



**SOUTH KING COUNTY:**  
Cultivating What's To Come





Staff members from Afghan Health Initiative, which serves the immigrant and refugee population in Washington state through various programs that enable community members to have access to health, education, and economic independence.

South King County is a place of abundance — it is filled with knowledge and strengths, natural beauty, cultural diversity, hope and resolve. When financial support meets the energy that lives here, these forces will coalesce into a vibrant new social and economic fabric.



The Renton Regional Community Foundation is proud to work with and serve these communities that make up this wonderful place we call South King County.



“I see South King County as a huge place of opportunity to steward what the future is going to look like, not just for this region but for this country — because of our relationships, the rawness, the creativity, the resources we can tap into.”

— Lindsay Hill,  
Community Healer

As we head into our 25th year of supporting and engaging our community, Renton Regional Community Foundation (RRCF) is launching *South King County: Cultivating What's To Come*. This bold, multi-year fundraising initiative will **connect** diverse community members from across South King County and **cultivate** the relationships and resources that exist here to **create** a South King County that works for all.

## Everyone is working hard in South King County.

The people of South King County are hard at work. While the past several years have tested this region in unimaginable ways, many organizations have adapted to meet the moment, tapping their abundant supply of talent, vision and creativity to inspire works of change, hope, and collaboration.



Urban Family serves 950 youth and families in Skyway, Renton, Tukwila, and Southeast Seattle annually. Funds from RRCF supported their Family 360 Program, a family-centered, strengths-based program that provides youth and their families with basic needs and follow-up support to help secure needed resources, systems navigation, advocacy, and empowerment coaching.

## But South King County isn't working for everyone.

And yet, for many people in this region, which has long borne the brunt of our county's (and our country's) racial and economic inequities, the simple desire to make life better for themselves and their families is a constant struggle. The phrase "disproportionate impact" inevitably arises when talking about South King County. With communities that are home to the county's highest concentration of Black, Brown, refugee and immigrant faces, this region has long been marginalized — pushed into its already frayed edges during the Covid-19 pandemic.

That is why this initiative, *South King County: Cultivating What's To Come* is so important.

Our ability to connect individuals, business leaders, and nonprofits to cultivate our area's assets will help create equitable prosperity for all our neighbors.

Above: Youth from UTOPIA Washington, which creates a safe, welcoming, supportive, and vibrant space for members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

**"We are learning;  
we are changing  
these systems of  
oppression into  
systems of care."**

*— Diana Veronika  
Krishna,  
community member*

The emergency might be past,  
but the urgency is not.



In 2020 South King County Covid rates were up to eight times higher than in north Seattle and the Eastside. Three years on from the pandemic, people are still struggling. Of the five communities in King County deemed at highest risk for prolonged hardship in an economic crisis, four are in South King County, including Burien, Kent and Tukwila.<sup>1</sup>

**In 2020 South King County Covid rates were up to eight times higher than in north Seattle and the Eastside.<sup>2</sup>**

Since 2020, RRCF has conducted a survey of several dozen South King County nonprofit organizations. The survey results continue to be stark: the nonprofit community in South King County is straining to meet escalating demand for essentials like housing and food, while unmet mental health needs hover at crisis level. In 2022, 97% of those surveyed noted increased demand in programs and services, and 63% reported that they cannot meet the demand for services.<sup>3</sup> More investments in fundraising and capacity-building are paramount, as are culturally appropriate mental health services.

**None of this is surprising.  
And all of it is unacceptable.**

*Left:* During Covid-19, Restoration House Ministries Northwest was able to impact more than 180,000 families in South King County with time, security, counseling, addiction recovery, food, and housing.

<sup>1</sup>King County Equity Awareness Tool (2020)

<sup>2</sup>Public Health Report on Outbreaks and Exposure Settings for COVID-19 Cases in King County, WA, November 2020

<sup>3</sup>2022 RRCF Non-Profit Survey Report

<sup>4</sup>Ibid

<sup>5</sup>Ibid

<sup>6</sup>Food Insecurity in King County, February 2023, page 36.

