

At The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, we welcome the New Year with several new initiatives. Our staff has taken a deep look at our work in the context of dynamic community changes. We've emerged from this inquiry with greater clarity about the impact we hope to make and the strategies we will employ. And we are energized about the year ahead.

At its core, the Foundation remains committed to supporting the **growth of vital communities** – places where creativity, innovation, cooperation, and stewardship flourish. We remain excited to partner with regional nonprofit organizations focused on these same goals.

2012 Initiatives

In **education**, we've refined our grant making strategy in response to the field's evolving needs. Building on our Great Teachers/Great Schools initiative, the Foundation will partner with public schools and districts in Washington and Oregon to implement sustainable, research-based improvements that lead to measurable gains in student achievement. Working with visionary leaders, we will support projects that integrate rigorous academics with real-world learning.

We continue to recognize the vital role that **libraries** and librarians play in the Pacific Northwest and the changing environment in which they operate. This year, we will work with libraries in Washington State and Multnomah County, Oregon, to help them best connect with their patrons. Through an RFP process, we will offer "risk capital" for development and experimentation of new models for patron service.

The Foundation will continue to support local organizations that help Washington's most vulnerable residents through our **Basic Needs** Program – previously supported under our Emergency Relief Program. The continuing economic downturn and Washington's budget shortfall have left many individuals and families unable to meet their basic needs. In response, the Foundation will provide support to nonprofit organizations that provide food, shelter, and other assistance to those most impacted by the current economic climate.

We are also pleased to announce new **creative leadership awards**. These awards will recognize individuals and organizations in the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, and Alaska) that are adapting to and thriving in today's challenging environment. These "bright spots" take risks to deliver on their mission and improve the lives of those around them. Award nominations will be elicited in Spring 2012.

These changes and initiatives will be complemented with the Foundation's continuing region-wide work in the areas of Science and Technology, Arts and Culture, and Asset Building.

In addition to the initiatives, we are pleased to announce the release of our new logo. As the Foundation defines its third decade, we wanted to reflect our fresh and distinctive approach to delivering on our mission of transforming lives and strengthening communities.

Please explore our updated website for additional details on all these efforts.