

Housing Hope DWELLINGS

Spring 2023



**HOUSING
HOPE**
we keep hope alive

Twin Lakes Landing II
Photo by Scott Harder

HOPEWORKS
a Housing Hope affiliate



INTRODUCING DONNA: HOUSING HOPE & HOPEWORKS NEW CEO

As you are reading this, I am working through my first weeks with Housing Hope and HopeWorks as our new CEO. As I meet with staff to learn about the many projects in progress that will provide a lasting impact on the community, I am convinced that I am in the right place. I look forward to helping bring momentum and support to the innovative initiatives that will continue to improve the lives of families in Snohomish County and Camano Island.

I have been involved in social services my entire professional career. A turning point for me was my introduction to the programs designed and implemented as a part of the War on Poverty in 1964 under the Economic Opportunity Act. These programs were created to address the causes and conditions of poverty. They were designed to give individuals and families access to opportunities that would provide them the ability to achieve and maintain stability and self-sufficiency. Working with those programs and the participants who accessed them gave me the chance to understand how the comprehensive provision of support and resources to households that have experienced diverse traumas can have an enormous, life-changing, positive impact. Housing Hope is doing that work and my leadership abilities and work experiences are a good fit for this proven model.

Safe, decent, and affordable housing along with the other essential services including job training, provided through Housing Hope and HopeWorks, are critical supports to interrupt the cycle of poverty in Snohomish County. I am excited and committed to building internal and external relationships to evolve our responses in helping create healthy families and reduce poverty.

At this time in 2024, I hope to reflect on this new beginning as a dynamic one, full of the genesis of new collaborations and the strengthening of established ones. Working with staff and our community, I want to create unique solutions to the increasingly difficult issues that impact our unhoused and under-incomed neighbors.

I want to thank the Executive Board of Directors for this leadership opportunity. I know from my initial meetings and reading about the agency's history that your support has been an essential ingredient in the success of realizing our mission. Thank you for this impressive partnership and I look forward to meeting you soon.

- Donna Moulton



THANK YOU FRED!

While we celebrate the arrival of our new CEO Donna, we also want to take a moment to thank Fred Safstrom, our outgoing CEO, for 25 incredible years of dedicated service. He has been instrumental in helping us make a real difference in the lives of children and families, breaking the cycle of poverty and improving outcomes for future generations.

Fred's vision and leadership have been an inspiration to us all, and we are so grateful for everything he has done for Housing Hope and HopeWorks. As he moves on to new endeavors, we wish him all the best and thank him from the bottom of our hearts.



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

Despite unexpected snow and frigid temperatures, community leaders, elected officials and other special Housing Hope supporters came out on Feb. 22nd to celebrate the Twin Lakes Landing II Ribbon Cutting. The joyous ceremony featured comments from Representative Suzan DelBene, Marysville Mayor Jon Nehring, Housing Hope's CEO, Donna Moulton, and Fred Safstrom, CEO Emeritus. Guests enjoyed a tour of the units that will become the new home for 60 families in the North Snohomish County community who are at different stages of their journey out of poverty.





YEAR END GIVING

Nick & Patricia

Our annual year-end campaign, spanning from November 2022-January 2023, was a great success this year, **raising over \$272,000!** The campaign consisted of mailed, emailed, and social media appeals to donors across Washington State and some nationally.

We are incredibly grateful to Patricia and Nick Cairus for not only sharing their story but also their vulnerability, time, and personal resources to give back to their community.

In their words, *“We used to be embarrassed about our situation, and now we want people to know about our story so they can be inspired and empowered that there is a way up and out. We’re giving back to support our community and neighbors like they did for us.”*

Finally, we are immensely appreciative to all our donors who heard the Cairus’ story and were inspired to give back to their community as well! **THANK YOU!**

COLLEGE OF HOPE UPDATES



Jeff Barnes and the College of Hope team are celebrating their most successful client attendance year since the pandemic! In addition to the hundreds served in the past months through COH’s average of 4-5 weekly classes and groups, over thirty new folks have been reached through their series of Meet and Greets at Housing Hope sites. College of Hope also celebrates their partnerships with seven new class venues around the county, their renewed partnerships with area organizations such as Cocoon House and Everett School District, and the launch of a new restaurant donor coalition to provide great meals for classes. Thank you to all who have made this possible!