More than 75% of organizations report a lack of access to culturally appropriate mental health services. In addition, the stigma related to mental health continues to be a challenge for many.<sup>4</sup>

South King County's top three needs: rental assistance/housing security, food security and mental health. The focus on food security increased by 20% from 2021 to 2022.<sup>5</sup>

Food insecurity in King County increased during 2022 and remains higher than pre-pandemic levels. Food insecurity is more prevalent in South King County compared to other regions, communities of color and people who are lower income, LGBTQ+, or experiencing poor health.<sup>6</sup>

## The Renton Regional Community Foundation is best positioned to help.



RRCF has been a trusted partner throughout South King County since 1999, distributing more than \$15 million in grants and scholarships through 70+ funds.

### **Our most valuable role is as a connector.**

We quickly mobilized when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, creating the CARE Together Fund, granting more than \$800,000 in unrestricted funding to 90 organizations in South King County working on the front lines to meet our area's most critical needs.

We also partnered with both the City of Renton and King County in 2022 to distribute federal funds to community organizations. They chose RRCF because of our knowledge of and connections with the groups best positioned to put those funds to immediate use to support residents in need.

**The power of coming together is profound.** We bring people together who wouldn't usually cross paths to increase understanding, reduce disparities and build a more united community where everyone belongs.

### **This is how communities build an inclusive future. Will you join us?**

*Left: Alimentando al Pueblo (or Feeding the People in English), started as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is now an established part of the community. They are the only Latinx food system in the country, procuring foods from local Latinx businesses and distributing culturally relevant foods to the Latinx community. Their ultimate vision is to have joyful communities, and their mission is to promote healing through comunidad (community), comida (food), and celebración (celebration). As COVID relief aid disappears, new, cultural food banks like these are finding themselves questioning the sustainability of their work amidst the rising need of food services in many communities.*



**“We want to help in a way that’s local. Where the needs right here in our own community are being addressed – and the foundation is doing that.”**

*– Jim and Lisa Freeburg*

# Together, we can shape a South King County that creates possibility and prosperity for every person who lives here.

Our plan is to raise \$2.5 million by the end of 2025 in order to provide the support and resources needed by South King County organizations and neighbors.



**“Everything that we need for our community to thrive exists here already.”**

— *La Tanya Horace-DuBois*  
Founder and Executive Director,  
The Silent Task Force

## We have four key goals:

**1**

### Move more money for greater results

We prioritize unrestricted funding so nonprofits can thrive without strings attached.

- Meet basic needs. We started the CARE Together Fund to help support basic needs of those most impacted by COVID-19. More unrestricted funding is needed.
- Confront the complex challenges that underlie disparities, especially those where economic, environmental, and social issues are interconnected.
- Support fund advisors as they learn about and support local organizations.

**2**

### Amplify community voices

We are most effective when we listen to those most impacted.

- Build on the Together: Stories of South King County project, which highlights the region’s assets and challenges through video conversations about belonging, dignity, and transformation.
- Continue surveying local nonprofit leaders and sharing results with policy makers, donors, and the community to help focus funding, initiatives, and grantmaking strategies.
- Host educational events designed to introduce and involve broad cross-sections of South King County people and organizations.

**3**

### Help nonprofits build fundraising and outreach muscles

South King County nonprofits are developing and leading solutions to the area’s most pressing issues. Professional development is a priority, with fundraising skills topping the list.

- Partner with Network For Good’s Jumpstart program to provide advanced fundraising support for a cohort of grantees to increase revenue.
- Convene an advisory group of community leaders to inform other capacity-building initiatives, e.g., communications and marketing; board development.

**4**

### Foster connections and engagement

Fulfilling the potential of our donor community and the organizations who put their gifts to work hinges on strong connections and broad engagement. We can only do that with more staff.

- A development director will expand the culture of philanthropy in South King County through relationships with fundholders, donors, professional advisors, and nonprofits.
- A program officer will create and manage opportunities to learn, network, and build trust.

**“RRCF does not have an endowment large enough to sustain our work without new support. Like many of our nonprofit partners, we rely on contributions from community members, local corporate partners, and other foundations who care about this region.”**

— *Bob McBeth,*  
RRCF Board Member

## Unleash the power and possibility of South King County

The pandemic revealed inequities of a scope not everyone was aware. Now that the picture is clear, so is the path forward: find smart, heartfelt ways to come together and make things right.

