

# Advocate Honored for Lifetime Work

Has passion for making a difference

Jean DeMaster, executive director of Human Solutions, has spent 35 years advocating for the impoverished, changing the face of homelessness services in Portland.

She was recently awarded the Gretchen Miller Kafoury Award for "outstanding achievement" from the Community Development Network for her long-term work in the field of community development.

Prior to Human Solutions, DeMaster spent four years as executive director of the YWCA of Greater Portland and 11 years as executive director of Transition Projects. At Human Solutions, she has overseen the development and acquisition of 175 units of affordable housing as well as an 11-unit rehabilitation project and the creation of 32 units of Permanent Supportive Housing. She is also leading the organization in the pre-development of an additional 220 units in two complexes slated to be completed in 2010.

In addition to housing development, Jean has worked tirelessly to improve access to and effectiveness of services for homeless families.

"Building alliances between organizations to advocate for homeless and low-income people is one of her many strengths," said Erika Silver, director of programs at Human Solutions.

DeMaster is currently work-



Jean Demaster has made a career of being a community advocate and making a difference in the lives of the poor and disadvantaged.

ing with Human Solutions staff to develop a Multi-Service Center that will allow low-income and homeless families access to more than seven agencies under one roof.

"One of the greatest challenges that people in need face is having access to services. If we can create a centralized and convenient hub for access to a multitude of services, we can more efficiently

stabilize lives and help people become self sufficient," said DeMaster.

For nearly two decades, Human Solution has been working to empower low-income and homeless families to become self-sufficient. This year alone, the organization has touched the lives of more than 91,000 people by assisting with affordable housing, skill building and family-support services.

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