



MULTI-SERVICE CENTER

HELP. HOPE. CHANGE.



True Stories

2018 FALL/WINTER

COMMUNITY HELPING COMMUNITY



PRESENTS THE

MSC helps LUNCHEON

11:30am-1pm
Emerald Downs
2300 Ron Crockett Drive, Auburn

Honorary Co-Chairs:

Senator Joe Fain
Representative Tina Orwall

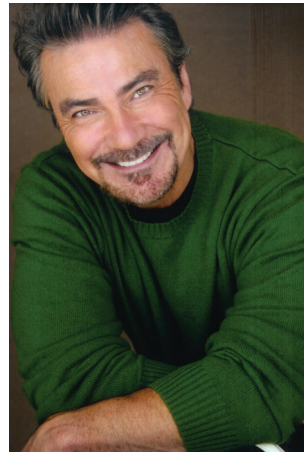
Keynote Speaker:

Victor Rivas Rivers

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

mschelps.org/getinvolved/mschelpsluncheon
rsvp@mschelps.org
253.835.7678 ext. 105

Lunch provided at no charge. Suggested donation \$100.



Please join us for our fifth annual MSC Helps fundraising luncheon to benefit Multi-Service Center! Our keynote speaker, Victor Rivas Rivers is a veteran film actor, best-selling author, renowned advocate for violence prevention, and the first Cuban-born football player to land a tryout with the Miami Dolphins. If not for individuals in his community who were willing to take a stand on his behalf, Victor believes few of those achievements would have been likely given his violent upbringing. Victor is a compelling, inspiring speaker whose hope, humor, and honesty shine through every presentation. We hope to see you there!

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SAVE THE DATE! | 2019 Crab Feed & Auction Saturday, June 1, 2019

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253.838.6810 | WA Relay 711

www.mschelps.org

To volunteer

253.835.7678, ext. 105

www.mschelps.org

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253.835.7678, ext. 104

www.mschelps.org

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MISSION

MSC is building a future without poverty by creating pathways to help, hope, and dignity for our neighbors.

VISION

Empowered individuals. Thriving communities.

VALUES

TEAMWORK
PASSION
RESPECT

INTEGRITY
DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

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Writer/Editor: Sarah McNiesh

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WORTH IT

“I knew I wanted to do something more satisfying with my life than working in retail, but I just didn’t know how to get there,” shares single mother of three, Chiquita.

So, in 2015, Chiquita entered a youth and young adult development employment program at MSC. A case manager helped her to define and develop a path for her to reach her goal of working in youth development. Chiquita focused on her education first. After earning her GED, she started college-level courses at Highline College, and in 2017 earned her Associate’s degree in human services.

While she was working towards her Associate’s degree, Chiquita also worked on developing job specific skills by interning at MSC. She helped with some administrative tasks and also provided direct service to clients by helping others earn their GED. After her internship ended, Chiquita stayed on at MSC as a volunteer working with the GED program.

“It’s been hard to work full-time and go to school full-time,” shares Chiquita. “It’s been hard to be away from my kids so much, but in the end I know it will be worth it. It’s all a learning process and I’m taking it all in.”

Chiquita is currently 30 credits away from earning her Bachelor’s degree in youth development. This past year she served as an AmeriCorps volunteer with MSC working with our GED program, the HEART program for kids living in MSC’s shelter, and providing job training skills like resume building for students searching for employment. She plans on continuing to serve our community next year at MSC and hopes to expand MSC opportunities by providing additional workshops on basic computer skills training.

“I’m able to pursue my dreams and goals here at MSC. I’m doing it now, helping youth and other people. I enjoy it here, I just love it, love the people, and love the vibe,” shares Chiquita.



IT'S A FAMILY THING

"I want my family to realize they are blessed and that some people have more needs than us, especially needs to survive like food," says Hedi, "It is fun, it's a family thing, it is making a difference in the community, connecting to others and transforming our own lives by having a sense of purpose."

The Smith family makes volunteering a part of their family life. Alex, age 16, has been volunteering with his parents Ron and Hedi at MSC's food bank since he was four or five years old, and Lisa, age 13, started volunteering at age three. "I remember the first time we volunteered, we put Alex in the big boxes of donations to help us reach the stuff at the bottom. Then, Lisa

joined him when it was time for her to help," shared Hedi.

