

SEA

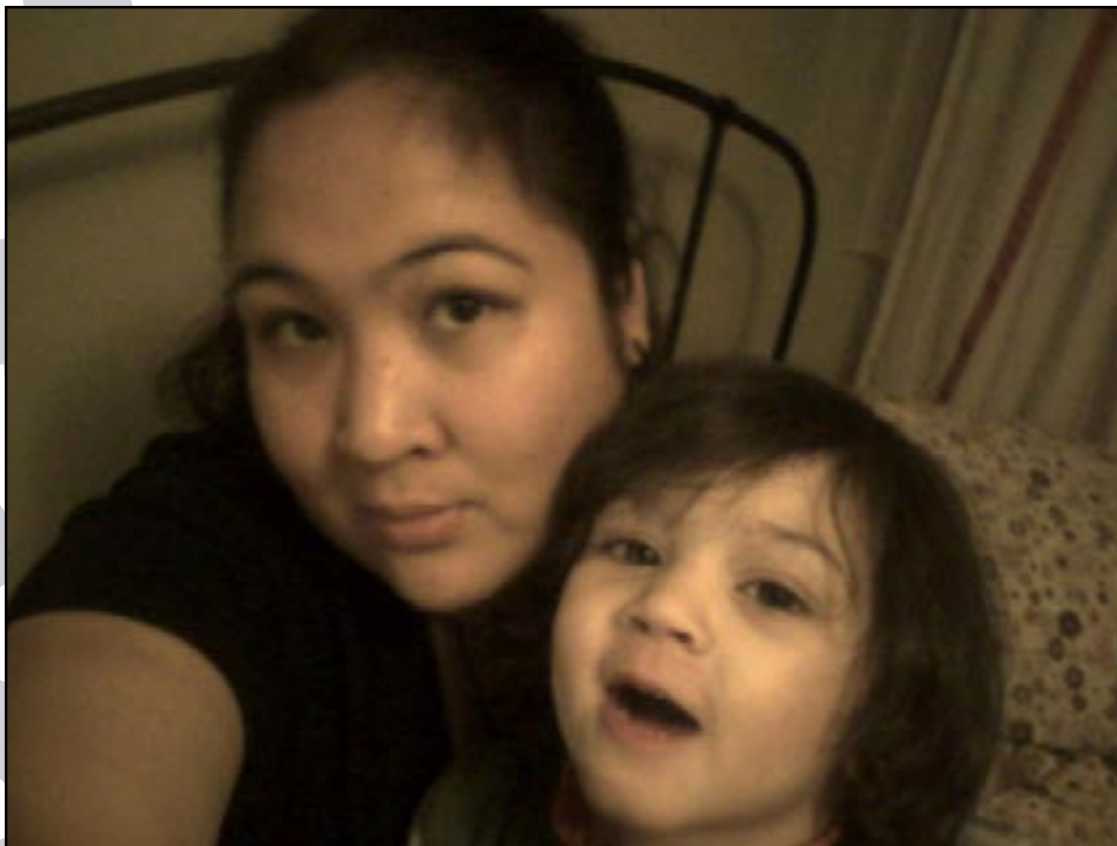
seattleeducationaccess

Meet Our Students: Carmen

Carmen is a sophomore at Seattle Central Community College, and the Multicultural Editor of the school's student newspaper. She is also a single mom and the recipient of SEA's 2007 Josie Freeman Memorial Scholarship. Here, she tells her story

I have been trying to go back to school for approximately seven years, so when I had my son this really put me in motion to educate myself so that I could create a better life for my son. No one in my family had ever gone to college, and I wanted to set an example for my son letting him know that having a higher education is very important.

Unfortunately I do not have very much family support; my mother is an immigrant to this country and still struggles to work and provide for her family in the Philippines, so I knew that my choice to go back to school would entail working hard and trying to receive scholarships and financial aid. My decision to go back to school was very much thought out and planned; I knew that while




Carmen and her son, Felix

going to school I would have to pay for tuition, books, childcare, transportation, food, clothing, rent and other supplies. This became a very heavy burden in my mind and almost distracted me from going back to school, but I just could not shake my need to be educated. Finally I decided that my sole goal was to get into school, and I was going to do anything and ►

► everything to do just that. I ran myself ragged for months trying to figure out how to go to school full time and get childcare, it seemed that every where I looked I just fell short of their requirements and or qualifications. I was on the verge of giving up on my dream of going back to school; I became very frustrated and talked to Tele Aadsen, (who I had known from Teen Feed) about my dilemma, and she told me about Seattle Education Access. When I first talked to the staff I discovered that SEA was a program that was incredibly encouraging of the students they supported, it offered more than just financial support, and this is really what I needed, since my biological family (my mother lives in New York, and I do not speak with my father) was not able to be supportive to me. It was nice to know that when I had questions or needed any advice or support, there were people that I could talk to. SEA's staff offered to help me with my financial aid forms. This is something I and many other students struggled with. It is little things like this that makes SEA a program that goes the extra mile.

