

*When you're homeless,
the scary stories are real*



2011



Report
to the
community





Our Mission

DESC works to end the homelessness of vulnerable people, particularly those living with serious mental or addictive illnesses.

Through partnerships and an integrated array of comprehensive services, treatment and housing, we give people the opportunity to reach their highest potential. At DESC, uncommon efforts produce uncommon results that eliminate homelessness, one person at a time.

DESC staff volunteer for community clean up in West Seattle, home of our soon to be 10th permanent supportive housing program

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to report that 2011 was a very busy and productive year for DESC and the people we serve.

During 2011, DESC served just over 2,000 people each day of the year. We served over 300,000 meals; provided over 384,000 bednights of safe shelter and housing and found new permanent housing placements for 470 of our homeless clients. While these numbers are large they are also consistent with our service outcomes for the past several years.

Like you, DESC is committed to dramatically reducing the number of disabled people in our community who experience homelessness. To that end, in 2011 we broke ground on a new 87 unit permanent housing project at 105th and Aurora. We also purchased a property in the Delridge neighborhood of West Seattle where we will build a 66 unit project. Both of these housing programs will employ the same Housing First model we are successfully using in our eight existing housing programs. The location of these new buildings also extends our commitment to developing our housing in residential neighborhoods which we believe is vital to the clinical and social stabilization of our residents.

We continued to share our experiences with others by providing technical consultation to numerous communities across the country. This bore fruit in 2011, with the opening of new housing first projects in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska, both modeled after our 1811 Eastlake project. We also worked with homeless service organizations from New York City, Philadelphia and Austin, and all three began

developments based on 1811 Eastlake that are scheduled to open in 2012. And, numerous communities across the country are now using our Vulnerability Assessment Tool and following our model of prioritizing the most vulnerable homeless persons for permanent housing.

While we are proud of the agency's accomplishments during the year, we are mindful of the challenging economic climate in which our state and community are mired. 2011 saw more cuts to our state's social safety net with reductions in basic health, mental health and drug alcohol funding; closure of in-patient treatment beds; and, general reductions in all social services. Predictably, this has led to an increase in demand for the kinds of services DESC provides.

We ended 2011 with a deep resolve to continue expanding housing and support services for disabled homeless adults as long as they remain on the streets of this community. We are heartened by the support and encouragement we have received from the citizens and know that you, like the Board and staff of DESC, find homelessness in our community to be an inexcusable but correctable problem.

Sincerely,

Clark Kimerer
President, Board of Directors

Bill Hobson
Executive Director





From left: Canaday Clinical Support Specialist Danielle, Edgar and Case Manager Christine

“A trusting soul who had always been self sufficient, he was too proud to seek help, but as an elderly homeless person he was abused by those younger and stronger than he.”

Dignity reclaimed: The long road to recovery for one of our nation’s homeless veterans

Edgar shuffles down the hall with his walker at DESC’s Canaday House. “Grandfatherly” is what people think when they first see him. He has a toothless grin, natty attire and newly styled beard. Staff in the building say when he meets someone new, he offers a warm hug, and graciously invites them into his home.

Edgar’s home at Canaday House is a happy development in a very long and difficult journey marked by years of homelessness, alcoholism, and poverty that began nearly 70 years ago in West Virginia. Edgar began drinking moonshine during his childhood in Appalachia. By the time his family relocated to Roslyn, WA in his teens, he was already a regular drinker. He entered the service during the Viet Nam era and relied on alcohol to get him through the tough times. Always a sensitive soul, Edgar recalls that he had to “get messed up in order to mow people down”. His exemplary service in combat was negated when witnessing a sergeant yelling disrespectfully at a female soldier, Edgar came to her defense by punching the sergeant in the face. He left the military with a dishonorable discharge.

Returning to Washington, Edgar began a career in pipe laying and soon settled down with the love of his life, Laurie. With a strong work ethic and a penchant for saving, he and Laurie believed they were on the road to owning their own home. Skyrocketing inflation in the late 70’s and a freeze on his union wages brought a rapid end to their dream. When they lost their home, Edgar and Laurie returned

to Eastern Washington where they moved into a rundown rental home in Roslyn. Always ambitious, Edgar convinced the owner to let him rent the property with an option to buy while fixing it up into a home of which he and Laurie could be proud.

