



## New school year, new vision, new goals!

### CSC sets new directions for the future.

A new school year always brings changes!

At CSC, we want to make sure these changes are for the better. Like you, we're troubled by the prolonged recession and the pressing educational needs of our young people. And four years after our expansion from Tukwila into the Highline Schools, you might be asking us, "What's next?"

We are near the end of a strategic planning process to address this question. You may have already noticed some differences:

- **A new logo:** brighter, bolder, and easier to remember!
- **A more focused mission:** CSC exists to provide children and youth with opportunities to succeed in school, to develop high aspirations, and to create a better world.
- **And a new vision,** expressing our greatest hope: All children and youth reach their full potential and realize their dreams.

We need **you** to make this vision a reality! In the coming months, we'll share more about CSC's exciting new directions and how you can help. **Together, we will change the lives of thousands of young people!** Thank you for your support.

## Full circle: a student returns

### Former student joins CSC staff.

Welcome back, Ben Lealofi! As the new Tukwila Transition Coordinator, Ben is the first former CSC student to join us as a fulltime staff member.

**"I came back to a community that gave so much to me."**

[Learn more about Ben on p. 2](#)



## Goats go to school!

### Volunteers - and goats - serve a CSC partner school.

On Friday, September 16th, nine volunteers from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—and 15 goats—joined staff from CSC at Thorndyke Elementary School in Tukwila for a day of "Goats, Gates and (Reading) Gains!"

[Learn more on p. 2](#)

## About CSC

Community Schools Collaboration (CSC) exists to provide children and youth with opportunities to succeed in school, to develop high aspirations, and to create a better world. Our vision is that all children and youth reach their full potential and realize their dreams.

CSC works with 20 community schools in the Tukwila and Highline School Districts of South King County, WA. We offer academic support, enrichment, health services and family engagement programs to students in grades K-12.

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**Full circle: a student returns** *Continued from p. 1*

When Ben Lealofi entered Tukwila's Foster High School in 2002, he embraced the opportunities offered by CSC, particularly academic support. In CSC's after-school environment, he and several friends developed the Multicultural Action Committee (MAC), to give Foster's diverse student population "a chance to learn about each other's cultures and enrich each other." CSC students are involved in MAC to this day.

**"CSC helped me see the options I had."**

CSC staff also helped Ben explore college and financial aid options. This support enabled him to attend the University of Washington, where he was a Gates Millennium Scholar. Ben earned a degree in anthropology with a minor in diversity.

At UW, Ben was actively involved in student body leadership, mentoring programs, and the University's Dream Project, which helps low-income and first generation high school students prepare for college.

**"Education is the key. If kids grasp it, the world is their own."**

Ben is excited to serve as Tukwila's first Transition Coordinator. CSC's Transition program, begun in Highline two years ago, helps middle school students prepare for success in the upper grades. "I want to help students mature and realize their potential," says Ben. "Education is the key. If kids grasp it, the world is their own."

**Goats go to school!** *Continued from p. 1*



As part of United Way of King County's annual "Day of Caring," the Gates Foundation team helped to remove prickly, invasive blackberry bushes on the grounds of Thorndyke Elementary, one of CSC's school partners.

To the mutual delight of the students and animals, CSC brought in 15 goats from Amazin' Grazers to eat through the bushes. The volunteers and CSC staff followed behind to hack branches and dig up roots.



**"Read to me, please!"**



One of the best parts of the day (and a much needed break!) occurred mid-afternoon. The Gates volunteers joined Thorndyke fourth graders to read stories about the natural world. When asked what she enjoyed most, Melissa Dillon, the project leader from the Gates Foundation, replied, "It was a toss-up between the goats and the kids."

**Before...**



Thorndyke Principal Brian Hutchison added, "This was great fun for the kids, both watching the goats and interacting with the volunteers. This project was one of those things that seems small, but helps so much to make the school more attractive and safe. Everyone chipped in with a big smile, and we really appreciate it."

**... After!**



**Changing how we  
"do school"**

**New partnership  
guides cities and  
schools**

Last March, CSC hosted a very successful "Community Schools Learning Lab." More than 200 educators and community members from 20 states attended. The three-day hands-on event focused on working together for student success.

As a follow-up, CSC formed the **West Coast Collaborative** with LEAP (Los Angeles Education Partnership) and SUN (Schools Uniting Neighborhoods) of Multnomah County, Oregon. The group's goal is to help build and strengthen community schools on the West Coast.



As part of this effort, CSC is currently providing site visits and technical assistance for:

- ~ Tacoma 360
- ~ Everett Public Schools and neighboring human service agencies
- ~ Several sites in the Seattle and Renton School Districts

To learn more or request technical assistance, please email Deborah Salas, CSC Executive Director, at [DeborahS@cscwa.org](mailto:DeborahS@cscwa.org).