Since I have been receiving help from SEA I have also gained many things that other agencies don't offer. SEA offers personal support (which is a HUGE privilege), mentoring, advocacy, and provides wonderful networking opportunities to meet other people who are in college as well. I like how SEA treats their students. They want to know what is important to us, and how the program can work for the students.

Without SEA I would be struggling more than I do. Being a single mother makes going to school a little harder, but knowing that I am supported by a network of people who honestly want me to progress is something that goes beyond the financial support they offer.

I have been in school for three quarters; so far I have been able to maintain a GPA of 3.3 and recently became the Multicultural Editor of the school newspaper. My current goals are to achieve a higher GPA, and become more involved in cultural activities and clubs within my school. These are things that I am very proud of. Less than two years ago I never would have seen myself where I am today, but I have SEA to thank for their encouragement and support!!! Sincere thanks to everyone who participates and donates to this awesome organization. 



seattleeducationaccess

Turning college dreams into college degrees

Seattle Education Access provides higher education advocacy and opportunity to people struggling to overcome poverty and adversity. Our outreach is focused on homeless youth and previously homeless young adults. Through our College Success Program, we help young people who have been homeless complete college degrees and succeed in meaningful careers.

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Allison Lord, Development Director
Glen Hubbard, Technology Coordinator
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Seattle Education Access (SEA) is a 501(c)(3) charity incorporated in the State of Washington.

SEA is a Member Agency of the University District Service Providers Alliance. The University District Service Providers Alliance (UDSPA) is a coalition of agencies working together to create a comprehensive continuum of services for homeless and street-involved youth and young adults. The purpose of the UDSPA is to help member nonprofits share resources and work together efficiently as we pursue the shared mission of offering a full spectrum of compassionate, quality care to Seattle's homeless and street-involved youth and young adults. For more information, visit www.udsp.org.

The SEA newsletter is mailed quarterly. If you wish to be removed from our mailing list, please let us know. All requests will be honored immediately.

News

SEA's June Award Ceremony

Last June, SEA had its annual Awards Ceremony at the Richard Hugo House. It was a lovely event. Our students gave speeches, and singer-songwriter Dan Aldridge performed. As always, the student speeches were especially moving. Chris spoke about how her college experience had increased her self-esteem. Carmen spoke about her struggles to balance academic excellence with single parenthood. Vanessa thanked SEA for making it possible to have a job that was meaningful and rewarding. Billy spoke about her work in animal rights activism.

The **2007 Josie Freeman Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to **Carmen Lamm**. Carmen is a sophomore at Seattle Central Community College. Her story is featured on page one.

The **2007 Career Achievement Award** was awarded to **Vanessa Downing**, who completed her welding certification last winter. She is currently employed as a heavy duty equipment mechanic apprentice with General Construction, and a member of the Operating Engineers Union, local #302.

The **2007 Student Activist Award** was awarded to **Billy Barrett**, for her animal rights activism. Billy is a sophomore at Seattle Central Community College.

The **2007 Carl Lyon Memorial Scholarship** was awarded to **Chris Hetherington**, who just finished her Associates of Business degree at Shoreline Community College. Chris is a single mom; in her acceptance speech, she talked about how SEA had helped her believe in herself. "Anyone can go to college if they work hard enough," she said. She also says,

I came to Seattle on 9/11/01, with two kids and an IV drug habit. I had prison time hanging over my head if I didn't comply with the

courts and complete a long-term drug and alcohol program.

Treatment saved as well as changed my life. My kids went to treatment with me. I learned how to detail cars there, and was able to support my kids on my own after I graduated.

SEA came into my life at the perfect time. I was ready to go to school, but had no idea what steps to take to make that happen in my life. Fate stepped in, and Polly moved in two doors down from the place that I worked. I approached her when she was hanging up the sign out front. "What is Seattle Education Access," I asked. She explained a bit about SEA. I asked her if there was an age requirement and she said no. I made that first appointment with her and the rest just kind of fell in to place. SEA helped me to figure out what direction I wanted to take in my schooling and write letters to receive funding. I have used Polly for a reference, and she has written more than one proof of income letter for me. SEA helped me pay an outstanding debt, and has always offered help that was much needed and appreciated at Christmas time.

For so long after I moved to Seattle, I was painfully aware of the perilous situation that my family was in. If anything happened to me and I couldn't work, we would have lost our apartment, and who knows what else. I had no one and I knew it. After I got involved with SEA, I began to feel more secure and less alone. I could breathe.

