Welcome to our 1st Issue of our KYFS Newsletter!

We are very excited to present our first newsletter to our community. Our goal is to keep you informed on “what KYFS is up to” and to offer you a small sample of what this community resource is for you. Whether you’re new to us or an old friend living in Kent, Covington, South King County and beyond, our hope is to continue to help make our communities strong by bringing you helpful information, ideas, and a little fun! Throughout the year, we will send you stories and insights from our board, staff, and community leaders as well as KYFS kids and families. Do you have an idea or a success story to share? Maybe you’ve heard of an upcoming community event that we should all support. Did you just read a great parenting book or visit a website you’d like to suggest to other parents? Send us your ideas so we can help support each other and grow together!

There are so many interesting experiences and opportunities to learn and our newsletter is just one way we can share that information. Another way KYFS will be reaching out to you is through our newly designed website filled with helpful information, resources and links. The new KYFS website is due to launch in early 2009 so keep watching!

Kent Youth and Family Services is here to support you. So stay “tuned in and logged on…” over the coming months and years. We’ll always be at www.kyfs.org and working for you!

From the Boardroom  by Carla Dean, KYFS Board President

The year 2008 has been interesting and eventful for us in the KYFS boardroom. We began the year with a strategic planning session that led us to some purposeful changes and a renewed focus on the best ways we can support the children and families who are engaged in our programs. The board was also honored to have many community and government leaders attend our monthly meetings. These leaders have helped educate and inform us about important decisions impacting our community and how we can be involved.
King County is facing a $93 million deficit in 2009. On November 6th, KYFS Board of Directors were privileged to host Kurt Triplett, Chief of Staff to King County Executive, Ron Sims, and Esther Handy, assistant to Triplett to discuss King County’s budget proposal for 2009. Kurt talked about the proposed “tools” county governments across Washington will request of the state legislature in January ‘09 to repair long time “structural deficit” facing all county governments.

The cities of Kent and Covington have long supported the funding of human services, health and housing out of their respective city’s general funds. Our cities have successfully partnered with King County providing KYFS with the ability to be a resource for many children and families. Aside from the current economic environment we all find ourselves in, many county governments have been confronted with this “structural deficit” situation for years. It is in all our interest to monitor the efforts of our county governments and their use of resources we all provide them. It’s also in all of our interest to monitor our state legislature when it convenes in January ‘09. This is when our state legislature is being asked to provide counties across the state with the tools necessary to repair the existing structural problem for county governments and it’s a very challenging assignment. Because the state legislature will make important decisions that will impact everyone, we all need to stay informed and involved. The State of Washington and King County’s websites are both extremely informative. We’d encourage you to make either of these websites your “homepage” for services or information you might need: