

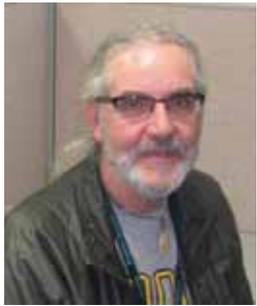
# TOGETHER

Spring 2012 | THE LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS FROM TOGETHER CENTER

Advocates Office Open

## Front Door Services

A new office off the Center's main lobby is now open to provide more frontline people, tools and assistance to those seeking help. The Advocate Office is part of the Center's Front Door Services plan. Partners include:



Public Health's  
Brett Downey

### Family Housing Connection

One-stop housing access

Mondays 9 am - 5 pm  
Thursdays 1 pm - 5 pm  
Fridays 9 am - 5 pm

For more info: call 2-1-1.

### Public Health Outreach

Help in applying for medical and food programs, expert referrals in English and Spanish

Most Weds. 11 am - 3:30 pm

Walk-in most Wednesdays or call 206-263-8373 for an appointment.

### Vet's Edge

Advocacy for homeless people

Tues. & Thurs. 9 am - noon

Walk-in or call 206-579-2205.

*continued on page 2*



New at Together Center

## Housing help with one call, one stop

Families without a place to stay will have an easier way to connect to housing resources thanks to the newly launched program: Family Housing Connection (FHC). Formerly known as coordinated entry and assessment and a key component of the regional Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, FHC will provide a single access point for families seeking housing and shelter resources in King County. One of Together Center's Front Door Services partners, FHC provides help from a newly created office off the lobby 20 hours each week. When fully launched, FHC will also be located at eight other sites around King County.

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## Blanket effort, sock drive bring comfort to the homeless

Early this year, several homeless people received a warm blanket thanks to the effort of eight-year-old Faith. She was troubled when she saw the thin blankets that were given out to the homeless. Rather than turning away, she got busy. Faith sewed three warm blankets, (with plans to make another

thirteen), and delivered them to Joe Ingram of Vet's Edge at Together Center. The first recipient was a grateful Ed Davis (r), who was clearly bouyed by Faith's interest and concern.

Another key need for people without a home is socks. Most homeless people

*continued on page 3*



Photo by Caitlin Moran/Redmond Patch



TOGETHER... A HUNDRED WAYS TO HELP

## Housing Help

*Continued from page 1*

Families can connect to the program by calling 2-1-1 to schedule a housing assessment meeting.

Over 80 programs are participating in FHC, including emergency shelters, motel voucher programs, rapid rehousing/rental assistance programs, transitional housing and service-enriched housing programs, as well as permanent supportive housing programs.

**F**HC is fully staffed with a diverse team that includes four team members with experience as an immigrant or refugee in King County and bilingual team members that speak Amharic, English, Gurage, Russian, Spanish, Somali, Swahili and Tigrinya.

Launched in April, the program is located for twenty hours each week at Together Center. Bellevue will host another Eastside office, and there are seven additional offices scattered throughout King County to reduce transportation barriers.

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## Front Door Services

*Continued from page 1*

Free public phones (see photo) and information and referral are available too. Just off the lobby in A-7:

Eastside Cultural  
Navigator Program  
*Spanish Language  
Referral and supports*

Daily except  
Wednesday 9:30 am - 5:30 pm

Languages of India  
*Referral and supports*

Tuesdays 10 am - 2 pm

## From the Executive Director Treating people like neighbors



*Pam Mauk*

A long-time supporter of Together Center, Sam's company, Alexander, Morford & Woo, started a competition to see which team would gather the most socks. The winning team would get a pizza lunch, but instead the winners decided to donate the pizza funds for more socks. Similarly, employees shared in a winning lottery ticket of about \$160, but decided to direct the funds to socks instead. (See photo on page 4.)

**W**e got more than just the socks when we visited Sam Alexander in Seattle to pick up 650 pairs he and his staff collected for our sock drive for the homeless.