Edgar strove to be a devoted husband and a dependable provider, although he was plagued by post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from his days in combat and bouts of alcohol abuse. Although they struggled financially, he looked forward to a better future because as Edgar stated, “we had faith, hope and God on our side”. Then after 22 years of marriage, Edgar suffered the biggest setback of all: Laurie left him.

Alone and depressed, Edgar did what he had always done - he drank. Eventually he tried to salve his heartbreak with harder drugs – meth and crack. When his pipe layer’s income was insufficient to cover his bills and his drug habit, he simply walked away from his bills and his home.

Edgar spent years on Seattle’s streets, bouncing from shelter to shelter, while his mental and physical disabilities remained untreated. A trusting soul who had always been self sufficient, he was too proud to seek help, but as an elderly homeless person he was abused by those younger and stronger than he. Often his drinking threw him into a violent streak, landing him in jail. His belongings were stolen many times. Several attacks landed him in local

continued on page 6





Edgar's new home: DESC's Canaday House

“Today Edgar is off of drugs, and lives a safe and satisfying life at Canaday House.”



emergency rooms. It was after being treated for one particularly bad beating that the staff at Harborview Medical Center asked DESC to help.

At DESC's main shelter, Edgar resisted help for three long years saying “I'm just an old homeless guy, I'm nothing special”. Finally in 2008 DESC Case Manager Christine won Edgar's trust and began helping him map out his road to recovery. It was at this time that Edgar was assessed by clinical staff as being highly vulnerable. This meant that he was eligible to move into DESC supportive housing as soon as an apartment became available.

Meanwhile Christine contacted Reginald, DESC's Liaison at the local Veterans Administration (VA) office. Together they conquered the red tape and paperwork necessary to obtain a copy of Edgar's military ID and to have his discharge status changed from “dishonorable” to “less than honorable”, allowing him for the first time in 40 years to access VA benefits and health care.

Then on a warm spring day in 2011 Christine shared life-altering news with Edgar: an apartment in DESC's Canaday House, where 25 units for veteran housing is set aside, became available. He could move in any time he liked. This was truly “Housing First” – Edgar didn't have to stop drinking or wait for the final word on his VA status. There was an apartment ready for him now. Overcome with emotion, Edgar commented to Christine, “If a man can't live like a man, what's the point?” He proudly signed his lease and moved into Canaday House, his first home in over a decade.

This was not the end of Edgar's journey, however. Even with help from DESC and the VA, Edgar's long road to recovery was plagued by set-backs and disappointments and his sense of what it is to be a man was constantly put to the test. Now, nearly eighteen months later, Edgar is off of drugs, has his drinking under control, and lives a safe and satisfying life with other veterans at Canaday House. When asked about his new life and his relationship with Christine, Edgar says without hesitation, “I love her. DESC and Christine saved my life”.

Volunteer Profile: Eli McPherson and Katrina Bishop

When Eli and Katrina began volunteering at DESC, we couldn't help but marvel at their willingness to commute to downtown Seattle from their home in Bremerton where Katrina currently serves in the US Navy. Katrina explains why she and her husband Eli (formally a Marine) volunteer: “My husband and I decided to volunteer at DESC as part of an effort to step away from our daily routine and make a difference in the lives of others. Too many people spend their lives focusing solely on the things most important to them in order to improve their current situations. Often we forget that when we help each other we help ourselves even more. By volunteering at DESC, we hope to show that nothing is more important than everyone taking a little time out of their day to help someone else and to better our community as a whole by helping everyone work together. We feel that DESC is setting a positive example in the Seattle area and we are honored to be considered a part of it.”

We are so grateful for Eli and Katrina's dedication to the men and women in their community, and to all of our volunteers who help make such a big difference in the lives of the men and women we serve.



Katrina and Eli on their way from Bremerton to volunteer at DESC

Donor Profile: David and Jan Connell

David and Jan Connell made their first contribution to DESC in 2009. Since then they have given generously and often. Living in Ohio, we couldn't help but wonder how they had heard of us and what inspires them to continue giving, so we asked them.

Several years ago, David and Jan's daughter was doing her post doctoral internship at the VA Hospital in Seattle. Often in her emails she would share with her mother and father the difficulty she had in getting needed services for her clients who were not only military veterans but were homeless also. While a mass of red tape and long list of rules and regulations at most agencies left her clients ineligible for care, DESC always opened its doors and reached out to offer help and compassion to homeless veterans.

