Fall 2012

Dear Community Members,

It is with heartfelt sincerity that I thank you for standing by Centerstone as we proceed into our next chapter with the rebranding of our name. With this transition comes a new opportunity to redefine and confirm our purpose while strengthening relationships with our supporters. As Centerstone’s CEO, I am committed to learning and growing with each of you as we move into the future. At this stage in our transformation I find it necessary to reaffirm that this great organization is refining itself, not changing its core mission or values. Here at Centerstone we are committed to remaining strong in our foundation while exploring ways to refine current and future programs to better support our community members.

The core programs of the agency will endure, while new programs will be introduced to meet the needs expressed by our clients in our latest Community Needs Assessment. In the last three years we have focused intently on improving our current service offerings before seeking to expand into new areas. One example of this interior transformation is in our Energy Assistance Program. We have improved perceptions of the Energy Assistance Program and regained client confidence through focused employee trainings on cultural competency, while simultaneously embracing technology that has enhanced our data accuracy and preserved agency funding. With the growth of existing and future programs, Centerstone will continue to be a gathering place where community action, social services and advocacy organizations come together to discuss issues that impact our clients, as well as galvanize around issues that impact the Central Area and poverty city-wide. We are taking steps to accurately preserve the rich history of the agency while welcoming the opportunity to expand our programs and funding as part of our revitalization.

As we move forward and embrace this new chapter of our existence, it is important that we focus our energy on the growth and spirit of Centerstone. The organization was founded in 1964 and from the day of its inception, it has done a remarkable job serving the people of Seattle. The Centerstone programs that we all love and support such as the Energy Assistance Program, Financial Education, Housing Assistance Program, our
on-site Food Bank and our home delivery service to homebound individuals and families will continue to be the heart of the organization’s work.

During the last three years Centerstone worked diligently to improve its fiscal compliance and is proud to announce that it thoroughly passed all annual audits since that time with clean record-keeping and excellent compliance with funder contracts. Others took note of our growth, and in this process we gained several new donors, including Safeco, Amazon, and the Joshua Green Foundation, who, along with existing donors, seek to improve existing programs and strategize for future ones.

We will be paying homage to the history of CAMP and its supporters through the creation of a “Legacy Plan.” We will offer everyone who has been involved with our agency throughout the many decades a forum to tell the world about their experiences as a member of this vibrant community. Along with the “Legacy Plan,” we are creating an “Emeritus Board” to keep deeply rooted community leaders who have had a profound impact on the direction of CAMP involved, as we recognize that without them, Centerstone would not exist.

Lastly, I’d like to remind everyone that Centerstone has many avenues for people to demonstrate their commitment. We welcome your continued support through financial donations and donations of your time. Our volunteers are the heartbeat of the organization and we rely on them to keep our programming strong.

My sincerest thanks for all you’ve done and all you will do to support Centerstone. For more information and to become a friend of Centerstone, please log on to our website www.center-stone.org and select “join our mailing list” under contacts.

Sincerely,

Andrea Caupain
Chief Executive Officer