



*The Alliance of Eastside Agencies' (AEA) mission is to build healthy communities in East King County through a strong human services network by providing a strong voice for Eastside health and human services and by promoting organizational excellence among providers.*

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# AEA eNews

*Our new monthly member newsletter – February 2013*

## AEA News!

### ➤ 2013 AEA Members

**We appreciate the following Agencies which have renewed since last newsletter's list:**

AtWork!, Children's Response Center, Consejo, Crisis Clinic, ELAP, Mercer Is. Youth and Family Services, YWCA of King and Snohomish Counties.

**Our membership drive is still on. Renewal is easy! Simply go the AEA website:** [www.allianceofeastsideagencies.org/joinaea.html](http://www.allianceofeastsideagencies.org/joinaea.html), complete the registration information and submit your fee through PayPal. Organizations which prefer to pay by check can submit the e-mail confirmation as an "invoice" to mail with a check to the AEA address (provided in email).

## Featured Member Agency of the Month

### ➤ Athletes for Kids

Athletes For Kids (AFK) is a nonprofit organization which operates a youth mentoring program serving children with special needs and disabilities of all kinds. The "Kids" in their name are children in grades 1 – 8 who are being mentored through their program. The "Athletes" are high school athletes who make a commitment to mentor one child for the duration of their high school career.

Founded on the idea that friendship has the power to restore a child's faith in life, AFK has been serving the special needs community since 2002. Since that

time, they have grown from a small group at one high school to an organization that serves families in Sammamish, Issaquah, Redmond, Bellevue, and neighboring communities. AFK now serves about 120 children annually, and have matched nearly 500 children since their founding.

AFK strives to create communities where all children of all abilities are celebrated by providing dedicated teen mentors to children who are in need of a friend. Through these relationships, the teens begin to recognize that everyone has their own special gifts to offer in life as they learn about inclusion and acceptance. In turn, they model for their peers and other community members that differences in people are something to be embraced, not avoided and that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

AFK was recognized by Leadership Eastside Network with the 2012 LENi Award for Diversity. They also qualified for the Great Nonprofits 2012 Top-Rated List based on positive reviews by families who have been served by AFK.

For more information, please visit their website at [www.athletesforkids.org](http://www.athletesforkids.org). Or contact Teresa Bretl, Executive Director, at [teresabretl@athletesforkids.org](mailto:teresabretl@athletesforkids.org). AFK is interested in collaboration and partnership opportunities with other organizations serving the special needs community.

## Agency News

### ➤ **Together Center Changes include Expanded Sound Mental Health and Newly Available Space**

Changes continue on the Together Center campus, which in 2012 added Family Housing Connection, Friends of Youth Homeless Youth Service Center, Leadership Eastside, LifeSPAN and Young Women Empowered, while growing space for Habitat for Humanity and HealthPoint.

Sound Mental Health is currently renovating a space vacated by Friends of Youth administration. They will be moving across the campus into their much larger digs by March 1. They are preparing for what they expect will be a larger demand as a result of changes in health care, both in terms of Medicaid eligibility and insurance parity between mental and physical healthcare.

Habitat for Humanity of East King County has joined with their neighboring sister organization to become Habitat for Humanity of Seattle-King County. They will move to their Renton offices at the end of April.

As a result of these and other moves, Together Center currently has the following spaces available for lease:

A-9 with 954 square feet available now

B-12 with 357 square feet available now

C-1 with 1,784 square feet available March 1  
A-10 with 2,687 square feet available May 1

Together Center is a multi-tenant nonprofit campus with 18 health, housing and human services agencies, cultural navigators, free public phones, information and referral and other program supports. Contact Pam Mauk for more information at [pamm@togethercenter.org](mailto:pamm@togethercenter.org) or 425-869-1174.