To quote David and Jan, “we support DESC for the sake of our country's Veterans. Tell everyone, bless you!”

Thank you David and Jan!



David and Jan and their dog Regina



DESC Program Locations

- 1 The Union Hotel**
 204 Third Avenue S. - 206.587.2460
 52 stable, affordable apartments and services for disabled homeless men and women

Something Old, Something New
 200 Third Avenue S. - 206.748.9080
 DESC Thrift Store

Scattered Sites Housing (administrative offices at the Union Hotel)
 204 Third Ave S - 206.587.2460
 53 units and services for SAGE clients in market rate housing
- 2 The Morrison**
 509 Third Avenue - 206.515.1545
 190 apartments and services for disabled homeless men and women

Administrative Office
 515 Third Avenue - 206.464.1570
 info@desc.org

Main Emergency Shelter
 517 Third Avenue - 206.464.1570
 A safe place for 204 men and women to stay each night

Connections
 505 Third Avenue - 206.515.1555
 Comprehensive daytime service center including vocational training, information and referral, veterans' outreach and hygiene facilities for homeless men and women
- 3 The Lyon Building**
 607 Third Avenue - 206.341.9575
 64 apartmentments and services for homeless men and women with multiple disabilities, including HIV/AIDS, mental illness and/or chemical dependency

Clinical Programs
 216 James Street - 206.464.6454
 Outreach and engagement, case management, chemical dependency treatment and crisis respite
- 4 1811 Eastlake**
 1811 Eastlake Avenue - 206.957.0700
 75 units for chronically homeless adults with severe alcoholism

- 5 Kerner-Scott House**
 510 Minor Avenue N. - 206.621.7027
 25 safe haven apartments for homeless, mentally ill adults; 15 clean and sober apartments for homeless, chemically dependent adults in recovery

Kerner-Scott Women's Shelter
 510 Minor Avenue N. - 206.621.7027
 A safe place for 25 mentally ill homeless women to stay each night

MIST
 514 Minor Ave - 206.621.7027
 Multidisciplinary Intensive Support and Treatment Team, with housing and benefit assistance, works closely with people experiencing chronic homelessness and who have the highest crisis system usage
- 6 Canaday House**
 424 Minor Avenue N. - 206.682.2376
 83 apartments and services for disabled homeless adults with 27 units set aside for homeless US military veterans.
- 7 Evans House**
 415 Tenth Avenue - 206.223.1533
 75 apartments and services for homeless men and women disabled by severe and persistent mental illness
- 8 SAGE Belltown**
 2106 2nd Avenue, Suite 100 - 206.441.3043
 Long-term case management for homeless and formerly homeless men and women living with severe and persistent mental illness
- 9 Queen Anne Shelter**
 Sacred Heart Church, 205 2nd Avenue N. - 206.515.1515
 A safe place for 50 homeless men to stay each night
- 10 PACT**
 2225 Fourth Avenue - 206.441.3329
 Program of Assertive Community Treatment for men and women transitioning from long periods of institutionalization
- 11 Rainier House (inset)**
 5270 Rainier Avenue S. - 206.732.1883
 50 apartments and services for homeless men and women disabled by severe and persistent mental illness



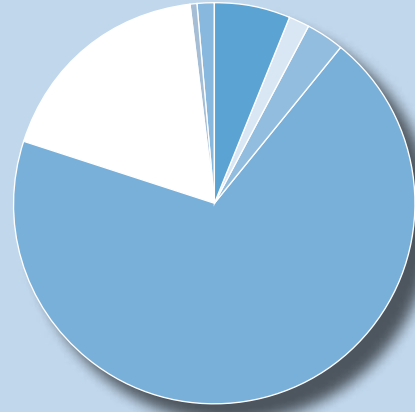
Financial Summary

for the year January 1 to December 31, 2011

Consolidated Statement of Activities - DESC & Related Partnerships

REVENUE

Contributions	\$1,352,362
Contributions In-Kind	325,700
United Way of King County	673,128
Public Grants & Contracts	14,734,664
Rents and Fees	3,890,566
Interest	8,516
Other	277,073
Total Revenue	\$21,262,009