This spring, COH childcare staff look forward to facilitating a new Strengthening Families curriculum – for which they recently obtained certification – and sharing a fresh round of class topics and updated curricula. With the largest team to date and new volunteer engagement on projects both direct and administrative, it’s sure to be an exciting season.

Classes are free and open to all members of the public, so check back often for their monthly class schedule. Topics cover everything from mortgages to flower arranging to stress management. The friendly COH staff is always happy to talk to you or those you know about registration!



Visit housinghope.org/college-of-hope to learn more.



PARTICIPANT SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer

“My battle with addiction started when I was ten years old. My parents were addicts, which created that unhealthy lifestyle at an early age. I started with marijuana and alcohol, but before too long, I was using meth, dropping out of school during my seventh-grade year, and running the streets of Las Vegas. Addiction took over for the next 25 years.

I moved to Washington in 2007, hoping for a new life free of addiction, but that was not the case. I had a few great jobs, a place to live, cars, family, and more, but the addiction was still constant. Eventually, I sought my GED at the age of thirty. It was not until the age of thirty-two that I first tried heroin. At that moment, I knew I had met the love of my life with heroin, and that’s when things got bad. I lost everything and had multiple criminal cases pending before too long. One of those cases got me a nudge from the judge, and I was court-ordered into in-patient care. I decided to go to a 6-month residential inpatient. At the time, my

daughter was 2.5 years old. That is when my life started to change, and for the first time ever, I thought to myself, ‘hey, I can do this.’

While I was in treatment, I learned about Narcotics Anonymous. Women would come in and share their stories, and I could relate to everything they were saying. These women stayed clean no matter what and were happy and at peace. I wanted some of that peace. Listening to them allowed me to realize that I am not unique. I am just an addict, just like them. I started to feel hope.

If it were not for Housing Hope, I would not be where I am today. They provided housing for my daughter and me when no other place would. Through the programs, services, and Tomorrow’s Hope Childcare, I started creating a life with purpose. I returned to college and am now in my second year of the Child, Youth, and Family Studies BAS at Edmonds College. I am also attending Leadership Snohomish County this year and will start my practicum with Snohomish County Family Recovery Court in the new year. I work at Everett Recovery Café as a recovery coach and resource coordinator. Today I am a contributing member of society, pay my rent with help from Everett Housing Authority, and care about my community.

I want people to know that each one of these little victories is essential to the quality of life I have today. I am beyond grateful for everyone that has played a part in getting me to where I am. I will have six years clean from heroin and meth in April 2023. I will graduate with my Bachelor’s in Social Human Services in June 2023. These are not small things; they are huge!

This year I was finally able to buy the Christmas tree that I have wanted since I got clean. It may not seem like much to others, but for me, it means success, stability, growth, courage to change, freedom, and hope. I have both of my children in my life, my precious fur babies, family, friends, co-workers, and most importantly, a community. I am free from myself today, and that is the biggest win!”

Thank you, Jennifer, for sharing your story and reminding us of the importance of the non-material things that are so profound, beautifully simple, and gratifying in finding meaning and peace in our lives.



VOICES OF HOPE

On December 11, 2022, the Stanwood Ambassador's, a very special group of Housing Hope volunteers who've been going strong since the 1980's, presented the annual Voices of Hope Benefit Concert. Local church choirs volunteered their time and talents at Voices of Hope, and local businesses and community members donated items for a silent auction and bake sale. Voices of Hope, hosted by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Stanwood, raised \$8,575. Proceeds benefit local families served by Housing Hope at Lincoln Hill Village and Lervick Family Village in Stanwood.



