



MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

HELP. HOPE. CHANGE.



True Stories

2014-2015 WINTER NEWSLETTER



SHOES OR HEAT?

“Sometimes it’s a choice between does my kid get shoes or do I pay the electric bill.”

Sandy has been unable to work due to medical issues and is currently living in subsidized housing with her 11-year-old son. Her income is limited to government assistance of about \$1,000 per month and an additional \$130 for food through SNAP (formerly Food Stamps). Her son’s father was in an accident and suffered a traumatic brain injury and is not able to provide child support. Sandy often struggles to pay rent and all her bills on this small amount of income, especially during the winter months when her energy bill climbs.

“I just float along and pay a little here, and a little there, and hope it’s enough not to get a shut-off notice,” says Sandy. Sandy does try to conserve energy. She keeps lights off, uses cold water for laundry, and takes shorter showers. This isn’t enough during the winter months though, and inevitably, Sandy ends up with a shut-off notice. She turns to MSC for energy assistance, and this helps her get through. “I call and get an appointment once a year, and that helps me keep my power on.”

Sandy is just starting a new therapy program and hopes that her medical issues improve enough that she will be able to return to work one day. In the meantime, she is thankful for all the resources in the community, including MSC, that help her and her son stay warm and safe.

MSC’s energy assistance program helped 8,223 households throughout South King County last year.

CONTACT US

For services

253.838.6810 | WA Relay 711
www.mschehelps.org

To volunteer

253.835.7678, ext. 105
www.mschehelps.org

To donate

253.835.7678, ext. 149
www.mschehelps.org

**True Stories is a publication of
Multi-Service Center**

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MSC accepts bequests or can offer you the opportunity to help MSC while receiving income from your investments.

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

Images of MSC customers are used with their permission; Where images were not available, stock photos were used.



Karisma, Veronica, Majikul, Royuntae, and D'Royce

I HAVE MY FAMILY BACK

"I never dreamed I could be homeless. I could pay rent and still have a couple grand sitting in the bank. I did that because I wanted to live comfortably, and I wanted my kids to live comfortably. Then all of that was gone, we didn't have a place to live."

Veronica and her family were doing well when life took an unexpected turn. Veronica found herself a single mother with three children still living at home and one on the way. She had no money, no job, and quickly found herself without a place to live.

The children stayed with friends, while Veronica couch-surfed and stayed at emergency shelters. She was separated from her children, unable to find work, and had a new baby about to join her family. She didn't know what to do or where to go.

Then, she got the call from MSC. When she came to the office, she was told MSC had a place for her and her kids. She got the key, gathered her kids, and they moved in together as a family again at MSC's family shelter. Veronica shares, "This was my biggest healing point. I had my family back."

Being in MSC housing has helped Veronica gain stability, she's going to nursing school and is working. She is saving money for a house for her family and hopes to be able to help her daughters with college expenses in the next couple of years.

"Without MSC bringing me and my kids here and without this stability, I don't know how I would have survived. I thank MSC for giving me a second chance at getting myself back together, to gain back the independence that I had."

Veronica was featured at the 2014 MSC Helps Luncheon. See the video at youtube.com/mschelps.

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

Learn the Basics: How to use a keyboard, improve typing, and ways that technology can advance your career.

Practice with Microsoft Office: Hands-on experience creating and editing projects in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and Excel.

Improve Job Search Skills: Resume building, keyboarding skills, and how to use technology to improve your job search skills.

Earn a Certificate: Participants receive an Occupational Skills Certificate at the completion of the workshop.

Second Friday of the Month
10am-12pm
MSC Learning Lab
1200 S. 336th St., Federal Way

RSVP: 253.838.6810 or edu@mschelps.org

CRAB FEED '15

SAVE THE DATE!

June 27, 2015
Federal Way
Community Center

Theme: Mardi Gras

Tickets and more info available soon!





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.mschehelps.org

Help. Hope. Change.

Helping people achieve greater independence and discover the power of their choices.

TRUE STORIES ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

This time of year, we take stock of the things that are most important to us. Our families, a warm home, or a good meal. Unfortunately, not everyone in our community has these same blessings. Some are separated from their families, some don't have a place to stay, and some don't know when their next meal will come. That's where MSC, and you, can make a difference.

We are so thankful for the tremendous community support that MSC receives all year long. We are amazed by the support we receive through annual gifts, events like the Crab Feed and our new MSC Helps Luncheon, employee giving programs, and the extraordinary efforts of our volunteers. It inspires us to do more and continue to find creative ways to help those in need in our community find self-sufficiency and self-worth.

We would like to challenge you to see how you can be creative in helping our community members in need in this upcoming year. It might be as simple as making a donation in someone's name instead of giving them

a gift. (By the way, MSC has special holiday cards to acknowledge your gift if you'd like to do this for this year's holiday). Or, you could plan a fundraising event, approach your employer about supporting MSC with an employee drive, or find a unique way to volunteer your skills and talents to benefit our community. The possibilities are endless and only limited by your imagination.

Throughout the next year, we will continue to bring you the true stories of individuals, like Sandy and Veronica, whose lives you have impacted through your support of MSC. We would love to be able to share your story as well. Tell us how you are being creative in taking community action to support those in need.



Best wishes,

Robin R. Corak
Chief Executive Officer

