



cornerstone

FROM THE **DOWNTOWN EMERGENCY SERVICE CENTER**

Issue 27 / spring 2014

FORMER DESC CLIENT OPENS SIXTH ANNUAL GIMME SHELTER CONCERT

There is no greater reason for celebration at DESC than when one of our clients recovers from homelessness and disability and is able to fully reclaim their life. This year's Gimme Shelter concert at the Triple Door in February provided just such a reason. Opening band, The Believers, featured former DESC client Craig Aspen. Along with his partner, Cynthia Frazzini, Craig sang heartfelt and soulful tunes that chronicled his inspiring story of moving from homelessness and despair to a thriving, rich and successful life. A life that today includes national concert tours, strong friendships within the industry, and musical acclaim.

This is the sixth consecutive year that friend and supporter Billy Joe Huels has hosted Gimme Shelter to raise funds in support of DESC's programs to end homelessness. Along with other members of the Huels family, Gimme Shelter is Billy's Joe's way to honor his brother who experienced years of vulnerability and homelessness before being given the opportunity to have a home and support at DESC. This always unique concert highlights Billy Joe's commitment to DESC, the organization that he says, "...saved my brother's life."



Opening act The Believers warm up the crowd with their soulful tunes about Criag's life as a homeless man and DESC client.



Billy Joe and his parents, Rita and Matt celebrate the uplifting concert with friends.



Charismatic Billy Joe and the Dusty 45s play to a sold out house at The Triple Door.

all photography by Aquila Daniel



Audience applauds following Daniel Malone's heartfelt story of homelessness in Seattle and DESC's success. Daniel Malone is DESC Director of Housing.

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DESC

515 THIRD AVENUE, SEATTLE, WA 98104

WWW.DESC.ORG / INFO@DESC.ORG

TEL: 206-464-1570 FAX: 206-624-4196

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.

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SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

1811 Eastlake

Aurora House

Canaday House

Cottage Grove Commons

Evans House

Kerner-Scott House

Lyon Building

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Rainier House

The Union Hotel

Scattered Site Housing

CLINICAL SERVICES

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Crisis Solutions Center

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HOST - Outreach and Engagement

MIST - Engagement, Housing and Stabilization

PACT - Assertive Community Treatment

SAGE - Case Management

EMERGENCY AND ENTRY SERVICES

Emergency Shelter

Connections

PIONEER THRIFT

200 Third Ave S / (206) 748-9080



Thursday, April 10th

7:30 - 9:00 AM

The Arctic Club Seattle

700 3rd Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Grand Dome Ballroom

watch our website for registration details

SPECIAL THANKS

P O T T E R Y B A R N

Special thanks to Pottery Barn for including DESC in their "Give a Little" campaign. Their belief that everyone deserves a safe and dignified place to call home has truly made a difference for the men and women we serve.

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GIMME SHELTER (CONTINUED)



The Believers' Craig Aspen shares the story of his difficult life through song.



Matt lights Billy Joe's trumpet for the dramatic finale.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE HUELS FAMILY AND
WALSH CONSTRUCTION FOR SPONSORING GIMME SHELTER



WALSH
Construction Co./WA



Billy Joe and his father Matt share their family's experiences with mental illness and homelessness.



Daniel Malone, Director of Housing Programs, inspires the audience with emotional stories of 3 individuals who were helped by DESC.



Billy Joe's sister, Diane, and her husband, Nico, cut a rug.



The Believers join The Dusty 45s on stage for an encore performance.

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DATA AND ADVOCACY INSPIRE CHANGE

It's a dark, cold and wet January night in Seattle. Your alarm clock goes off shortly after midnight and reluctantly you slither out from under your cozy down comforter and pull on jeans, a pair of old hiking boots that have never failed to keep your feet dry, and an insulated North Face jacket you just got for Christmas. From the looks of it, you might be going skiing, but your not. You're heading downtown to join thousands of other coworkers and neighbors from throughout the community who will be counting the number of vulnerable men, women, and children who call Seattle's streets their home — 3,123 in all this year.

The Annual One Count of homeless people is a highly organized activity that takes place throughout King County the last week of each January, involving 200 team leaders, 2000 volunteers, and a detailed grid map of all the search areas. Team leaders are trained and given their assignments several weeks before the actual count, allowing them enough time to scout their territories in the daylight before attempting the real task at night. Then from 2 am to 5 am, these thousands of volunteers, carrying flashlights and clipboards, walk carefully and quietly through narrow brick alleys, wooded areas along highways, densely forested parks, and sheltered doorways of retailers looking for anyone sleeping in their cars, in makeshift shelters, or simply on the sidewalk.

“Counting people isn't going to create change”, stated Nicole Macri, DESC Director of Administration and the Board President of the Washington Low Income Housing Alliance, “Change comes from raising your voice in Olympia and advocating for each homeless

person counted that night who cannot adequately speak for themselves.” Inspired with strong emotion, Macri notes that the One Night Count, organized each year by the Seattle / King County Coalition on Homelessness, provides real numbers that inform DESC's action and advocacy throughout the year. In part, because of the data acquired through the One Night Count, DESC is able to craft a smart and compassionate response to the needs of our community's most vulnerable members, seeking needed funding and adjusting programs as demand requires.