WAMP SHOUTOUT

Housing Hope was honored to be the chosen recipient of proceeds from the Washington Association of Mortgage Professionals Gala 2022. A check, in the amount of \$19,000, was presented to Housing Hope by former WAMP Presidents, Tom McArthur and Sharol Klise, and Missy Lawson, President Elect and Treasurer.



Housing Hope's board president Tom Berquist, explaining Vision 2030 at the President's Circle Celebration.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE CELEBRATION

On February 28th, over 60 President's Circle donors met and enjoyed each other's company at Bluewater Distilling on the Everett waterfront. Guests had the opportunity to meet Housing Hope's new CEO Donna Moulton and hear her uplifting plans for our future. Board President Tom Berquist gave an update on a few of the many projects underway—from the new Tomorrow's Hope Child Development Center planned for the Compass Health campus to upcoming projects at HopeWorks Station, Edmonds Lutheran Church, Scriber Lake, and more.



SHOEBOX SANTA

Huge shoutout to the Sponsors who helped bring joy to over 250 kids through the Shoebox Santa program this past December!

Our Admin office was piled high for a few days with boxes of gifts that volunteers helped to distribute to our properties across the county.

For one family, sharing Shoebox Santa gifts with their children was literally the only Christmas experience they had. Without those gifts, it would have been like any other ordinary day. Another family said, "It was awesome seeing the happiness on our kid's faces as they opened up presents received from Shoebox Santa. I'd like to share a heartfelt thanks and unending gratitude for the joy you helped bring to our children on Christmas day." Thank you again Sponsors for helping the families we serve have a more enjoyable Christmas.



COMMUNITY OF HOPE

The annual Community of Hope fundraising dinner took place March 8th at the beautiful Lord Hill Farms in Snohomish. We were joined by 139 guests to share a fabulous meal and to celebrate the impact Housing Hope is having on families in east county who have experienced homelessness and poverty. In addition to meeting and hearing from Housing Hope’s new CEO, Donna Moulton, Carrie, a Housing Hope resident, shared her inspiring story of having overcome some significant challenges in her life. Carrie and her family are now thriving because of their determination to make the most of having safe and stable housing, which they were able to access through Housing Hope.

Thanks to the generosity of our guests and sponsors, Community of Hope raised **\$50,441 NET**, which will go directly toward providing families with supportive services in east Snohomish County.

Carrie, Housing Hope Resident

Karen Guzak, Master of Ceremonies



THE CULINARY TRAINING ACADEMY AT HOPEWORKS

If you’ve ever visited Kindred Kitchen on Broadway to grab coffee and a pastry or lunch, you may know that many of those behind the counter and in the kitchen are in training. The demand for food service workers is at an all-time high in Snohomish County, but HopeWorks Social Enterprise’s training spots are limited by our current square footage. This spring, we launched a Capital Campaign to

fund a build-out of the unfinished space at HopeWorks Station, the first building in Everett to achieve LEED® Platinum certification and home for our job training programs including Kindred Kitchen. The goal is to equip a Culinary Training Academy that, when completed, will house a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen where our culinary arts trainees will gain the complex skills necessary to work in a high-volume kitchen while providing meals for our families, community customers and for Kindred Kitchen.

This facility will enable us to add three new job training pathways, while also increasing the number of trainees we can serve at one time. Graduates will emerge with key skills for the many high-demand jobs in food service that are open in Snohomish County: banquet preparation and serving, large scale catering and meal kit production, and providing USDA compliant meals for school cafeterias.

In addition to the kitchen area, there will be a community gathering space on the street side of the building, full of light from the large windows. We are working with Dykeman Architects to create a welcoming environment for your next meeting or presentation—with catering provided by our graduates! Look for an email outlining ways you can contribute to realizing this vision.

