

PEPS Receives \$25,000 Grant

Program for Early Parent Support (PEPS) is pleased to announce that they have received a \$25,000 grant from the Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation, to fund the PEPS Teen Parent Program.

PEPS' mission, "providing community-based programs that enable parents of infants and young children to meet the challenges of parenting through mutual support and shared information," has never been more relevant than in today's world of new understanding about how a child's brain develops. Research has confirmed that the first three years of life are critical to a child's development.

PEPS' Teen Parent Program is a two-pronged prevention program. First, support groups provide a safe place for young parents to discuss their concerns and insights, learn from each other, and learn from their facilitator. Second, a multi-media

presentation called "How My Life Has Changed" is used with teen parents at GED and work-training sites. In the words of one teen participant, "PETS is the only place I can go where I am not stigmatized or preached to. I feel more confident about making it through life."

The Teen Parent Program targets parents ranging from 14 to 20 years of age. Seventy-four percent live under 200% of poverty, with 64% being under 100% of poverty. The teens are ethnically diverse.

Two of the highest risk factors predicting child abuse and neglect are parental isolation and children being raised by teen parents. Poverty is also often a barrier to optimum development of children. Says Jody Patton, Executive Director of the Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation, "We are delighted to partner with PEPS, an organization that understands the importance of parenting and has

designed its programs to meet the needs of teenage parents in the venues where they are training to go back to work. While only a beginning, teens participating in PEPS programs are acknowledging the overall importance of good parenting."

The Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation supports a wide variety of charitable endeavors in the Pacific Northwest. The Foundation is dedicated to promoting the health and development of vulnerable populations and to strengthening families and communities. The Foundation invests in projects and programs that address social challenges and promote positive change. Past grant recipients have included YMCA of Greater Seattle, The American Red Cross, and Chicken Soup Brigade.

Founded in 1988, the Paul G. Allen Charitable Foundation is administered through Vulcan Northwest, Inc., of Bellevue, Washington.

Garfield High School Teacher Honored

Kjell Rye, a teacher at Garfield High School, has been honored with an Innovation in Teaching Award from the Washington Software Foundation.

Rye, one of five teachers statewide to receive the award, was selected by a panel of experts for his innovative approach to using technology as a tool to teach mathematics and science in at-risk communities.

Rye impressed panelists with "a quintessential example of the power of technology." He has taken his students to Mexico, Mozambique and Russia where they installed computers in orphanages and schools. Students lead, organize, fund and implement "Computers for the World," a non-profit program that has donated computers to countries on every continent except Antarctica.

Students build the networks, calculate bearing loads, budget the project, research the problem, convert the power supply and find hundreds of practical

and technological applications for the theories they learn in math and science classes.

Their most recent success was installing 105 computers in 12 labs, providing training for

students and organizing lab management for schools in Mozambique.

Other Innovation in Teaching award winners were from schools in Spokane, Richland and Waterville.

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