street East in Tacoma, she passes by GATEWAYS Jessie Dyslin Ranch on a nearly daily basis and even has friends who benefited from the programs there.

“The reasons I chose to become more active were to help the new programs become a part of the community and to help the people of Pierce County become more familiar with GATEWAYS,” Chase said.

Due to a disabling car accident in 1990, Chase is unable to work on a regular basis. Instead of letting her physical limitation diminish her life, she uses her time to get involved in the community and county government, volunteering wherever she can help out. Former board colleague Mel Curtiss describes her as a woman with a life-affirming outlook.

“It’s hard to derail Audrey,” Curtiss said.

She brings a wealth of experience from her past service on other boards, including the Mid-County Community Planning and Land Use Advisory Boards, as well as the North Clover Creek/Collins Land Use Board.

Currently, she is still active with the North Clover Creek/Collins Community Council, Citizen Advisory Boards for the Pierce County Sheriff and Central Pierce Fire and Rescue and the Policy Council for the



Audrey Chase

Franklin Pierce Head Start program. She also chairs the 25th district Democrats, serves as State Committee Woman for the Pierce County Democrats and was recently elected to serve on the Pierce County Charter Review Commission until June 2006.

Chase is also well-known for her weekly talk show on KLAY 1180 with Frank Blair. Each week, the pair discusses news and politics with listeners on their show, Equal Time.

“The radio show is my way to get to share with the whole world what I think and feel. What I like best is getting to talk to others about

what is happening in the world and listening to what others feel. I am also glad to have the opportunity to help make my community a better place to live by letting listeners know the other side of what they hear about the world we live in,” Chase said.

Chase brings this focus on listening and gaining perspective to her service with GATEWAYS. She wants the community to see each of the individual programs as one organization with the ability to meet a variety of needs in one place.

“When I think of GATEWAYS, what comes to mind is just that it’s a starting point on a path to many different areas, but each area is still part of one large group,” Chase said.

Raising her granddaughter, Hailey Rose, and working to coordinate visitation has opened her eyes to the necessity for the programs that GATEWAYS provides, like the new VASE: Visitation & Safe Exchange program in Lakewood. As part of her commitment to GATEWAYS, Chase is helping to organize the annual dinner and auction, in hopes of not only raising money, but promoting new programs like VASE. She’s dedicated to giving her time and expertise to making a difference at GATEWAYS.

“I firmly believe in ‘you reap what you sow—you get back what you give.’ When you give of yourself, it is the most important part of your life, and when your hour of need comes, you will be surprised at the support you will find for your needs,” Chase said.

GATEWAYS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

1: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

5: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

8: Jessie Dyslin Ranch Tour and Brunch, 10 a.m. to noon

12: STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

13: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

15: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

19: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
GATEWAYS Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 p.m.

20: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

23: Volunteer Appreciation Week begins today!

26: STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

27: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

29: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**IF YOU WANT TO LIFT
YOURSELF UP, LIFT UP
SOMEONE ELSE.**

-BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

MAY

**MAY IS NATIONAL FOSTER
CARE MONTH-PLEASE SEE
THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 6 FOR
MORE INFORMATION!**

3: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

4: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

6: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
GATEWAYS Cinco de Mayo Picnic and Games
Noon to 4 p.m.

10: STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

11: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

13: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

17: STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

18: Foster Care Conference @ GATEWAYS Jessie Dyslin Ranch
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

20: Foster Care Conference at GATEWAYS Jessie Dyslin Ranch

24: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

31: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

JUNE

1: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

3: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

7: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

8: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

14: STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

15: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

17: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

21: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

22: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

23: 80th Anniversary Celebration for Jessie Dyslin Ranch at Cheney Stadium

24: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

28: Impact of Divorce on Children Seminar, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
STEP (Early Childhood)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.
STEP (Teen)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

29: STEP (School-age)
3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A tisket, a tasket a lucky BINGO Easter basket...

Our basket will be filled with lucky Easter eggs giving you the chance to increase your winnings!
Single winners on regular games will have the chance to draw an egg from our basket.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

11:30 a.m., 7 p.m., & 10:45 p.m.

11605 Brideport Way SW in Lakewood
Take I-5 Exit 125
Phone: 253.581.4424

Smoke-free building---Snack Bar---Outdoor Smoking Shelter---
Air conditioned---Warm-ups 10 minutes prior to official starts

Proceeds benefit
GATEWAYS for Youth and Families

Children ages 8 and up who are accompanied by an adult may play BINGO.

GET READY FOR



5th Annual Dinner & Auction **Thursday, October 12** **at the GATEWAYS Bingo Hall** **in Lakewood** **Dinner by Joesepis** **Fabulous live and silent auction items**

All proceeds benefit GATEWAYS for Youth and Families

Thanks to the following early contributors:
Salon Bellezza, University of Washington Huskies, Seattle's
Tillicum Village, Bob Davidson Pin Striping,
Kathy Tchimperle Massage, Hoodspout Winery and SARDA

Look for your reservation form in our July newsletter!

Foundation announces 2006 grant program

In support of the emphasis that GATEWAYS for Youth and Families now places on the philosophy of expanded giving and collaborative service delivery, the **GATEWAYS Foundation** for Youth and Families has begun the solicitation of applicants for grants to be awarded to nonprofit community-based or community-serving organizations that work directly with disadvantaged children, youth or families.

The Foundation anticipates that up to five new awards ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000 will be awarded in 2006. Successful applicants will be funded for one year. The annual grant-making process begins immediately. Grants may be used to start or enhance direct services or programs such as health care, education, job training, counseling, violence prevention, recreation, cultural arts, child care and more for disadvantaged children, youth and families.

To be eligible for consideration for the Direct Services Organizational Grants Program, an applicant must be a not-for-profit community-based or community-serving organization with 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. A "community-based organization" is located in the community or neighborhood it serves with local residents playing an active part in the governance and operation of the organization. A "community-serving organization" may or may not be located in the community it serves. However, children and families from disadvantaged communities must have access to and benefit from the services and programs being offered, and must be the primary beneficiaries of the programs or services to be supported by the grant.

The GATEWAYS Foundation for Youth and Families will also be providing several smaller individual direct service awards during the 2006 grant-making cycle to promote activities aligned with the mission and goals of the GATEWAYS organization to provide opportunities and support to children, youth and families in need. The Foundation will provide information of making nominations for individual direct service awards during the Family Services best practices conferences in the spring and fall. All direct service awards and grants will be announced at the 2006 GATEWAYS annual dinner and charity auction in October.

The Foundation was established in 1999 to provide financial stability and support that underwrites the GATEWAYS mission. Within the organization, the Foundation offers direct financial support for many GATEWAYS endeavors, including the Alternative Suspension Program at Jessie Dyslin Ranch and the Visitation and Safe Exchange Center on Bridgeport Way SW in Lakewood. It will also provide underwriting for a series of best practices conferences for GATEWAYS Family Services.

Please contact Barb Gorzinski, GATEWAYS Foundation Executive Development Officer, at 253.383.4361 for more information or to obtain an application.

Corrections

We make every effort to publish an accurate newsletter each quarter, but mistakes do happen. The following are corrections from our February edition:

Kevin O'Sullivan, one of our board members, was actually a police officer with the city of Mukilteo and a deputy with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office from 1977 until March 1985.

We omitted Myrna Gavett from the list of employees in our 24th anniversary bingo article. She has worked at the hall since 1990. Thanks for your dedication Myrna!