



*Our purpose is to create opportunities to effect change for the betterment of women of all nationalities through the development, support and promotion of women as leaders and through international and intercultural communication among women.*

*Our mission is to provide encouragement and opportunities for women to improve their status and that of their families.*

**D e c e m b e r 2 0 1 0**

## **WORLD WIDE SCHOOLS-WATER**

World Wide Schools is the global education program of the Peace Corps, created especially to engage American students in inquiry about the world in order to promote peace through understanding and friendship. Lesson plans, "Destination" videos/study guides, classroom speakers, primary resources, and correspondence matches introduce authentic, real-world experiences into the classroom in ways unmatched by textbooks.

Khoto, Pula, Nala!

Peace, Rain, Prosperity! This national motto of Lesotho and greeting used by the Basotho is an appropriate way to welcome you to the Water in Africa website. It reflects the deep connection of water to all aspects of life in African countries, a concept [Coverdell World Wise Schools](#) has tried to capture in the resources and learning units featured on this site.

Funded through a grant from the [Department of Education](#), the Water in Africa project was realized over a two-year period by a [team](#) of Peace Corps Volunteers.

For information [www.peacecorps.gov/wws](http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws).

**More than 1 in 6 people in the world don't have access to safe drinking water.**

**1 out of every 4 deaths under the age of 5 worldwide is due to a water-related disease.**

**Nearly 80% of illnesses in developing countries are linked to poor water and sanitation.**



## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

The theme for Human Rights Day 10 December 2010 is human rights defenders who act to end discrimination.

Human rights defenders acting against discrimination, often at great personal risk to both themselves and their families, are being recognized and acclaimed on this day.

Human rights defenders speak out against abuse and violations including discrimination, exclusion, oppression and violence. They advocate justice and seek to protect the victims of human rights violations. They demand accountability for perpetrators and transparency in government action. In so doing, they are often putting at risk their own safety, and that of their families. Some human rights defenders are famous, but most are not. They are active in every part of the world, working alone and in groups, in local communities, in national politics and internationally.

Human Rights Day 2010 will highlight and promote the achievements of human rights defenders and it will again emphasize the primary role Governments must play in enabling and protecting their role. The Day is also intended to inspire a new generation of defenders to speak up and take action to end discrimination in all of its forms whenever and wherever it is manifested.

### RESULTS /[www.results.org](http://www.results.org)

RESULTS and RESULTS Educational Fund (REF) are sister organizations that, together, are a leading force in ending poverty in the United States and around the world. We create long-term solutions to poverty by supporting programs that address its root causes — lack of access to medical care, education, or opportunity to move up the economic ladder. We do this by empowering ordinary people to become extraordinary voices for the end of poverty in their communities, the media, and the halls of government. **MOTO: Speak Powerfully, Inspire Decision Makers, Write Letters, Generate Media.**

# FACT

HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTE

## THE ONLY WAY TO GUARANTEE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS TO HAVE EQUAL EDUCATION - John Legend, 2010 BET AWARDS

### TACOMA NAMES NEW HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN SERVICES DIR.

Linda Villegas Bremer was named Tacoma's new Human Rights and Human Services Department director following a national search and competitive interview process. Bremer has served as interim director of the department since Sept. 9, 2010, and she will step into her permanent role on Nov. 15, 2010, with a starting salary of \$131,684.

"Linda brings a breadth and depth of experience that will serve the department and its customers well," said City Manager Eric Anderson. "Under her leadership, the department is well poised to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next biennium."

Bremer is a veteran manager who served as the Director of Washington's General Administration Agency and as a member of the Governor's Cabinet until earlier this year, when she was appointed as a member of the state's Liquor Control Board.

### FORTSON ELECTED TO NATIONAL NOW BOARD

China Fortson, board member of Women of Vision, was recently elected from the Northwest Region to be Northwest Regional Director, and director of National Board. She will chair and direct the Region - Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. Congratulations China.



## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

### OASIS

Oasis is a confidential drop-in and resource center for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) youth ages 14-24 in Pierce County. Contact Us, Office Phone: 253-671-2838

[oasisyouthcenter@gmail.com](mailto:oasisyouthcenter@gmail.com) [facebook.com/oasisyouthcenter](https://www.facebook.com/oasisyouthcenter)

### WASHINGTON STATE SEXUAL ASSAULT COALITION

Be the solution, know someone who needs help, training, referrals to local agencies? Ending sexual violence takes all of us. [www.wcsap.org](http://www.wcsap.org)

### SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER OF PIERCE COUNTY

Sexual assault affects us all. Its time to change attitudes that promote sexual assault. Get the facts. Correct the myths and get involved. Most sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows (84%), and the most common place is the victims home. Rape victims believe that know one will believe them. We must show victims that we believe in them! Sexual Assault Crisis Line, 253-474-7273. Sexual Assault Awareness Month is in April.

Or call the national line (where at you can reach your local crisis center at any time) National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.656.HOPE (4673).

### ALTRUSA

Altrusa International, Inc. is an international association of business executives and professionals who volunteer their energies and expertise in projects dedicated to community betterment. As a community service organization, Altrusa espouses volunteerism and service, advocates for literacy, and helps combat HIV/AIDS. Altrusa is an international organization comprised of more than 10,000 members. Do you know that Eleanor Roosevelt was an Altrusa member in New York City, and helped form a club in Albany. Altrusa chapters are in Washington State, go to [www.altrusa.com](http://www.altrusa.com) to find a local chapter. Tacoma Chapter has helped the YWCA Shelter and Pierce County has worked with local schools.

# DIVERSITY PAGE

## World AIDS Day 2010 - Universal Access & Human Rights

The first World AIDS Day was in 1988 and was started as a method of raising awareness of HIV and AIDS. Every December 1 since that first year, people around the world observe World AIDS Day not only to raise awareness but also to raise much needed funding for costly HIV care and prevention around the world. World AIDS Day 2010 will be held as it is every year on December 1; the theme "**Universal Access and Human Rights**".

### **Free Film Screening of PANDEMIC: FACING AIDS in honor of World AIDS Day**

Wednesday, December 1, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Grand Cinema

606 South Fawcett Avenue (Tacoma)

Having affected 40 million people and counting, HIV/AIDS has wreaked immeasurable havoc during its decades of aggressive assault. Using images taken by famous photographers, Pandemic: Facing AIDS addresses key aspects of the global AIDS pandemic through personal perspectives of the men, women and children for whom this disease isn't just front-page news.

### December 26-January 1 Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is an African-American holiday based on the agricultural celebration of Africa called "the first fruits" celebrations, which celebrate the times of harvest, gathering, reverence, commemoration of the past, recommitment to cultural ideals, and celebration of the good. Learn more about [Kwanzaa](#).

Please submit any articles to Judie Fortier, Newsletter Editor and Secretary for Women of Vision, by December 15 2010, [mstplaza@comcast.net](mailto:mstplaza@comcast.net)