



**For Immediate Release
Monday, Nov. 14, 2011**

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**Countywide Community Forums Announces Partner Grants
Local nonprofits generate over 1,800 surveys during Round 8**

SEATTLE – [Countywide Community Forums of King County](#) (CCF) announced today the recipients of the Partner grants with top grants going to Compass Housing Alliance, Mary's Place, and the MLK FAME Community Center. Partner organizations for Round 8 helped generate over 1,800 survey responses during the King County Budget forums and the special survey for unincorporated area residents – a record-breaking number for CCF's 3-year history.

"This is the first time [Countywide Community Forums](#) (CCF) has provided a grant incentive program for nonprofit organizations in our community," said John Spady, citizen coordinator for the program. "We are very pleased with the strong participation levels, and thanks to the hard work of our partners, we have awarded **\$7,700.00 in grants** and more than doubled survey responses from CCF's best round in October 2010."

Spady added that CCF's [Partner organizations](#) covered a spectrum of services and missions including homeless advocacy, environmental stewardship, and entrepreneurial support for startup companies. "Many participants commented that they were so glad to be able to share their opinions about Metro Transit and county budget issues. For many, it was about the opportunity to be heard for the first time," Spady said.

Compass Housing Alliance \$1,250 grant

Bonus award for generating the largest number of surveys among online and in-person participants -- 283

Mary's Place \$1,500 grant

Bonus award for hosting two in-person forums and for generating the most support during in-person forums

MLK FAME Community Center \$750 grant

Highest number of surveys turned in during a single in-person forum

\$500 Bright Bronze Grant (generated 100 to 199 survey responses)

Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank

RealChange

Valley Cities Counseling

Woodland Park Zoo

\$250 Bronze Grant (generated 50 to 99 survey responses)

Alliance of People with disAbilities

Brettler Family Place/Solid Ground

Multi-Service Center

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The Needle Brigade
White Center Community Development Association

Runner-up grants of \$100 were awarded to organizations that generated 35 to 49 survey responses. Those organizations included the Boys & Girls Club of King County, Counsel on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), *Dick's Drive-In Restaurants*, Issaquah History Museum, Middle Green River Coalition, Our American Generation, and Startup Weekend.

Quotes from CCF Partner organizations:

"We hope that the responses are useful as King County looks at the budget during these tough times. We were especially excited to have guests at our Day Center participate in filling out surveys. It is so important that our supporters and clients have a voice in this process. We want to thank everyone for participating and helping us win this wonderful grant!"

~ **Lindsey Lund, Communications Coordinator of Compass Housing Alliance**

"You took our input on what we needed, you listened, and you wanted to help us create change."

~ **Mary's Place forum participant**

"We were honored to be a part of a coalition that allows citizens to give their comments to the county budget process and proud that we were able to get the largest number of citizens to participate in our gathering. We hope that we can continue the relationship with CCF in the future."

~ **Dr. Norward Brooks, Executive Director MLK FAME Community Center**

"The Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank will be using our \$500 grant for technology improvements. We are improving our technology so that we can be more efficient, track data, work smarter and improve our communications. All of which helps us do business better, which helps us better serve our clients and community in the long run."

~ **Cori Kauk, Executive Director of Issaquah Food and Clothing Bank**

"The surveys are a great way to get a broad cross section of our citizenry involved in local county decision-making. It's been a pleasure participating with CCF and our constituents appreciate the opportunity to share their opinions."

~ **Pam Taylor, Development Director, Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation**

CCF is an independent, nonprofit organization in partnership with King County. Participation in the CCF forums is open to anyone living, working, or going to school in King County. Options include both in-person forums and an online survey. Over 2,000 people have registered to be, what program founders call, a *Citizen Councilor*. To learn more or to register, go to CommunityForums.org or call toll-free at (800) 369-2584.

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