DESC is a member of the Coalition on Homelessness which organized the One Night Count in 1980, making it the nation's best, well established point-in-time count of homeless people.

CHANGE COMES FROM RAISING YOUR VOICE IN OLYMPIA AND ADVOCATING FOR EACH PERSON YOU SAW THAT NIGHT WHO CANNOT ADEQUATELY SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.

Today the most significant benefit of the One Night Count is its ability to build momentum and engage the wider public as advocates for all homeless men, women, and children in our communities.

This year over 600 people converged on Olympia for Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day on January 28th. They shared

the startling results of the count with 41 legislative districts, indicating a 14% increase in homelessness over last year. Twenty experts and advocates, including DESC's Nicole Macri, met with Governor Inslee and his wife Trudy to discuss solutions to this societal crisis. The message conveyed was that housing and health care are irrefutably linked when it comes to ending homelessness. Housing in itself is the first step in achieving improved health among our community's homeless population and through the continued production of supportive housing we will experience huge savings in publicly funded emergency health care. Impressed by this notion, Governor Inslee recommended a study be commissioned, but the well-informed First Lady reminded him that DESC already conducted a comprehensive evaluation and “the results are available” making now the time to put the plan into action.



UW School of Social Work interns join DESC to shout out against homelessness in Olympia for Housing and Homeless Advocacy Day.

COTTAGE GROVE COMMONS WELCOMES 66 PEOPLE HOME

DESC gave many homeless men and women the best Christmas present ever last December – a home. Cottage Grove Commons – DESC’s tenth Permanent Supportive Housing Program – opened December 18th to welcome 66 vulnerable men and women into their own apartments, complete with wraparound services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



(left) Supporters are all smiles as they listen to Executive Director Bill Hobson talk about Housing First, (DESC’s housing philosophy) and how buildings like Cottage Grove Commons effectively house and support our community’s most vulnerable members.

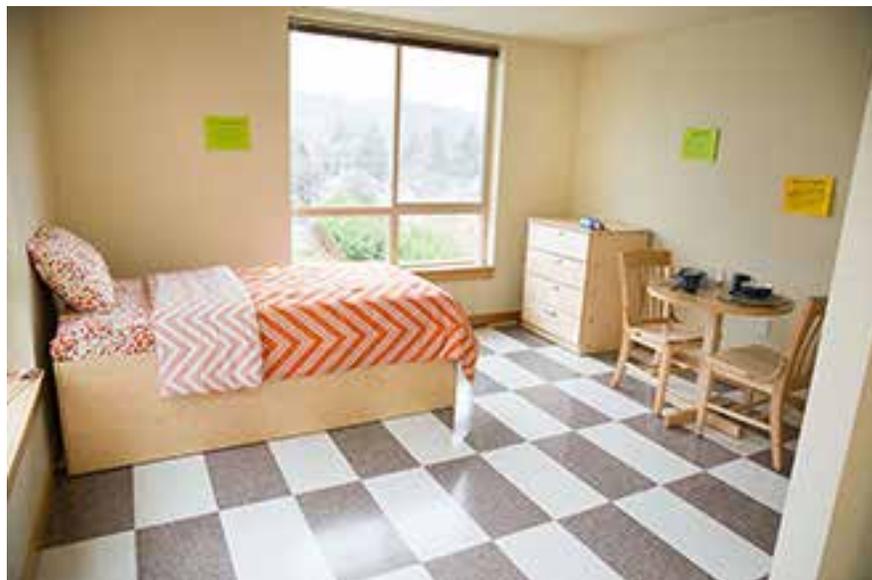
(below) Bill Hobson extends his thanks and awards plaques to generous funders Enterprise and Bank of America.

Photos by Aquila Daniel, exterior photo by William Wright Photography.

(right) Dir. of Administrative Services Nicole Macri with representatives from the City of Seattle Office of Housing.



(below) Apartments were lovingly furnished by volunteers from Starbucks and Genesis Global Spiritual Living Center.





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EVERYTHING OLD IS NEW AGAIN...AND AGAIN...AND AGAIN

Consider the thrift store: What used to be known by budget conscious 1950's housewives as an inexpensive place to buy second hand clothes for a growing family has now become a chic way for young professionals and college students to grab some retro garb and do a little urban fashion recycling.

PIONEER THRIFT: GRAB SOME RETRO GARB AND DO A LITTLE URBAN FASHION RECYCLING!

Check out DESC's newly relaunched Pioneer Thrift, a repeat fashion and housewares boutique nestled on the corner of 2nd Ave. S. and South Washington. Housed in a 100 year old red brick building on the edge of historic Pioneer Square, the hip and stylish display will draw you in to peruse racks of wool sweaters, skinny jeans, and leather boots.

But the real treat is at the cash register where DESC clients who are participating in our supported employment program will take your items, fold, bag, and ring up your purchase — and even carry them out to your car if you need help. These clients are part of a group learning how to work in a retail environment by gaining experience in merchandising, inventory, and customer service. They are delighted to be able to help you and proud of the new skills they are learning. Income from Pioneer Thrift supports the employment program as well as purchases needed clothing for other clients.



Pioneer Thrift entices shoppers with a Valentine display

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