

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Fostering Media Connections and Downtown Seattle YMCA
Media Mixer**

**April 1st 2010, 6:00-8:00pm
University of Washington, School of Social Work
Gallery Floor**

**4101 15th Ave. NE
Seattle WA 98105**

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON (March 25, 2010): On Thursday, April 1st from 6:00-8:00pm, Fostering Media Connections (FMC) and the YMCA, will host a media mixer to bring together media with foster care personnel in the greater Seattle area. The event will include Hor D'oeuvres, Daniel Heimpel from FMC, a short video screening about educational stability in WA and two foster youth speaking about their experiences in the system.

Fostering Media Connections is a media-driven, grass roots initiative meant to speed the implementation of sweeping federal foster care reform and increase general awareness of the foster care system. FMC has spent the last three weeks in the Seattle area researching child welfare stories. These stories were then presented to various media outlets. The desired result being that those media outlets would then produce substantive coverage of the foster care system, which will drive public and political will to see the system improved. From foster care issues on native tribes, to early child therapy for children in the system, educational stability issues, FMC has broken many stories within child welfare in WA State.

As FMC's time in the Pacific Northwest comes to an end, the goal is to connect as many child welfare agencies and individuals, foster youth, both emancipated and those still in the system with respective media outlets. If the paradigm on how the child welfare system is covered can be shifted, it would be the beginning to making the lives of our most vulnerable children better.

For more information about FMC, visit: www.fosteringmediaconnections.org

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