



MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

HELP. HOPE. CHANGE.



True Stories
2017 SPRING/SUMMER

COMMUNITY HELPING COMMUNITY



MSC's 16th Annual Crab Feed & Auction

Saturday, June 3, 2017

6 to 9:30pm

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center

Join all the cool cats and chicks for the keenest party in town! All-you-can-eat crab, swell items to bid on, fab company, and all the proceeds support MSC programs.

Don't be a square - be there!

TICKETS GO ON SALE FRIDAY, MARCH 31!

Individual Tickets \$90

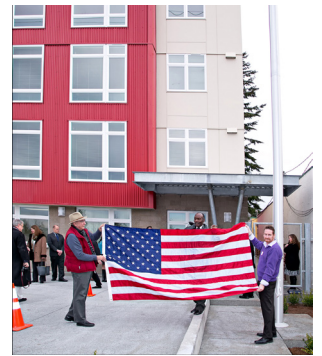
Table (seats 8) \$750

Sponsorships start at \$500

Seats are limited. Please purchase early.

For more info or to purchase tickets visit mschelps.org/getinvolved/crabfeed/ or contact Diane Lyons at 253.835.7678 ext. 105.

Thank you to the many individuals, businesses, and organizations who supported the opening of MSC's William J. Wood Veterans House in December 2016 through your gifts of monetary donations and household goods!



Terry Aman, Realtor
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 15
AUSA CML Chapter
B & R Espresso Bar
Scott and Tracy Bennedsen
Dave and Donna Berger
Jim and Suzanne Berrios
Boy Scout Troop #336
Terry and Ellen Campbell
Calvary Lutheran Church
Christ Church
Christ Lutheran Church
The Church of the Good Shepherd
Jamie and Calvin Coates
Damascus Shrine #3
Disabled American Veterans Ch. 102
Dini Duclos
Nancy and Dick Ericksen
Federal Way Lions Club
Federal Way Mirror
Federal Way Police Officer's Guild
Good Shepard Episcopal
Melissa Havilli
Greg and Inez Hollmann
Dennis and Joyce Hulse
Roger and Gloria Hunt
Sue Jordan
Jovita Creek Ward of LDS Church
Kiwanis Club of Federal Way

Kiwanis Club of Greater Federal Way
Lakota Chapter of NSDAR
Laurus Financial Group
Life Point Law
Brian and Victoria Lord
Sara McVicker
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Frank and Joan Pratt
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Rotary Club of Federal Way
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Soroptimist Int'l of Auburn
South King Firefighters Foundation
Sunrise United Methodist Church
St. Vincent de Paul
Kevin and Cindy Swett
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11401
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2886
Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer
Mr. & Mrs. C.R. Wise
Woodmen Life Chapter 35
Woodmen Life Chapter 84
Woodmen Life Chapter 85

SAVE THE DATE!

MSC Helps Luncheon

October 19, 2017, 11:30-1pm, Emerald Downs

Honorary Co-Chairs: Lydia Assefa-Dawson, Jim Berrios, and Yolanda Trout-Manuel

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. 104

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THERE IS HOPE

“I just wanted to call to say thank you for being there,” said Lisa. Lisa was in town visiting relatives when she drove past the MSC offices in Federal Way and was taken back to a different time in her life.

It was 1993, and Lisa had recently separated from her husband. Together, they had three children who were 4, 7, and 12 years of age at the time. Her ex-husband lost his job and while Lisa was working, it wasn't enough to cover all the expenses without his assistance.

Unable to pay rent, Lisa and her children were evicted from their apartment and became homeless. She stayed with a friend who told her about MSC's family shelter. “I was at the shelter with my kids for four weeks. That time really helped me assess my situation and figure out what I wanted for the long-term,” shared Lisa.

Lisa applied and was accepted for MSC's transitional housing program where she and her children lived for the next eight months. Lisa said, “While there I was able to save up for a deposit for something I could afford. It gave me time to reflect on what I wanted to do so I was never in the same situation again.”

Lisa decided she wanted to go to school to be a teacher. She enrolled at Highline Community College and started to study early childhood education. She was able to access the food bank and energy assistance to help make ends meet, and received some assistance with tuition and books for school. Eventually, she moved into one of MSC's long-term affordable housing units where she lived for two years and continued to receive assistance through MSC's programs.

During this time, Lisa's employment outlook was improving. She started working as a pre-school teacher as she earned her teaching certificate in early childhood education. She became a teacher, then an assistant principal at an elementary school, and then a principal at an elementary school, and finally landed where she is now as a K-8 District Administrator in her local public school district. She continued her own educational path as well, eventually earning her Master of Education.

Lisa is still continuing to change her life. She is remarried and has one more child, and is pursuing a doctorate in education!

“I want to give back by sharing how MSC impacted my life. I want to encourage people that there is hope. Everyone needs help now and then, we can't do it alone, so it's nice to know that there are organizations like MSC around to give a hand when it's needed.”



SUPPORT EQUALS SUCCESS

“Support equals success,” shares Andre Bullard. Andre, Evan Cook, and Will Jimerson lead MSC’s new Positive Outcomes Program (POP).

POP serves youth and young adults ages 12 to 24 years of age that are typically overlooked or underserved, many of whom are at risk of interaction with the juvenile justice system. The program provides advocacy and support to help these youth meet their goals for the future. POP is strengthened by the support and leadership of the Federal Way Youth Action Team, a collaboration of adults and organizations that provide youth development opportunities.

