

A place to  
call HOME.



## eNewsletter

"Our mission is to support and develop affordable housing as a foundation upon which individuals, families and neighborhoods can build vital communities."

February 2010

[communityframeworks.org](http://communityframeworks.org)

Issue Four

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### Upcoming Events:

#### Education Classes

at Spokane Offices

Feb. 17, 6 p.m.

Mortgage Basics

#### Information Meetings

Feb 22, 6 p.m.

At Offices

Feb 24, 6 p.m.

Spokane Valley  
Library

[More information](#)

### Save the Date!

March 17, 2010

"Passport to  
Ireland"

Northern Quest  
Resort and Casino

## Come try DryFly Distillery vodka and gin on St. Patrick's Day

Join us to celebrate the spirit of St. Patrick's Day with Irish food, live music and spirits tasting by reserving your spot for "Passport to Ireland," our first celebration and fundraiser. The event features tasting from Laughing Dog Brewery, Guinness Irish Beers from World Class Beverages, selected regional wines and DryFly Distilling's locally crafted gin and vodka.

DryFly Distilling Inc., Washington's first grain distillery since Prohibition, produces premium small batch vodka, gin and whiskey. Located in the heart of Spokane, DryFly uses only regional ingredients for its craft distilled products. Many thanks to DryFly for their support!

Guests of "Passport to Ireland" will have the opportunity to taste DryFly vodka and gin along with a specialty mixed drink made with DryFly products. Don't miss "Passport to Ireland," March 17, 2010 at 6 p.m. at Northern Quest Resort and Casino. See right for more details.

All proceeds benefit Community Frameworks' local first-time homeownership and homebuyer education efforts. Reservations are \$35 per person and table sponsorships are \$350.

Visit our [web site](#) to RSVP.



## Supportive Therapeutic Housing in Okanogan County \$2.98 million project to open in March



Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare (OBHC) is committed to serving the mental and behavioral health needs of Omak, Washington. As a non-profit organization, they provide counseling, case management, skills training, treatment and prevention education for those with mental health issues, chemical dependency or developmental disabilities.

However, OBHC realized the lack of affordable housing was causing setbacks in the progress of their chemically dependent and mentally ill clients. To find a solution, OBHC contacted Community Frameworks to find a way to

meet these unique housing needs.

"They came to us looking for help," Community Frameworks Project Manager Ginger Segel said, "Their clients had housing problems and it was an obstacle for their treatment."

Okanogan County is one of the poorest counties in the state and many struggle to find affordable housing, said Segel. "There isn't housing period," Roger Bauer, CEO of Okanogan Behavioral HealthCare, said. "Let alone housing for those who are homeless or those with chemical dependency or mental health issues." [read more](#)

## Construction begins on permanent affordable housing

Blue Mountain Action Council of Walla Walla, Washington has begun construction on Paine Court, a 12-unit permanent housing facility and resource center that will empower homeless families with job training and family services as they learn the skills to live independent lives.

Blue Mountain Action Council is a non-profit community partnership committed to feeding, housing and supporting low-income and special needs populations. The needs assessment and financial package was facilitated by Community Frameworks Development Services Team.

"We couldn't have done any of it without Community Frameworks," Steve Moss, CEO of BMAC said. "They've been a fantastic partner, assisting us with housing development and rehabilitation since 2003."

The \$2.5 million project concept began in 2008 when the Supportive Housing Institute included the Blue Mountain Action Council (BMAC) in training seminars to spur the



development of supportive permanent housing in underserved areas. The ideology presented at the seminar emphasized permanent, rather than transitional, housing as the best solution for transitioning homeless people to stable, independent lives. Paine Court will be based on the housing first model, with social services tailored to the needs of the individual residents over time.

According to a regional community needs [read more](#)

### Our Locations

Spokane Office:

315 W Mission Ave  
Suite 100

509-484-6733

Bremerton Office:

409 Pacific Avenue  
Suite 303

360-377-7738

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Your support helps fulfill dreams. Your support gives people a place to call home.

