



**Snohomish County**  
**Office of the Executive**  
**Aaron Reardon**  
*County Executive*

## **Media Advisory – January 28, 2008**

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### **Public invited to join February Have a Heart rally** *County to honor children with joint resolution*

Looking to increase awareness of issues impacting children, Snohomish County will celebrate February as “Have a Heart for Kids Month.”

Along with the designation, Snohomish County again will sponsor an annual rally honoring more than 180,000 children living in the county.

The rally, scheduled for 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13 at the county’s Courtyard Plaza, 3000 Rockefeller Avenue in Everett, has become a tradition for child advocates throughout the region. Following scheduled speakers – including County Executive Aaron Reardon and Winnie Corral, chairwoman of the Snohomish County Children’s Commission – rally participants will march to the steps of the Snohomish County Courthouse, form a large heart and shout, “We Value Kids.”

“As a father, I recognize the importance of protecting and developing the needs of Snohomish County’s children,” Reardon said. “This is an opportunity for us all to take stock of our efforts, so as to ensure our children’s future in this county is bright.”

The joint resolution comes in response to a recommendation made by the Snohomish County Children’s Commission, the first commission in the state mandated to serve as advisors on issues of health, safety and welfare of children.

“All our children deserve good health for a bright future,” said Council Chairman Dave Somers. “It is our responsibility to give them the resources for a good life.”

County residents interested in family issues will have a chance to speak with local leaders and network with child advocates before and after the rally. The rally will be moved indoors in the event of inclement weather.

The Snohomish County rally follows a statewide event to be held Thursday, Jan. 31, at the State Capitol Building in Olympia. Members of the Snohomish County Children’s Commission will participate, advocating on behalf of the children that call Snohomish County home.

The public also is invited to attend the children’s commission’s February 5 no-host breakfast, to be held at 8:30 a.m. at Kate’s Deli, 2512 Colby Ave., Everett. The monthly breakfast provides an opportunity for commission members to discuss current issues in an informal setting.

The Children's Commission is a group of 25 members, including two youth, appointed by the Snohomish County Council. The Commission's mandate is to act in an advocacy role on behalf of children living in Snohomish County. Research and development work are conducted through forums, public hearings and committee structure. Advocacy work is accomplished through publications, legislative efforts, active involvement in resolving local issues and monthly public meetings. Members serve a four-year term, representing health and human services, law and justice, education, business and labor, children and youth, parents, minorities and concerned citizens.

Currently, the commission has openings for new members. Meetings are held the last Wednesday of the month from 4 to 6 p.m. Applicants must be willing to serve a four-year term, serving as an advisor on children's issues. For more information, contact Lori Hartelius at 425-388-7390 or [LHartelius@co.snohomish.wa.us](mailto:LHartelius@co.snohomish.wa.us).

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Commission board description:

[www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/County\\_Services/Boards\\_Commissions/ChildrensCommission.htm](http://www1.co.snohomish.wa.us/County_Services/Boards_Commissions/ChildrensCommission.htm)

Nomination form:

[www.co.snohomish.wa.us/Documents/County\\_Services/Volunteer/Nomform.pdf](http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/Documents/County_Services/Volunteer/Nomform.pdf)