

WINNER

SMALL NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONBUSINESS JOURNAL PHOTO/
DAN SCHLATTER

Susana Schuarzberg is a native of Argentina and practices yoga in her spare time.

Susana Schuarzberg's financial prowess and her passion have taken nonprofit New Futures from infancy to adulthood in just five years.

New Futures operates on-site community centers in low-income, high-crime apartment complexes in South King County.

It relies on Schuarzberg's ability to forge strategic partnerships with private and government organizations to finance the comprehensive academic, social and health services it provides for children and families. The services provided at its three community centers in Burien, White Center and SeaTac vary but include after-school programs, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, family-centered activities, and youth and teen programs. The group serves more than 2,000 individuals a year.

When the group lost one of its revenue funds recently, Schuarzberg was able to bounce back and tap other sources. Her colleagues characterize her as "creative and fearless" in reaching out to friends to participate in fundraising events, which have resulted in significant gifts that allow the agency to continue its work.

In 2006, Schuarzberg also managed three large, complicated grants that required complex tracking and reporting. She also completed an emergency preparedness plan for the organization, at the suggestion of auditors, to ensure the safety and continuity of the programs in emergency situations.

The 63-year-old's skill and care in developing the group's financial systems has earned her praise from the agency's external funders (including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), its board members and its auditors.

Ruth Dickey, executive director of New Futures, nominated Schuarzberg for the CFO of the Year award, saying, "Susana is an incredible asset to our organization, and as an immigrant herself from Argentina, she understands the challenges that many of our families and staff members face. She is passionate in her advocacy for our organization, and generous in lending her bilingual skills to translate documents and explain policies and procedures to staff and community members."

— BECKY MONK
ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

Susana
SCHUARZBERG

Finance director • New Futures