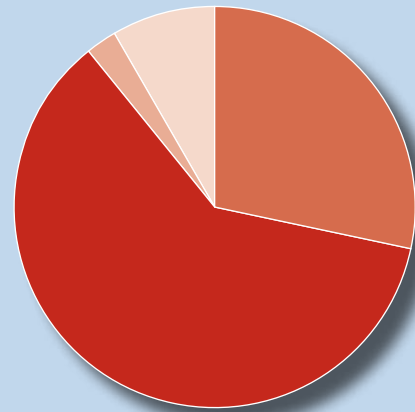


REVENUE

- Contributions 6.4%
- Contributions In-Kind 1.5%
- United Way of King County 3.2%
- Public Grants & Contracts 69.3%
- Rents and Fees 18.3%
- Interest 0.1%
- Other 1.2%

EXPENSES

Clinical Programs	\$5,935,710
Housing Programs	12,713,247
Fund Raising	539,330
Management & Administration	1,723,582
Total Expenses	\$20,911,870



EXPENSES

- Clinical Programs 28.4%
- Housing Programs 60.8%
- Fund Raising 2.6%
- Management & Admin 8.2%

Operating Surplus (Deficit) \$350,139

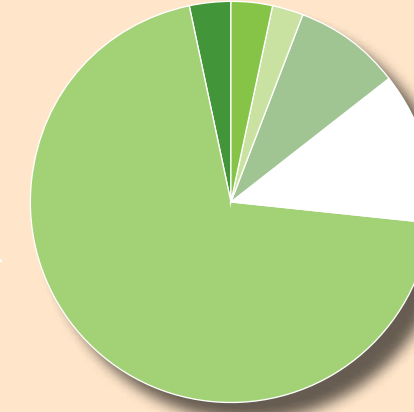
Non-Operating Revenue/Expense (2,627,335)



Consolidated Statement of Financial Position - DESC & Related Partnerships

ASSETS

Cash & Cash Equivalents	3,221,431
Accounts Receivable & Prepaid Expenses	2,192,895
Restricted Assets & Housing Reserves	8,191,362
Land	11,377,714
Buildings, Furnishings & Leasehold Improvements (Net)	65,110,876
Notes Receivable, Construction in Progress & Other Assets	2,855,183
Total Assets	\$92,949,461

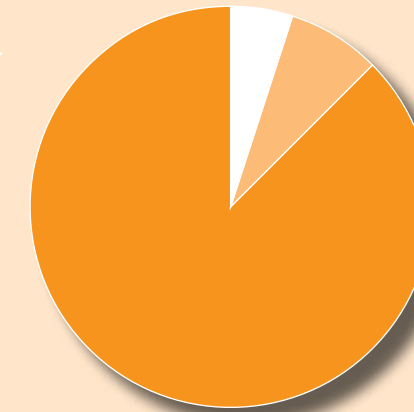


ASSETS

- Cash & Cash Equivalents 3.5 %
- Acc. Receivable & Prepaid Exp. 2.4 %
- Restr. Assets & Housing Reserves 8.8%
- Land 12.2%
- Buildings, Furnishings & Leasehold Improvements 70%
- Notes Receivable, Construction in Progress & Other Assets 3.1%

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	2,161,998
Client Custodial Accounts & Other Liabilities	3,192,674
Notes Payable	37,429,194
Total Liabilities	\$42,783,866



LIABILITIES

- Accounts Payable 5.1%
- Client Custodial Accounts & Tenant Security Deposits Payable 7.5%
- Notes Payable & Deferred Revenue 87.4%

Net Assets \$50,165,595

Total Liabilities & Net Assets as of 12/31/11 \$92,949,461

Based on DESC 2011 audited financial statements. If you have questions, or would like a copy of the full report, please contact Mary Ann Millican, Director of Development, at 206.515.1538.



DESC Leadership as of December 31, 2011

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We are deeply grateful for each donor who, through their contributions to DESC, brought vital services to people living with histories of chronic homelessness, mental illness and addictive disorders in Seattle and King County. Please accept our sincere apology if we have inadvertently failed to list your name or have listed it incorrectly.