Now I'm almost ready to graduate with a 3.7 GPA and I have such a sense of accomplishment. I haven't done it alone, and I am so grateful to my kids, to my friends, and to SEA.

A special thank you to the following business that donated to our June Awards Ceremony:

Emerald City Smoothies
Flying Apron
Pizza Pi
Sunlight Cafe
QDoba Mexican Grill

UW Students Contribute to SEA Scholarship Fund

Last spring, SEA received a \$2,700 grant from the University of Washington's "Teaching Philanthropy" class. These non-profit management students collaborated on a cause that they believed in (education for disadvantaged youth), and worked with The Seattle Foundation to learn about non-profits that serve this audience.

The core of the class lesson was to fundraise and learn how a foundation really works. The class of 8 students did their own fundraising, and brought in a total of \$4,500. They received 13 grant application packets that were on file with The Seattle Foundation. They set site visit appointments with their top four and visited their sites to learn more.

SEA and MESA were the two agencies they chose for the award, and a small celebration was held on March 13th to present the award. They said they were really impressed with the impact SEA made, despite its small size, and felt like SEA would make great use of the funding.

Welcome, New Board Members!

At our July board meeting, we were honored to have three new board members join our team:

Katie Aufer is the Director of Admissions and Community Relations at Soundview School. She has a Masters degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from the University of Washington, and a B.A. in Speech Communications from Cal Poly, San

Luis Obispo. Previously, she managed several programs as a Center Director at SCORE! Educational Centers in California, coached Women's Varsity basketball, taught, tutored, and worked as a development assistant at a private school. Her graduate work focused on school reform and the closing of the achievement gap. Katie also volunteers with Seattle Parks and Recreation going on outdoor adventures with urban youth.

Wilda Heard, Ed.D., J.D., is a graduate of the Educational Leadership program of Seattle University where she also received her M.B.A. A graduate of Yale Law School, she is a member of both the Washington and New York State Bars. Currently, she is a volunteer lawyer at both the Union Gospel Mission and Solanus Casey legal clinics. Her interest is in K-12 education reform. At present, she is looking for a job with a focus on education policy.

Jamie Moshin is a Ph.D. student at the University of Washington, where he studies Communication, looking at how notions of power shape race, ethnicity, and gender. He is also employed as an Instructor of Communication at Shoreline Community College. Before returning to school, Jamie worked for three years as Development Coordinator for a nonprofit serving abused youth in Portland, Oregon; he worked on all aspects of fund-raising, from event planning to public speaking. As an avid believer in the importance of education, Jamie is pleased to be helping local youth get a much-deserved shot at bettering themselves.

We also want to thank our retiring board members



SEA's Development Director Allison Lord (third from left) accepts a grant from the UW Philanthropy Class for our scholarship fund."

for their excellent service: Melissa Ganus, David Wickwire, Amanda Haney, Jason Plaks, and Matt Steele

We are still looking for two additional board members, so please contact our office if you would like to volunteer!

Student updates:

Heather is studying abroad in Tajikistan and Tunisia this summer and fall. She is a senior at the University of Washington, with a double major in Anthropology and Middle Eastern Languages, and a minor in Dance. You can read her travelogue at <http://www.golistan2007.blogspot.com/>.

Jen is a senior at The Evergreen State College, and applying to graduate programs in psychology.

Omar has finished his high school diploma through Running Start at Bellevue Community College and is transferring to a four year university. He writes, "Thank you for offering me financial help; however, I was really lucky to be awarded the Gates Millennium Scholarship which will cover all of my education expenses. Even though my education is completely covered, I do want you to know that the help I received from SEA during the past two years helped me to get through two years in a Community College and eventually helped me get to the four year University that I will be attending in the fall. Before I attended Community College, I was ready to drop out of high school because I could not afford it, but SEA was kind enough and gave me a scholarship for the two years. Thanks to SEA, now I am fulfilling one of my long term goals. Thank you again, you guys are doing a terrific job helping kids get a higher education."

Sadia is transferring to the University of Washington this fall, where she will be studying pre-med. She says, "Thank you so much for your support. I could not have done this without SEA."

Vanessa writes, "I was accepted into the Operating Engineers union back in December. I'm an apprentice in their heavy duty diesel apprenticeship and will be starting school three quarters out of the year at Bates in September. I'll learn engine components, hydraulics, electrical systems, brakes, etc. I completed my class A commercial

drivers license certification back in February as well. The sidewalks aren't safe anymore!!! I'm currently working for a company called General Construction. They are awesome! They specialize in marine construction such as the 520 and I-90 floating bridges, the Hood Canal and Tacoma Narrows projects. We also do docks for ferries and submarines and stuff. I work out of their maintenance yard which is totally sweet because I'm indoors half of the time and its more permanent year round work. I work on winch engines and water cranes and forklifts and dump barges. I've never had a tool go missing so long as it was painted pink! So just thanks for being a part of my career, I'm really having a lot of fun in it and I wouldn't be here without your encouragement, inspiration, and help. Thank you!"