- **Congregations for the Homeless opens Day Center in Bellevue**  
CFH has opened the first ever day center for homeless men in Bellevue on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The Center provides homeless men the opportunity to take a shower, have breakfast and lunch, do laundry, look for work, take a computer class, or just stay in from the cold. It fills the gap for men who have stayed at one of the evening shelters or slept on the street the night before. It operates 5 days a week, Monday to Friday, from 8 am to 3 pm and is located at Bellevue First Congregational Church at the corner of NE 8th and 108th NE in downtown Bellevue.

It is part of CFH's mission to help homeless men return to self-sufficiency. The Day Center provides a safe and welcoming atmosphere where men can use resources to start changing their situation one step at a time. CFH welcomes all volunteers who are interested in helping with their mission. Contact Henry DelleChiaie at 206-605-9337 or David John Bowling at 425-749-8369 or go to their website, [www.cfhomeless.org](http://www.cfhomeless.org) for more information.

## Training/Workshops

- **Emergency Preparedness**  
FREE, all day workshop on Thursday, March 21, 2013 from 10 AM to 4 PM at Renton Community Center. **Emergency Preparedness and Response for Community Based Organizations with ANA MARIE JONES from *Collaborating Agencies Responding to Disasters***. Hear new and exciting information from Ana Marie Jones on how everyday brilliance can make you, your staff and your agency more resilient in an emergency. The target audience for this event is community based, faith based, and human service agencies. Lunch is provided. For more information contact: Robin Pfohman: 206-263-8759 or email to [robin.pfohman@kingcounty.gov](mailto:robin.pfohman@kingcounty.gov)

Space is limited so register today for this FREE workshop here:  
<http://vulnerablepopulationsplanning.eventbrite.com/>

## Advocacy

- **The One Night Count**  
The One Night Count of homeless people in King County took place early in the morning of Jan. 25, 2013. 2,736 men, women and children had no shelter in King

County that night, a small increase over those found without shelter last year (2,594 people).

The Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, an independent coalition of organizations and individuals that works on homelessness issues in our region, organizes the count, now in its 33rd year.

Teams of volunteers with trained leaders are dispatched from ten locations throughout the county to count every person they see outside overnight on one night in January. Approximately 800 volunteers counted people trying to survive in cars, tents, all night buses, hospital emergency rooms, or curled up in blankets under bridges or in doorways.

The primary purpose of the One Night Count is to document how many people lack basic shelter; it does not include those who are staying in shelters and transitional housing, who are counted separately. Many communities across the country participate in such “point-in-time” counts. The data inform elected officials and planners at all levels of government about the extent of homelessness in their community.

In 2005, a regionally adopted Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness was launched to address the needs of those who lack shelter. Since then, more than 30,000 people have left homelessness and more than 5,000 new housing units have been created for people who were once homeless. “While we are creating housing and preventing homelessness for thousands of people each year, we cannot ignore the continuing level of need as evident in today’s count,” said Gretchen Bruce, Acting Director for the Committee to End Homelessness. “The One Night Count demonstrates the important role of our state and federal partners to secure resources to address the crisis of homelessness.” [Excerpted from the newsletter, “Resource Talk.”]

➤ **Raising Awareness for Diaper Need**

It can cost \$100 or more each month to keep a baby in diapers. Yet no safety-net program of any kind at the federal or state level provides recipients help with buying diapers. Very poor families get help for food through various federally supported programs, and sometimes receive assistance for housing, and specially targeted funds support programs for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). But WIC and food assistance programs cannot be used for diapers, and other programs like Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF) do not provide a line especially dedicated to the additional expense of diapers. And, while federal law has come to recognize that diapers can be a medical “necessity” for adults and older children with special needs, no federal law makes that same point—that diapers are medical necessities for babies.

For more information, contact Mia Reyes, Communications Specialist, Eastside Baby Corner at [miar@babycorner.org](mailto:miar@babycorner.org) or 425-865-0234 x709.

➤ ***Thanks for reading our newsletter. Watch for us next month.***  
**- AEA Board of Directors**