



Snohomish County
County Executive Office
Aaron Reardon
County Executive

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Executive Reardon, County Council Declare February 'Have a Heart for Kids Month'

Event to bring public awareness to children's issues

Local residents interested in children's issues have a chance to speak with local elected officials and network with child advocates in a kids rally this coming Valentine's Day.

The *Have a Heart for Kids Rally* will occur on Wednesday, February 14 from Noon to 1:30pm at the Courtyard Plaza on the Snohomish County Campus at 3000 Rockefeller Avenue in Everett. Displays, brochures, educational and advocacy material will be available. Following scheduled speakers, including the County Executive and Chair of the Snohomish County Children's Commission, the crowd will form into a large "heart" made of rally participants and chant "We Value Kids."

"The more than 180,000 children and youth in Snohomish County are the foundation of our community's future success," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "Our County grows stronger when all of us become aware of the issues that impact children and their families."

Executive Reardon and the Snohomish County Council declared February 2007 *Have a Heart for Kids Month* in Snohomish County. The joint resolution came in response to a recommendation made by the Snohomish County Children's Commission, whose responsibility it is to serve as advisors on issues of health, safety and welfare of children.

Council Member Dave Gossett said, "It's vital that we recognize the importance of our children to the future of the county."

Have a Heart for Kids Month and the *Have a Heart for Kids Rally* in Snohomish County were declared to bring public awareness to children's issues, and to show support for the Children's Alliance's *Have a Heart for Kids Day* held at the State Capital Building in

Olympia. Their annual day of advocacy, happening this year on February 19, has become host to the largest gathering of child advocates during the legislative session.

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

