

NEWS RELEASE

December 7, 2010

**MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
411 NORTH 5TH ST
SHELTON, WA 98584**

TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Mason County Public Health Nurse Family Partnership Grant Award

Last week Thrive by Five, announced that “some of Washington’s most vulnerable families with young children will receive extra one-on-one support thanks to \$355,000 in grants. Four programs that serve families in five counties will share the funds.”

“We are pleased to announce that Mason County Public Health’s Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) program was successful in their proposal bid for \$100,000”, said Lydia Buchheit, Mason County Public Health’s Community & Family Health manager.

“Home visiting programs, which often start working with parents before a baby is born and then stay connected through those first few years, have repeatedly shown to make a significant difference” reports Nina Auerbach, president and CEO of Thrive by Five Washington.

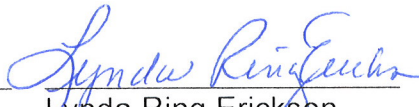
Mason County’s Nurse Family Partnership is one of these evidenced based programs, and has been in existence helping families in our community for the past nine years. With tough economic times, Mason County Public Health was in jeopardy of losing its program for young, at-risk, pregnant women.

Groups like the Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Washington comprised of Washington police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and crime victims also support programs such as the NFP, knowing that it is upstream prevention programs that demonstrate success in reduction of child abuse and neglect and benefit the entire community.

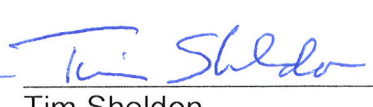
For more information or to make a program referral, call Mason County public Health: Shelton~360-427-9670 ext 400 Belfair~ 360-275-4467



Ross Gallagher
Chair



Lynda Ring Erickson
Commissioner



Tim Sheldon
Commissioner