

OlyCAP Receives Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grant

OlyCAP has received a grant of \$200,000 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support the purchase of its administrative offices. OlyCAP had moved to its offices in the Port Townsend Business Park in 2005 to improve accessibility and increase capacity to provide services. The new facilities have had a major impact on service levels. The number of families served grew by more than 50% following the move to the new facility. OlyCAP is planning an Open House in the fall to give the public an opportunity to see the buildings and learn about the organization. Tim Hockett, OlyCAP's executive director, announced the grant, noting that "We were thrilled to receive a call from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation with the news that the foundation was prepared to offer support for our mission to help the community here on the peninsula." The award will match locally raised funds for the next two years up to the \$200,000 grant amount and the total amount raised will help further offset the cost of the purchase of the Port Townsend office complex. "This grant, by fostering local support, will provide up to \$400,000 to apply against the purchase," said Hockett. "We are very grateful to the foundation not just for their support, but for their encouragement to involve the community in OlyCAP's mission."

Funding for the \$2.1 million purchase was arranged through loans from First Federal Savings and the USDA and a Community Services Facilities Award of \$400,000 from the State of Washington. "Everyone worked hard on this," said Hockett. "Our staff worked hard on the grant applications and on follow-up questions the foundation team had. First Federal and the USDA made sure we could meet deadlines and cooperated to get the purchase completed." The purchase will help OlyCAP achieve about \$100,000 a year reduction in expenses and strengthen their ability to provide a wide range of services to communities throughout Jefferson and Clallam Counties.

About Olympic Community Action Programs

OlyCAP is the Peninsula's largest non-profit community services agency, integrating programs that assist low-income individuals and families. OlyCAP administers a diversity of programs supporting families throughout Jefferson and Clallam counties. These include Meals on Wheels, Head Start and Early Childhood Education Assistance, Home Care services, the Encore! Adult Day Care Center in Port Angeles, home weatherization, and housing rehabilitation.

About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. In developing countries, it focuses on improving people's health and giving them the chance to lift themselves out of hunger and extreme poverty. In the United States, it seeks to ensure that all people-especially those with the fewest resources-have access to the opportunities they need to succeed in school and life. Based in Seattle, the foundation is led by CEO Patty Stonesifer and Co-chair William H. Gates Sr., under the direction of Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett.