

# Gates Foundation partnership focuses on hunger

## *Rural Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania counties benefit*

**The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Community Foundation** will soon partner to address the growing problem of hunger, bringing significant relief to the residents of rural southwest Washington communities who are increasingly in need of food.

**A new infusion of charitable dollars will purchase food for nutritionally balanced meals,** while also supporting one-time purchases to help food banks function more effectively. Funds will provide a replacement refrigeration unit in Stevenson; equipment and food for a mobile food

bank to serve La Center; and support for seven food banks serving Cowlitz County.

**Up to \$150,000 will be directed toward this urgent issue** – \$75,000 funded by the Gates Foundation and the remainder matched by Community Foundation grants programs, fund holders and additional local supporters. As always, the Community Foundation will provide careful oversight as we distribute these grant dollars to nonprofits that serve the hungry.

**Interested in supporting this vital initiative?** Contact Anne Digenis, Program Officer, at 360-694-2550 or [anne@cfsww.org](mailto:anne@cfsww.org)

### New dollars for increased needs:

#### Clark County

Population . . . . . **415,000**  
 Children on Federal Free & Reduced Price Lunch Program . . . . . **40 percent**  
 Receiving Food Assistance . . . . . **9 percent**  
 Increase in need 2009 vs. 2008 . . . . . **15 percent**

#### Cowlitz County

Population . . . . . **101,252**  
 Children on Federal Free & Reduced Price Lunch Program . . . . . **47.5 percent**  
 Receiving Food Assistance . . . . . **14 percent**  
 Increase in need 2009 vs. 2008 . . . . . **8 percent**

#### Skamania County

Population . . . . . **10,794**  
 Children on Federal Free & Reduced Price Lunch Program . . . . . **38.5 percent**  
 Receiving Food Assistance . . . . . **8 percent**  
 Increase in need 2009 vs. 2008 . . . . . **9 percent**



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Established in 1984, the Community Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt public foundation which collects, administers and distributes philanthropic funds for the benefit of charitable causes.



Confirmed in Compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations