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## MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Washington State Mentors and Bank of America award \$5,000 to Youth Eastside Services Success Mentoring Program**

Bellevue, Wash (Nov. 16, 2010)—Washington State Mentors (WSM) and Bank of America presented Youth Eastside Services' (YES) Board of Trustees with a \$5,000 grant at a special ceremony on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at YES Bellevue Offices at Crossroads Park.

The Success mentoring program was founded in 1987 and has matched hundreds of single-parent kids with mentors. Currently the program served 27 kids, but there is a waiting list of 37. There is a particular need for male mentors as the wait can be up to three years for a boy to be matched.

The Bank of America Mentoring Initiative is funded by the Bank of America Charitable Foundation and administered by WSM. "This partnership is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when corporations and non-profits join forces to support young people," said Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen, who is co-chair of the Issaquah-based non-profit.

"We are pleased to be selected again by WSM. Our Success mentoring program is an important tool for ensuring healthy kids and families," said Patti Skelton-McGougan, executive director of YES.

Mentoring is a vital and effective means of helping young people overcome obstacles in their lives. Youth with mentors have fewer instances of violence and substance abuse, and increased emotional well-being and academic performance than youth who do not have mentors.

"When we support the development of young people, we're creating a ripple effect that impacts our state, one community at a time," said Bob Peters, Washington State president for Bank of America. "We recognize that mentoring can have lasting transformative effects on young peoples' futures and ultimately on the vitality of the communities in which they live, attend school and work."

Bank of America Mentoring Initiative grantees are selected through a competitive grant process. In order to apply, organizations must meet a set of minimum quality assurance standards including background checks for all volunteer mentors and adherence to at least 70 percent of the Elements of Effective Practice for mentoring programs. Additionally, at least 51 percent of the youth served by the mentoring program must be from low- to moderate-income households. This is YES third year of receiving the grant.

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**About Youth Eastside Services:** YES is a nonprofit organization and a leading provider of youth counseling and substance abuse services in the region. Since 1968, YES has been a lifeline for kids and families, offering treatment, education and prevention services to help youth become healthy, confident and self-reliant and families to become strong, supportive and loving. While YES accepts Medicaid, insurance and offers a sliding scale, no one is turned away for inability to pay. For more information, visit [www.YouthEastsideServices.org](http://www.YouthEastsideServices.org).



Pictured L-R: Patti Skelton-McGougan, YES executive director; Jim Marsh, WSM president; Steve Palomo, manager of Bank of America Crossroads Banking Center; Success Mentors Mike Hedley, Ian Balin and Art Burke; YES Success Coordinators Mary Erickson and Melissa Galvez; and Alex Penaranda, age 9, mentee of Ian



Pictured L-R: Mentor Mike Hedley, YES Success Coordinators Mary Erickson and Melissa Galvez; Jim Marsh, WSM president; Steve Palomo, manager of Bank of America Crossroads Banking Center; Mentors Ian Balin and Art Burke; and Alex Penaranda, age 9, mentee of Ian