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A resident of Sammamish and Seattle, Sam talked about his downtown life. "I see homeless people sleeping in Seattle doorways every morning when I go out to walk my dog. I have realized: these are our neighbors. When I was recovering from a health event, people provided food and transportation and more. I wanted to provide the same kind of help for our homeless neighbors."

Together Center was started more than twenty years ago with a view that human services are a normal part of life. All people need help at various stages of life, whether for healthcare, senior services, childcare, housing or mental health supports. This day it might be surgery. Another day, it's an ailing parent. It might be an uncle without a home, or a neighbor without a job seeking dental care. It's a daughter, it's her friend, it's our next door neighbor.

It's easy to look away when it's a stranger that needs help. Thank you, Sam, and all our supporters, for remembering that all of us need help at different times of our lives. It's our community, and we are all neighbors.

*Pam*

## Support Front Door Services

**I**n addition to growing partners at our front door (see page 1) and improving current tools, our front door plan to aid visitors seeking help includes plans for:

- Multilingual touchscreen assistance
- Computer and printer help for making applications for work or services
- Covered area for wheelchair users and others awaiting transit
- Additional resources



**Visit [www.togethercenter.org](http://www.togethercenter.org) to make your gift on-line.**



*Lynn Lyons (one of our 20th anniversary heroes) shows off the new public phone stations in the lobby*

# Thank you for your support!

The following are gifts received since we last published our donations. Thank you for your important gifts.

## Grantmakers:

Employees Community Fund of Boeing Northwest (\$35,420), Puget Sound Energy (\$2,500), Rotary Club of Bellevue (\$2,000)

## Investors (\$1,000 - \$4,999):

Rainier Welding (Rick and Mary Forster), Boston Private Bank (Andy Pletz), Overlake Christian Church (Pastor Lynne Ellis), Barb de Michele, Michael & Kristin Johnson, Margaret & Bob Moore

## Collaborators (\$500 - \$999):

Don Fowler, The Seattle Foundation/Sher Family Fund, Evergreen Healthcare, McEachern Family Foundation (Bonnie McEachern), Maureen Stone & Douglas Wyatt

## Partners (\$250 - \$499):

John Spangenberg, Makayla Powers Visiting Angels, Print West (Phil Parrish), Anonymous/Wells Fargo Employees, W. J. (Bill) and Mickey Finnegan, Puget Sound Energy matching program,



Board Members Michael Johnson and Tina Butt welcome Puget Sound Energy's Jason Van Nort (c)

April Stevens & Paul Bruno, James & Lesley Austin, Paul & Michelle Winterstein, Local Independent Charities, Pat Kano, Kurt & Marie Geisel

**Builders (\$100 - \$249):** Ralph Gorin, Anne Heartsong, Sondra Sciola, Scott Harlan, Michael & Debi Golden, Dave & Karen Danielson, Randy & Diane Mertens, Elizabeth Westburg, Anonymous, Allyn & Pat Hebner, Tina Butt, Employees Community Fund of Boeing Northwest, David & Glenna Johnson

**Friends (up to \$99):** Salveo (Trish Lindberg), Sally Montgomery, Jack & Janet Barry, Robert & Shelley Flores, Charles & Jean Cerar in honor of Barb de Michele, Glenn & Bertha Eades, David Kappler, Lisa St. Antoine, GE Foundation matching gift, Sandra Palmquist

Blanket Effort, Sock Drive  
Continued from page 1

use and then need to dispose of one pair of socks each week due to lack of laundry facilities and heavy use.

Sondra Sciola, Together Center's Operations Coordinator, listened to Joe Ingram discuss the big need for socks by the homeless, and she organized a drive.

"Our initial goal was to collect 480 pairs of socks for 40 people, but this was quickly surpassed," Sciola noted. "We increased our goal to 1,040 pairs to meet the weekly needs of more people. At the end of the drive, we gathered more than 1,200 pairs of socks. We had enough to provide socks to Tent City, where 90 people are in residence."