"When I get older, if I have kids, I would take them to volunteer too. It teaches that you don't always need everything you want, and it feels good when the people smile when you give them food," shared Lisa. Lisa has provided so many volunteer hours, she received a Community Service Award at school for exceeding the number of required volunteer hours.

"Volunteering is fun, it's good to go out and do something," shares Alex who likes to also volunteer on projects with his father during the summer. Ron works full-time, so volunteers with the rest of the family when his schedule allows.

The Smith family volunteers at the food bank on school holidays where they sort, collect, or help distribute food on the food bank line. During the summer, they also help prep food for MSC's summer meals program.

In addition to their volunteer service at MSC, they also volunteer at their church, participate in United Way Day of Caring projects, and volunteer for other organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

"We see the number of people that need help. Time is the only thing that we can give and volunteering is one thing that my family can do together. It feels good, it's just right to help others," says Hedi, "I want my kids to have the experience of helping others, to know how it feels, and it is a good feeling."

RESTORATION OF HOPE AND FAITH

“The world has gotten crazy,” shares Francisca. “Every bit of help counts. Everyone needs a time to get back on their feet and this housing helps a lot of people.”

Francisca and Javan met in 2003 at a treatment center. Both were battling homelessness and substance abuse issues. Through the following years they continued to experience periods of homelessness and sporadic employment.

As a veteran struggling with homelessness, Javan and his family qualified to move in to MSC’s William J. Wood (WJW) Veterans House. Javan served in the Navy for

four years during the late nineties until 2001. Javan and Francisca, along with their four children ages 7-13, were one of the first families to move in to WJW when it opened in December 2016.

“When we first got here, I was looking at all the stuff that was here. There was food in the kitchen, dishes, even cleaning supplies,” shares Francisca.

“I opened the closet doors, yelled at Francisca to come look at this, then sat at the table speechless,” shares Javan. “We even had our own washer and dryer.”

“We’ve been able to get our kids and ourselves back on track,” says

Francisca. “We don’t have to figure out where we’re going to stay anymore so we can do what we need to do to not be in that situation again.”

“I’m a worrier,” says Javan. “I need security for my family, for my kids. Being a father is the best job I’ve ever had. Now I think I’m doing good enough with the issues I have.”

Francisca and Javan hope to one day get married and have a small home of their own. Francisca would like to become a peer support specialist. Talking about his journey at WJW, Javan smiles as he shares, “It’s like a restoration of hope and faith. I look forward to doing great things.”





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.mschepls.org

Help. Hope. Change.

Empowered individuals, thriving communities.



TRUE STORIES ABOUT MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Inside this issue, you'll hear stories of how MSC is making a difference in the lives of three families. For Chiquita, we are helping her to achieve her goals so she can financially support her three children. For the Smith family, MSC is providing a place for Hedi and Ron to teach their children the values they hope to pass on. And, for Javan and Francisca, MSC is providing housing stability so they can get their family back on track.

All of these stories are possible because MSC has a strong community that supports our efforts to provide help, hope, and change. This October, MSC invites you to celebrate how our community is making a difference at the MSC Helps Luncheon. More information is available inside this newsletter, and I hope to see you there!

In June, the MSC Board of Directors adopted a new mission statement for the organization, which reflects the work we are doing as a Community Action Agency to fight poverty in our community. Our new mission statement is: MSC is building a future without poverty by creating pathways to help, hope, and dignity for our neighbors.

Dignity is an important aspect to providing lasting change for our neighbors in need. It's about pride and

self-respect. Dignity includes being able to make your own choices, not having them made for you. That's why we renovated the MSC food bank this summer into more of a grocery store model. Now food bank customers can take their cart through our "aisles" and make their own choices.

There is a lot of talk locally and nationally about the growing number of people living in poverty, especially those that are homeless. We know that people helping people and community support are vital to making a difference for those struggling for stability. So is instilling a sense of dignity and self-respect for making long-term change. As we enter into the "giving season," I would challenge our local community to make a difference in a way that allows people the dignity they need to empower themselves to make change.



Best wishes,

Robin R. Corak

Robin R. Corak

Chief Executive Officer



MULTI-SERVICE CENTER