Violette has an external scholarship at Seattle Central this fall, and will be graduating and transferring to the University of Washington this year.

Volunteers Needed

SEA is seeking volunteers to join our Scholarship Review Committee (SRC). The SRC creates and maintains eligibility guidelines for scholarship applicants. The SRC evaluates applications, awards scholarships and monitors student progress for ongoing eligibility. If this is something that you are interested in please email Anthon at: anthon@seattleeducationaccess.org

Check out SEA's myspace! myspace.com/seattleeducationaccess

THANK YOU!

To these funders who provided support to SEA so far in 2007:

**Amgen Foundation
College Spark Washington
Lucky Seven
The Norcliffe Foundation
Schultz Family Foundation
University of Washington Philanthropy Class
Washington Mutual**

Welcoming Anthon Smith, our New Program Director

Thanks to a generous grant from College Spark Washington, SEA was able to hire our first Program Director on July 1. Anthon Smith is working full time for SEA. He is in charge of all our direct service to our students -- college coaching, career counseling, mentoring, tutoring, and advocacy. He is also our volunteer coordinator, and the facilitator for our Scholarship Review Committee, the all-volunteer community panel that decides who gets SEA scholarships. With Anthon's hire, we will be expanding the number of students we will be able to serve each year.

Anthon has over ten years of non-profit experience, including seven years of international non-profit work. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in both Sociology and Theology from the University of Malta, and is presently completing a Masters of Non-Profit Leadership at Seattle University. Most recently, Anthon has been the Education & Employment Case Manager at United Indians Youth Home in Seattle, and also volunteering with SEA for the past year.

Anthon says, "I am excited about the opportunity to grow from, and give to, an organization whose vision, mission, and values are so closely linked to everything that I hold as utmost in my own life. I have been involved in the non-profit sector for the past ten years and during that time I have developed a strong sense of who I am and where I want to go professionally. I feel that I am at a place in my life and in my career at which I have a clear vision of the specific contribution that I need to give to those around me. At the heart of that vision is building a sense of community in which all parties come together as equals, and give and receive in accordance to their own specific situation. I believe that I bring to Seattle Education Access an opportunity to grow in its mission and its overall scope. I believe that for myself, and for Seattle Education Access, this will be a highly meaningful opportunity for development and advancement. Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity."

Executive Director Polly Trout adds, "An-▶





◀thon has been volunteering with SEA for over a year, and we have gotten to know him as a deeply committed service provider who shares SEA's commitment to providing individualized, respectful, and compassionate service to young adults, in a context that emphasizes self determination and personal responsibility. Already, it is clear that Anthon is the perfect person for this job, and will be a tremendous resource for our students.”

The College Spark grant that enabled us to hire Anthon was one of 19 awarded by College Spark in 2007, totaling more than \$1.4 million. Since 2005, the organization has awarded over \$3 million in Community Grants. Funding for this year's grants was made possible by an arrangement with Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA) www.nela.net and USA Funds www.usafunds.org, two nonprofits dedicated to assisting students with financial aid services for

higher education.

Nearly 700,000 residents of Northwest Washington are living on incomes of less than 200% of the poverty level, or roughly \$40,000 annually for a family of four, according to U.S. Census data. The grants provided by College Spark support programs aimed at increasing educational opportunities and success for students in low-income families.

“It is our hope that our grant funds will help foster innovative strategies that substantially increase the percentage of low-income students graduating from college in Washington,” College Spark's Executive Director, Christine McCabe said. “Studies show that students whose parents have a college education are more likely to pursue and succeed in higher education themselves. Success in higher education has a remarkable way of ending the cycle of poverty,” said Ned Lange, chairman of the College Spark board. 560

Yes! I want to help Seattle's homeless youth overcome poverty through the power of education. I have enclosed a gift to the SEA scholarship fund:

- \$1,000 – tuition for one quarter at a local community college
- \$400 – books and school supplies for one student
- \$100 --- student bus pass for the quarter
- \$50 --- college application costs for one student
- \$20 – one GED study guide

Name: _____

Phone: _____

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Seattle Education Access is a 501(c)(3) charity and your contribution is tax deductible.
To pay with a credit card, visit www.seattleeducationaccess.org and click "Donate Now."
Return this form and your check to: SEA, 6920 Roosevelt Way NE #355, Seattle WA 98115.



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