Andre, Evan, and Will visit schools, malls, and locations in the community where at-risk youth are likely to gather. They also connect with youth on a referral basis through other service organizations, referrals for home visits, as well as law enforcement who may provide a referral to the program as an

alternative to incarceration.

“We look at what way we can connect with them where they are at, whether that’s basketball or education,” shares Evan. “We build a relationship with them, not bombard them with services, so they will open up and we can show them what we can offer them,” adds Will.

POP provides positive mentorship as well as connections for young people interested in getting support in areas such as graduating high school or obtaining a GED, enrolling in college or a training program, obtaining employment, or finding resources such as transportation, school supplies, clothing, housing, or food. POP also works with families to provide additional support to make sure that the youth in the program meet their goals.

The program is unique because it serves youth as young as 12 and is led by individuals that are representative of the population the program serves.

“This is my life calling. When you look at other groups for marginalized populations, they are usually led by someone from that population. However, when you look at groups for young people of color, they are often led by someone not generally of that same background,” shares Will, “Sometimes we are the first example of a positive role model these kids have had. And, we’re approachable. We dress like them and look like them and are able to connect.”

“This doesn’t feel like a job,” shares Andre, “it feels like what I’m supposed to do. Youth need opportunities and people to support them during important life events.”

“I want to be and give people what I didn’t have,” shares Evan. “I want to help make the community a community. I want people to be proud of where they are from.”

For more info on youth programs visit mschelps.org/gethelp/edemp/youth/.

LOOKING FOR A COMEBACK

“My life went the way of the Mariners. Back in 2001, I had the best job of my life and was loving life.”

Dean is a huge baseball fan, a veteran, and a Northwest native, born in Tacoma and raised in Puyallup. At 21 years of age, he joined the Air Force and was stationed in Spain. After completing his service, he held several jobs, including one season of king crab fishing in Alaska. For many years he worked for the State of Washington at different schools as an attendant counselor for developmentally disabled children, and then started to do some security and delivery driver work.

In 2001, he had a delivery job he really enjoyed. He also had an unpaid traffic ticket for no insurance that he had forgotten about. He was pulled over, and quickly found that he was driving on a suspended license. He rushed to fix it, but was pulled over again. The system said he still had a suspended license so he was arrested and spent a week in jail. Dean lost his job.

“I got fired, the Mariners crashed, and then 9/11 happened. The whole world caved in,” Dean shared. “A week in jail was long enough to lose everything I had.”

With no job, Dean soon found himself homeless. He lived in a tent, first in wooded areas in South King County, then he moved to Tent City in Seattle. In Tent City, he learned things, like how to tarp his tent to keep it dry, from those who had been doing it a lot longer. He finally felt a little bit a part of a community. He had also adopted two cats, Tiger and Jax, to keep him company.

After seven years of tent living, Dean was finally able to get into housing. It took some adjusting, “I was worried about how my cats would feel about being stuck indoors. They had freedom



for so long, I wasn't sure if they'd like the apartment. But they did! Four years later, Dean again found himself homeless when a fire displaced him from his apartment. He moved in with his son for a few months, and then couch-surfed for another couple of months, until he moved into MSC's William J. Wood Veterans House in December. Tiger and Jax are also there.

“This has been beyond awesome. It was great to have a place, but to find out how good it is, it is beyond expectations,” says Dean. “When people ask how I'm doing, now I say better than most!” Dean is able to

use MSC's food bank and has started looking for a job.

“The homeless thing sucks. I haven't met one person here [at William J. Wood Veterans House] that isn't happy with their new situation. With this wonderful housing, maybe the Mariners could come back again,” Dean says with a smile.

MSC offers over 550 units of emergency, transitional, permanent supportive, and permanent affordable housing throughout South King County. For more info visit our website at mschelps.org/gethelp/housing/.



MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

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.mschelps.org

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Help. Hope. Change.

Empowered individuals, thriving communities.



TRUE STORIES ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

The Multi-Service Center would like to take a moment to reaffirm its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion. These are values that we at the Multi-Service Center embrace and they are vital components in fulfilling our mission statement of “providing help and hope to our neighbors in need through innovative and integrated efforts that enhance the quality of life for everyone in the communities we serve”.

We are committed to serving all members of the community who are in need and eligible for our services, regardless of religious affiliation, nationality, gender, age, ability, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation. In an effort to achieve our vision of “empowered individuals, thriving communities”, we work to foster a spirit of inclusion and acceptance. We find strength in diversity and welcome people from all walks of life.

We echo this commitment in all our programs and incorporate these values as we develop new programs and supports for members of our community. In this issue, you will read about just one of the many

veterans now living in the William J. Wood Veterans House. Opening just last December, the house is at full capacity and serving formerly homeless veterans from many different branches who served at many different times throughout the last fifty years or so.

You’ll also read about our new POP program, which reaches out to youth ages 12-24 who have, or are likely to have, interactions with law enforcement. Through advocacy and mentorship, we are helping them reach new goals.

Thank you for making a difference by supporting MSC and programs like these. I hope to see you at this year’s Crab Feed!



Best wishes,

Robin R. Corak
Chief Executive Officer

