

Media Advisory – May 6, 2008

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Conference will focus on poverty's impacts

Nationally renowned public speaker and educator Donna Beegle will explore issues surrounding poverty at the 11th annual InterChange Conference on May 20 at the Edmonds Conference Center.

InterChange's theme, "Poverty: There is Hope," aims to increase awareness of how poverty impacts children and families in Snohomish County.

Beegle will speak on the differences between immigrant poverty and generational poverty and focus on barriers people face when dealing with educators and social service providers.

Participants also will learn to frame goals from the perspective of people in living in poverty, implement changes in communication styles to reduce conflict and employ techniques to better motivate individuals from impoverished backgrounds.

Beegle authored "See Poverty, Be the Difference," a resource book for professionals who work with people in poverty. Her work will be featured in a forthcoming documentary titled "Invisible Nation."

Beegle grew up in a poor migrant household, left school for marriage at 15 and had two children. At 25, she found herself without a husband, with little education and minimal job skills. What followed during the next 10 years were: gaining self-confidence, a G.E.D., an associate's degree in journalism, a bachelors with honors in communications, a master's in communication with a minor in gender studies (also with honors) and the completion of a doctorate degree.

The InterChange Conference also will examine successful and innovative programs in Snohomish County, while featuring panelists from Hawthorne Elementary School, United Way, Workforce Development Council, Volunteers of America and the Housing Consortium of Everett and Snohomish County.

InterChange began in 1997 as a way to bring educators, service providers and the community together to better serve youth and others in need.

The day-long conference, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch, costs \$25. Advanced registration is required to attend. For more information or a registration form, contact Kristin Roessler at 425-388-7407 or at kristin.roessler@snoco.org.

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