1811 Eastlake staff and residents on a field trip to Seattle's Carkeek Park





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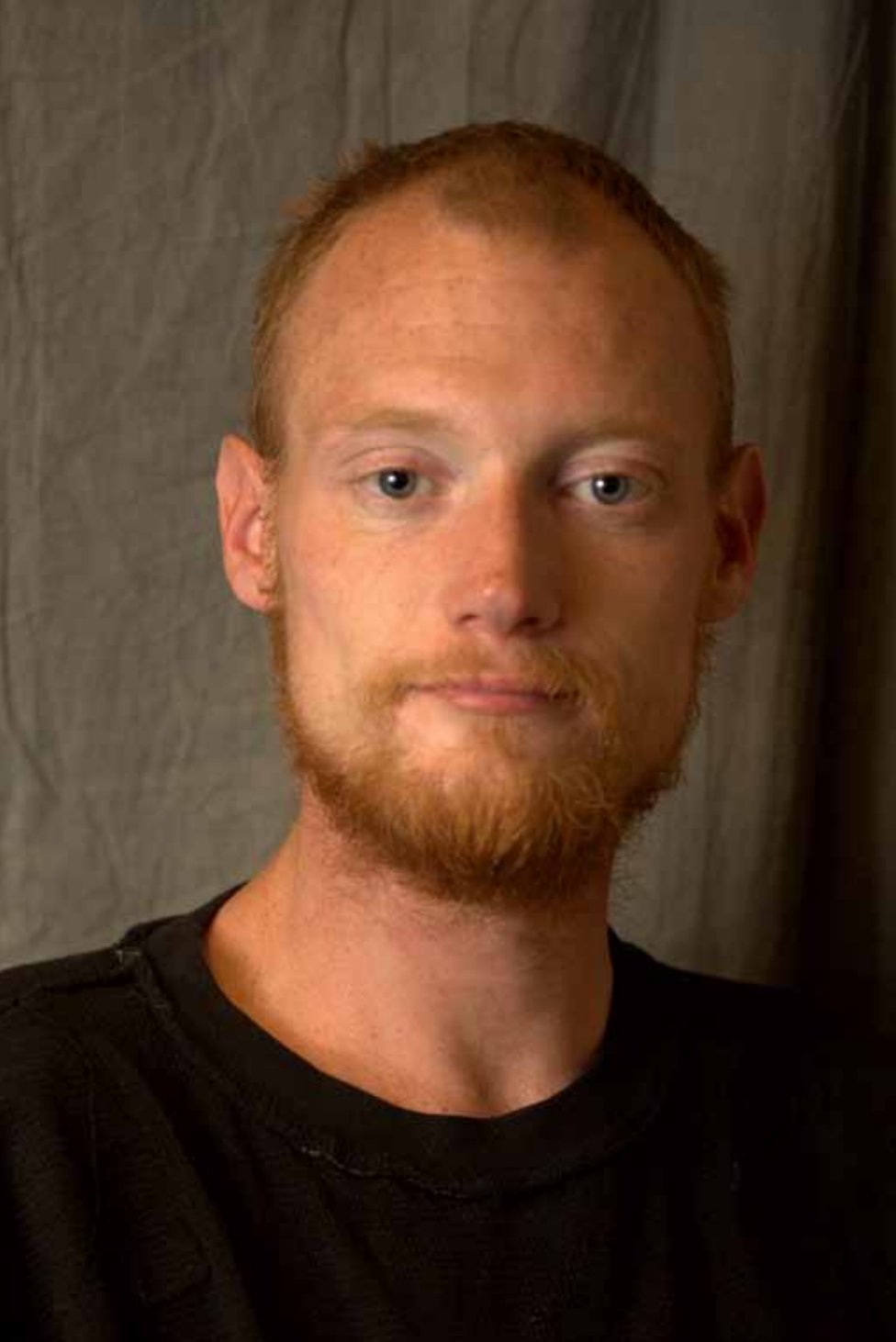
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Photo 1:
 Manager of Supportive Housing Margaret King, Board member Larry Smith and Director of Administrative Services Nicole Macri celebrate Connections' 5th anniversary.

Photos 2 and 3:
 Annual United Way Day of caring attracts over 120 volunteers to DESC.



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DESC demonstrates that creative, assertive and holistic approaches work best for vulnerable homeless men and women living with mental illnesses, substance addictions, and developmental disabilities. All DESC services are predicated on the concept of Housing First and the simple premise that clinical and social stabilization occur faster and are more enduring when the chaos of homelessness is eliminated from someone's life. A safe and healthy place to live is always our first treatment goal.

Visit us at www.desc.org to learn more.