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TRAINEE SPOTLIGHT

Loki was born in Norway in 1972 and moved to Canada when he was twelve with his mother, father, and twin brother. Growing up, Loki and his brother had a very supportive relationship and they relied on each other heavily. Throughout school they experienced challenges with language barriers and were bullied extensively. Loki took the brunt of this; his Autism created an extra level of challenges which he endured. Hardships aside, they really enjoyed being in school and enjoyed the lessons they



learned. Loki was especially interested in history, science, and math. When Loki and his brother graduated high school, they packed their bags and left for UC Berkeley. Loki went on to study anthropology, paleontology, and Egyptology.

After graduating, Loki joined the police force and within one year made his way up the chain to become an undercover police officer. During his career undercover, he suffered multiple head injuries and witnessed violent situations that left him traumatized. With no mental health support or tools to cope with what he experienced, he did the only thing he knew he could do. After six years of service, he left his job in search of a more peaceful existence.

Not long after leaving the force, he started a family with his partner. They later separated, leaving Loki to raise both of their children on his own. The three of them struggled with homelessness for 5-6 years. He couldn't afford a place fit for them and it was harder to access resources because he was a single father. He found that many resources were designed for single mothers. In 2016 Loki received housing from Housing Hope and relief washed over him; he finally felt like his options were opening again. He had a place to live, raise his children, and relax. He later applied for Section 8 and eventually received his voucher and moved into new housing.

Using his voucher as a catalyst, Loki continued to find ways to better the future for his family. One of those ways was working towards saving money. To do that he needed to find work, but it had been a long time since he was employed.

He remembered hearing about HopeWorks' training program. He applied and was accepted. He was surprised by how welcoming and accommodating the staff were. Loki found himself really enjoying the program. He started to feel comfortable advocating for himself, and his customer service skills improved. After a few weeks Loki felt more confident in his ability to work. He enjoyed repairing furniture that Ron would bring in during Hands-on-with-Ron. It brought him back to when he was younger and would repair furniture with his family. If something needed to be tightened, loosened, or taken apart, Loki was your guy.

Loki graduated in January of 2023. At his graduation, Loki was described as intelligent, witty, and funny. By the time he graduated it was obvious that he had gained more confidence and was surer in himself. "Since the first day you came in here and to now, I've noticed huge personal growth from you," Tina, the Director of Renew proudly pointed out to him. Julie, Loki's trainer also was happy to let him know how much he helped shape the program by bringing awareness to Autism and his struggles. "You have helped make the classroom better for all future trainees," Julie said to him.

After completing the program, Loki is now volunteering part-time at a comic book and toy store. He is looking to find employment in retail and with his experience, he is excited to take his next steps. We are so happy to have been able to help Loki take one more step forward.

Our mission at HopeWorks Social Enterprises is to create pathways to self-sufficiency through social enterprises that provide hope, empowerment, education, and job training.

