



MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

HELP. HOPE. CHANGE.



True Stories
2014 FALL NEWSLETTER



TEACHING EMMETT

When health issues prevented AJ from working, she started to look for something meaningful to do with her time.

She found that meaning in tutoring adults through MSC's Adult Basic Education program.

For the last year and a half, AJ has met twice a week with Emmett, a 71-year-old gentleman, to help him learn how to read. "Teaching an adult learner is so different than when I was a teaching assistant in college. I was always begging the students to get stuff done. Emmett, as an adult learner, is eager to learn and curious."

"Emmett's parents were sharecroppers in Mississippi, and Emmett went to school

sporadically, if at all, because he helped his family. As an adult he became a welder. Now he's older, he'd like to learn to read," says AJ.

AJ and Emmett started out slowly reading books Emmett would bring in. They looked at mail and other printed materials. "We'd be slowly moving through something, and then it would just click for Emmett. He was on fire!" shares AJ.

"Teaching someone to read is much more than teaching them how the letters form a word and words form a sentence, it's also about how to read with comprehension," says AJ. "We're working on navigating the internet now and how to read things on a web page. For instance, how to distinguish what is the actual content of the page and what is an advertisement. If you have been able to read all your

life, you don't realize how fast you can read and comprehend. For someone who's never read before, they need to take it word by word, and really think about it. It's been an honor to work with Emmett. He's had such an amazing life."

It is estimated that one in seven people are functionally illiterate, meaning that they are unable to read, write, or comprehend at the expected level to function in daily life. MSC's Adult Basic Education serves adults age 18 or older and is tailored to meet their needs. Each student sets their own goals, and then works one-on-one with a volunteer tutor. Instruction is offered in a relaxed and supportive environment designed to help the student succeed.

Interested in volunteering? E-mail volunteers@mschelps.org or call 253.835.7678.

“Emmett, as an adult learner, is eager to learn and curious.”

THE HEAT IS ON CONSERVE ENERGY, CONSERVE MONEY

Learn steps you can take to keep your energy bill from climbing as the temperature drops. Learn helpful, easy tips to keep costs down and how MSC's energy assistance program can help families with limited incomes pay their energy bills.

**Wednesday, September 10, 6-7:30pm
Kent Commons, Mill Creek Room
525 4th Ave N., Kent**

Space is limited. RSVP to rsvp@mschelps.org or 253.835.7678, ext. 104, is recommended but not required.



CONTACT US

For services
253.838.6810 | WA Relay 711
www.mschelps.org
To volunteer
253.835.7678, ext. 105
www.mschelps.org
To donate
253.835.7678, ext. 149
www.mschelps.org

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Writer/Editor: Sarah Villian

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**For more information on these planned
gifts, contact Barbara Whitehurst at
253.835.7678, ext. 149, or
barbaraw@mschelps.org**

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I'M WORKING

When his uncle passed away suddenly, Vernell found himself without a place to live and without a job.

Vernell had both lived with his uncle and worked for his uncle's company. He moved in with a friend and started going to a local food bank. There, he met one of MSC's employment counselors who he started meeting with on a regular basis. The counselor provided Vernell with leads for jobs and bus tickets to get to interviews. "The counselor gave me affirmations that I could find a job and have what my friends have—a job and a home. The positive reinforcement was what I needed," says Vernell.

"It's difficult to find a job. I interviewed at a lot of places, and it takes them so long to get back to you. But you have to keep pushing on," says Vernell. Vernell finally found a position at a local car auction dealer where he's learning the ropes. "It's not full-time, but I'm working," says Vernell.

Vernell supplements his income with another part-time job at a local restaurant chain, and is now able to rent a room in a house. He's looking for full-time employment, and still works with an MSC employment counselor for leads.

"MSC will help you find a job at a decent wage. You still have to do the legwork, but MSC provides all the resources and they want to help you. It's not easy, and it won't happen overnight, but if you stick with it, things will get better," shares Vernell.

MSC's THRIVE program helps people who are unemployed and lack stable housing. Through training, case management, and paid internships, individuals work toward finding family-wage jobs that increase stability.



“If you stick with it, things will get better.”

JOIN US!



Guest Speaker: Tom Vander Ark

Wednesday, October 15, 2014
11:30am Registration
12-1pm Program
Emerald Downs, Auburn

MSC'S FIRST LUNCHEON

Gather your friends and join us for a fundraising luncheon to benefit MSC!

Our guest speaker, Tom Vander Ark, is the author of *Getting Smart: How Digital Learning is Changing the World* and CEO of Getting Smart, a learning advocacy firm. Tom is also a partner in Learn Capital, an education venture firm. Previously, he served as President of the X PRIZE Foundation and was the first Executive Director of Education for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Tom served as a Federal Way Public School District Superintendent and has extensive private sector experience. Tom is Treasurer for the International Association for K-12 Online Learning, chair of Charter Board Partners, and serves on several other boards. Tom will share insights on national and local issues that impact persons living in poverty and the goal of empowering them to self-sufficiency through the power of education.

TABLE CAPTAINS NEEDED!

Invite seven friends to join you at MSC's Luncheon! For more information or to sign up, please contact Barbara Whitehurst, Director of Development, at 253.835.7678, ext 149, or barbaraw@mschelps.org.

ATTEND THE LUNCHEON

Attend the luncheon on your own or with a few friends. We'll find a great table for you to sit at where you'll meet other folks committed to helping provide help, hope, and change for our community!

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2014

RSVP to rsvp@mschelps.org or call 253.835.7678, ext 105.

There is no cost to attend the luncheon. Suggested Donation \$75.



P.O. Box 23699
Federal Way, WA 98093-0699

MSC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency that offers people pathways out of poverty through support and resources in education, employment, housing, energy assistance, food, and clothing. We also provide statewide advocacy for elderly and disabled residents of long-term care facilities.

Learn More: Call 253.838.6810 or online at www.mschehelp.org

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TRUE STORIES ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

For a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other.

- Millard Fuller, Founder and Former President of Habitat for Humanity International

Multi-Service Center (MSC) relies on our community to provide help, hope, and change for many on their path to self-sufficiency in South King County. Each and every day, you can make a difference for someone in our community.

You can make a difference by being our voice in the community. When you share the work of MSC, you help us raise awareness about the services we provide. It might mean that someone without a livable-wage job will find one, or that someone who is homeless will find a safe place to live. This means that someone who needs help now knows where to turn.

Like AJ, the volunteer featured in this newsletter, you make a difference by sharing your time and talents. You can teach someone to read, help put food on someone's table by working in the food bank, or hold a donation drive to benefit MSC.

You also make a difference by supporting MSC financially. All contributions are important, from \$25 to \$250,000. Did you know, just to have facilities to provide services to the

community requires \$80,000 annually? That doesn't include power, staff, or any other resources. \$1,000 provides housing and case management to a homeless family with children for four weeks. \$100 provides interview clothes for a job-seeker. Every donation can have an impact and make a difference.

It's our collective effort that makes it possible for MSC to provide these services to our community. Through your voice, your volunteerism, and your financial support, we provide help, hope and change. Everyone has their part, and together we make the difference for our community.

Your love and concern for your fellow community members has made MSC what it is today. I'm looking forward to seeing you and your friends at our first regional fundraising luncheon this October at Emerald Downs.

Thank you for your continued support!



Best wishes,

Robin R. Corak

Robin R. Corak
Chief Executive Officer

