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March 2010

Dear Friends:

Community mobilization is a year-round process. A little rain can't stop us when there are schools and neighborhoods that need our help.



Last summer, residents rallied around a cherished gathering place after arson destroyed a new playground set at Alling Park. Recently, the Alling Block Group in Tacoma celebrated the creation of a neighborhood patrol. Members will patrol the park and neighborhood to deter drug activity, graffiti and burglaries. In a mutually beneficial relationship, Metro Parks provided supplies like patrol signs to support the group's defense of a park that numerous families and children enjoy.



In February, the American Cancer Society encouraged Youth Leading Change members to "speak out" against cancer. During SpeakOUT, a one-day workshop for teen groups and their advisors, participants were challenged to become effective advocates for cancer prevention by developing tobacco education strategies. The workshop was part of a larger tobacco education campaign that has also included YLC participation in the Great American Smokeout and Relay for Life.



Sometimes block group members show us that they're capable of telling Safe Streets' story just as well as the staff. Members of the Fern Hill Alliance group manned a Safe Streets' information booth at a community resource fair at Stafford Elementary School in Tacoma. They spoke with almost 100 people who stopped by the table, sharing personal experiences and helping interested parents learn how to start their own block groups.



It's becoming increasingly important for organizations to utilize advancements in communication technology, and Safe Streets is no exception. This year, Safe Streets is planning a comprehensive overhaul of its website. The decision comes after feedback from our volunteers highlighted the need for enhanced website tools to assist block groups in their work. Have some ideas? Add your opinion at [www.safest.org](http://www.safest.org).

Gray skies may be ahead but successes like these will continue thanks to hardworking staff, dedicated volunteers, and supporters like you.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Lisicich, Ph.D.  
Executive Director