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jobtraining@hopewrks.org
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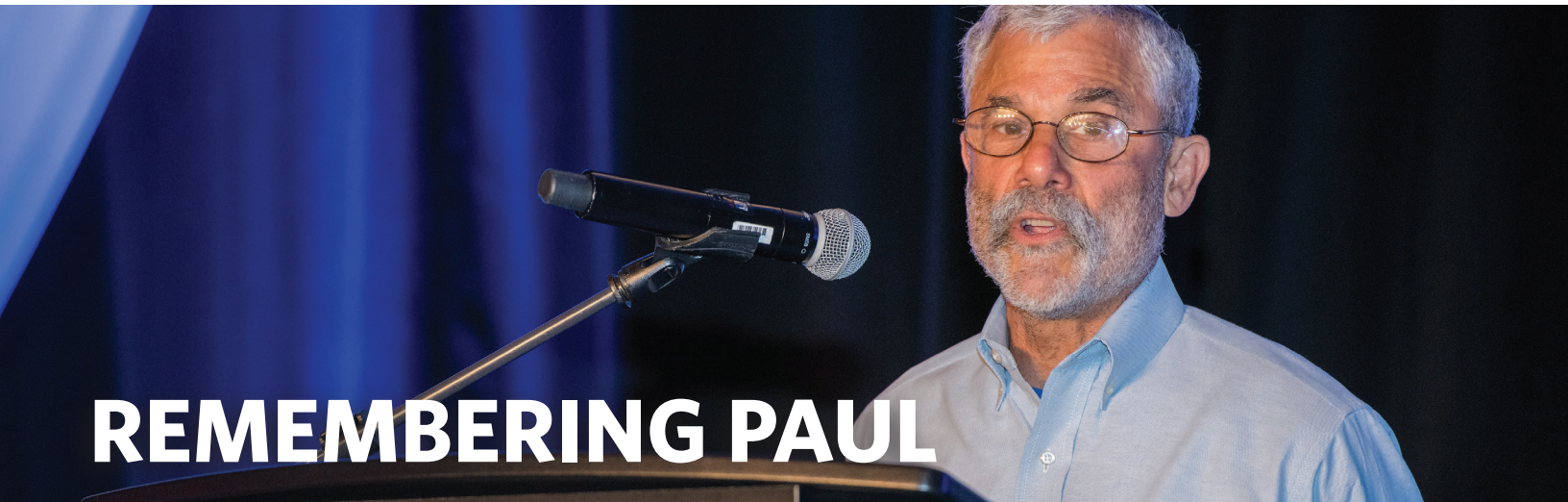
HOGS (Harley Owners Group) at the Bunny Run

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Harley Owners Group

We'd like to celebrate HOGS (Harley Owners Group) for 30 Years of collaboration with Housing Hope! The Bunny Runs, Reindeer Runs, Supply Drives, and Holiday Meal Cards are just a few of the ways they creatively served the residents of our community and helped bring a little more joy and relief during a challenging time in their lives. We thank you!

Some other special shout outs go to Glen Moritz for helping coordinate and acquire over 20 mattresses and supplies to the new Twin Lakes Landing residents. Shout out to volunteers Diana Lynn and Carl King for their eagerness to serve and take on new jobs every month! Head to our website to become a HH Volunteer today.

**Do you have skills that you'd like to share us here at Housing Hope?
Please apply at housinghope.org/volunteer**



REMEMBERING PAUL

The Housing Hope and HopeWorks family lost an amazing man December 2022. Paul Vexler had a sharp mind, an artistic eye and an expansive heart. He brought all three of those qualities and more to bear on Housing Hope when he joined the Board in 2002. He went on to be a founding Board member of HopeWorks in 2011. His passion for the agency was apparent in his constant advocacy, thoughtful questions, active networking on our behalf to form new partnerships, and his willingness to invite others to join Sonia and him in generously donating time, talent and treasure toward the mission. He was an amazing artist with public art commissions across the country. We're fortunate to have several pieces of his adorning many of our housing communities, including the "Leverage" functional art piece in front of Kindred Kitchen. We miss you Paul and think of you every time the bell rings as your artwork brings community members together to lift the two tons of granite they couldn't lift on their own.

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OUR MISSION

Housing Hope shall promote and provide affordable housing and tailored services to reduce homelessness and poverty for residents on Snohomish County and Camano Island.



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LOOKING FOR WAYS TO HELP?

Did you know that seven percent of our annual charitable funds come from steady, recurring monthly donations—no matter what size? You can help provide this critical support for our programs when you become a monthly donor. Truly no amount is too small. Our average monthly gift is just \$150; less than you might spend on your daily Venti caramel macchiato! It's simple to do via our website or your bank's bill-pay. Join us now at whatever level feels meaningful.

Save the Date
STONE SOUP

May 18th, 2023 ▪ Tulalip Resort ▪ 5:30 pm

housinghope.org/stonesoup