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To remove your name from our mailing list, please reply to this email "Please Remove Me From List." Questions or Comments?  
Email: [annp@communityframeworks.org](mailto:annp@communityframeworks.org) or call 509-484-6733. [Archived Newsletters](#)

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## >>> Shelter and supportive housing

With this in mind, Community Frameworks conducted focus groups, feasibility testing and priority analysis to narrow the project design to an emergency shelter with permanent housing adjacent to the current healthcare facility.

This 12,500 square foot facility will house 16-18 people in 10 dormitory-style bedrooms and nine two-and-three-bedroom apartments. The \$2.98 million project began in 2007 and will help transition people with chemical dependency and mental illness into a stable housing environment while they receive training in basic life skills to support independent living.

Funding for the project came from Okanogan County, the Washington State Housing Trust Fund, HUD McKinney Supportive Housing Program and private donor contributions.

For the OBHC staff, the building has exceeded their expectations.

"Our wishes have all come true. Once we got it started, it's gone so fast it's almost taken our breath away," Bauer said, "It is an absolutely gorgeous facility. It's a blessing to Okanogan County."

This facility is the only permanent affordable housing facility in the county—although nearly one percent of the county's population is homeless.

Bauer and staff are enthusiastic about the impact on their

clients and the community.

With the facility OBHC will be able to stabilize the living situation of those in crisis, homeless persons, those going in and out of the hospital because they aren't taking medications correctly, those with chemical dependency, mental illness and those charged with non-violent drug offenses.

"We really are focusing on housing for a very underserved population in our county. Everyone who is in this facility will be actively engaged in clinical treatment," Bauer said.

This project will be the next step in helping their clients live independent, sober and drug-free lives. The staff hopes the project will inspire other agencies to do similar projects, Bauer said.

"It makes a bigger statement to the county about what is possible," Bauer said. "None of it would have been possible without Community Frameworks."



## >>> Paine Court

assessment performed by BMAC in 1994, homelessness is a significant issue in the region. Although Walla Walla had shelters and transitional housing, the region had no permanent housing for homeless families with children—the fastest growing group of homeless people.

In order to meet these needs, BMAC purchased land and designed a project to support permanent housing paired with supportive services. "To be able to coordinate those resources and curb the growing issue of homelessness... To be able to address that in Walla Walla is extremely important," Moss said.

The Paine Court project will include two and three bedroom apartments for 11 families and a 1600 square foot community building with a shared kitchen, laundry and office space for the resident manager. The on-site resident manager will coordinate resources for Paine Court tenants.

"We're providing more than just housing. The Paine Court housing concept allows us to create a coordinated effort to bring services on site. The top issues [of their clients] are substance abuse, joblessness and family development," Moss said. "All of those will be supported through the community building."

Tenants will pay 30% of their income for housing and will be allowed to stay as long as is needed to stabilize employment and family situation. The Washington State Housing Trust Fund Operations and Maintenance fund will assist



the ongoing operations of the project.

The facility will offer health services through Student Health Options of Walla Walla and BMAC is exploring the feasibility of an Early Head Start Program through Children's Home Society of Washington. The project is located within walking distance to downtown Walla Walla and near a bus route, meeting criteria the Supportive Housing Institute established for effective, high-quality housing with supportive services for special needs populations.

While BMAC is no stranger to housing, (it currently operates 17 properties with more than 140 units of special needs housing) this permanent housing project is the first of its kind, which is a "terribly exciting" new beginning for Moss. Moss and his staff hope this new facility will bring the needed stability and skills into the lives of homeless families so they can flourish independently.

## Complete and return census data in March 2010

Every 10 years the U.S. Census Bureau gathers population data from the people living in the United States. The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade.

2010 Census data will directly affect how more than \$4 trillion is allocated to local, state and tribal governments over the next 10 years. In order for this funding allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once and count them in the right place.

The facts gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the rest of the decade about public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior services and much more. An accurate count of the U.S. population is imperative in order to allocate these resources effectively.

Community Frameworks is committed to building awareness of the importance of completing and returning the ten-minute survey. Data can only be collected if mailed back. Participation is not voluntary, it's mandatory.

For more information visit: [Census 2010](#)

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