Agencies on campus energetically supported the drive, along with Together Center staff and Board members, including:

- A Regional Coalition for Housing
- Eastside Cultural Navigator Program
- HealthPoint Dental Clinic
- Lake Washington School District Transition Academy
- Public Health Seattle & King County

Word spread, and groups off campus joined the drive as well, including

- Alexander, Morford & Woo
- Arden Realty
- Assistance League of the Eastside
- Leadership Eastside Class of 2012

## News in Brief

**Space is Available at Together Center:** One new office of 950 square feet is available now and other space will be available in the Fall. Call 425-869-1174 to discuss your needs.

**Awards Luncheon:** Together Center sponsors the Alliance of Eastside Agencies, which hosts its awards luncheon on June 13. Visit [www.allianceofeastsideagencies.org](http://www.allianceofeastsideagencies.org) for more information.

**Thumbs up on Center recycling:** The Center received kudos from the City of Redmond on its recycling efforts. All agencies take part. We've renewed our pledge: have you?

**Socks are needed year-round:** We welcome drop-offs of packages of athletic socks for our distribution to providers working with homeless people.

**Eastside Chamber After Hours at Together Center:** We look forward to welcoming members and prospective members of the Issaquah, Sammamish and Greater Redmond Chambers of Commerce to Together Center:

**Thursday, September 13  
5 pm to 7 pm**

## Keep Engaged



Like us on Facebook to see stories about people, non-profit work, our agencies and the community.



Send your e-mail address to [info@togethercenter.org](mailto:info@togethercenter.org) to get important updates.



Visit our website for current news, services and contacts: [www.togethercenter.org](http://www.togethercenter.org).



Call or e-mail us to join a committee or work on areas of interest: [info@togethercenter.org](mailto:info@togethercenter.org) or 425-869-6699.



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**Pam Mauk, Executive Director**

pamm@togethercenter.org  
Sondra Sciola, Operations Coordinator  
operations@togethercenter.org

# Housing help with one call to 2-1-1

## News in pictures



We thanked W. J. (Bill) Finnegan for 17 years of service on the Together Center Board of Directors as he stepped down in January. In addition to tremendous

service on our Board, Bill was President of the Board of Friends of Youth when it made a critical commitment to help launch Together Center in 1990.



Sondra Sciola helped to pick up over 650 pairs of socks from Sam Alexander, Alexander, Morford & Woo. Socks were gathered to help the homeless.

More on pages 1 & 2

The Bank of Washington's Kevin Vitulli joined the Together Center Board of Directors in March. Welcome, Kevin!



**We create access to human services, so people can find help when they need it.**



One of the first multi-tenant nonprofit centers in the nation, Together Center works collaboratively to improve efficiencies and to lower barriers to finding help. We build partnerships to meet gaps in services and provide information, referral and other assistance to ensure all people can find help when they need it. Tens of thousands of people each year receive help from eighteen essential agencies and other critical resources, including shelter, medical and dental care, counseling,

child care, supports for the disabled, mental health services, and much more at our one-stop, three-building campus.

TOGETHER... A hundred ways to help  
(425) 869-6699 | www.togethercenter.org |

### TOGETHER CENTER ASSOCIATION

- A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH)
- Alliance of Eastside Agencies
- Apprisen Financial Advocates
- Child Care Resources
- Eastside Cultural Navigator Program -
- Chinese Information & Service Center
- Family Housing Connection
- Friends of Youth
- Habitat for Humanity of East King County
- HealthPoint Dental
- HealthPoint Medical
- Learning Disabilities Association of Washington
- LWSD Transition Academy
- National Alliance on Mental Illness Eastside
- Public Health Seattle & King County
- Sound Mental Health
- Vet's Edge
- Youth Eastside Services