Everyone can be a philanthropist. How much you can give is not nearly as important as how much you care about helping to make your community work for everyone. When you choose the Renton Regional Community Foundation for your gift of any size, you're joining a movement to cultivate the shape of things to come: a vibrant, inclusive place of opportunity for all people who live here. We are so grateful for your vision and trust.



“I grew up in Renton and this will forever be my home. I can’t ask for a better community in which to raise my daughter.”

— Angelina Benedetti, RRCF Board member (photographed here with her husband Bob and daughter Serafina)



“I just ask people to learn how they show up in spaces. How can you show up in my community with the resources and gifts that you have? Because we all have gifts to bring to the table. And sometimes the first step is just to bear witness.”

— Roxana Pardo Garcia, Executive Director, Alimentando al Pueblo, and local business owner

Left: Based in SeaTac but serving all of King County, World Changers opened its Trinity Housing Services in the spring of 2022 and has assisted more than 40 formerly incarcerated men make a smooth transition back into the community. These men help with WC’s Mobile Food Pantry and other food programs.

“South King County, and Renton specifically, is home and we are proud to be part of this strong and diverse community. I (Derek, right) moved here over 20 years ago and can’t imagine any other place I’d rather live. I (Caleb, left) grew up in Renton and participated in many of the programs that RRCF is supporting today, and I love that I am able to financially support them now as an adult.”

— Caleb and Derek Andres-Berendt



Together, we can make the dream of a vibrant, thriving, and equitable South King County a reality.

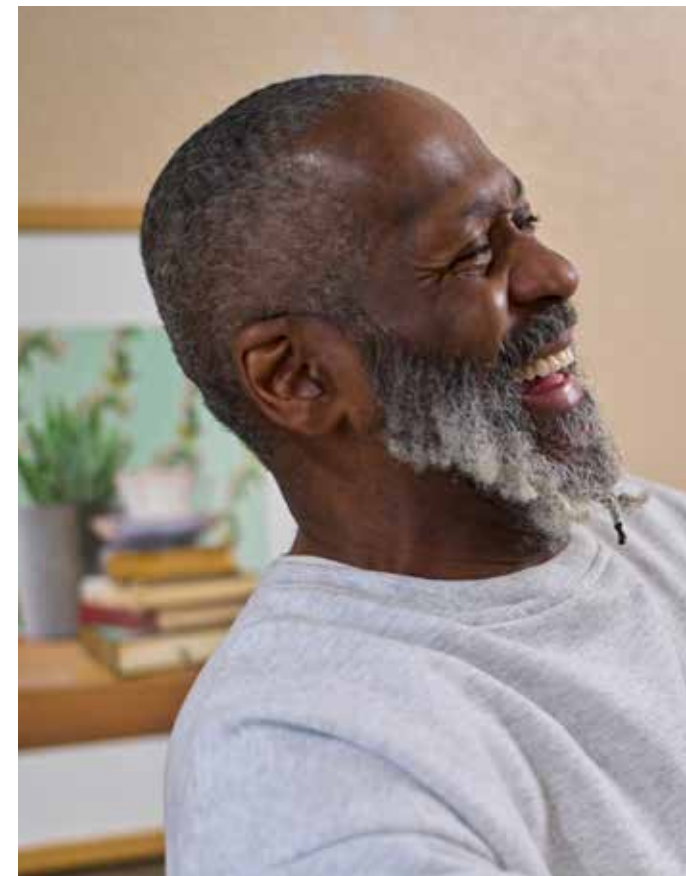
The Renton Regional Community Foundation is on a mission to harness the power of collective giving to ensure that no one in South King County is left behind. As a community foundation, we are at the nexus of people interested in philanthropy and the nonprofits that put their gifts to work tackling regional challenges. Our job is to connect people, ideas, and resources in pursuit of vibrant, equitable communities: a region where communities flourish with good jobs, affordable places to live, and bright futures. We make grants, steward donor money, and introduce change initiatives based on deep knowledge about the region’s needs.



To give to this initiative or to learn more please contact RRCF Executive Director LeAnne Moss at [lmoss@rentonfoundation.org](mailto:lmoss@rentonfoundation.org) or scan this code.

“Thank you to Renton Regional Community Foundation for all of their work, commitment, and dedication to the community and its organizations providing help and resources to those who are in need.”

— Pastor Herman Akins, Restoration House Ministries Northwest, (seated front row, far right)







Join us in  
Cultivating  
What's To Come

