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Transforming Lives. Strengthening Communities.

SPRING 2015

Community Supper: Providing Community and Hope

Once a week people from all walks of life gather at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church – the very community that makes up our Community Supper. Just one meal a week on Tuesday evenings offers more than a full belly, it offers a break on the wallet, a friendly face, and support networking opportunities.

Washington State is a center of innovation and home to some of the most successful businesses in the world, but problems of social inequity and poverty persist. For many in our community, food stamps can't be stretched far enough, so a nutritious, hot meal makes all the difference in the world. A few of our guests at Community Supper recently shared their stories.

One woman suffered a very unfortunate car accident which resulted in the loss of her job. She was evicted after being unable to pay her rent. She now has a job, but living on a friend's couch is not a suitable long-term solution. At Community Supper, the evening meal is a life saver in more ways than one – she has the opportunity to find the support she needs and she's discovered local outreach programs which are available to improve her living situation.

A legally blind man, who must live paycheck to paycheck, is a factory worker for a company called Lighthouse for the Blind. Community Supper is a great place for him to broaden his horizons, meet new people, and gives him a night off from cooking, which helps with his financial situation.

Lastly, a woman who lost her husband some years ago and then fell on hard times, began attending Community Supper almost five years ago. At Community Supper, she has found a sense of purpose in coming alongside those who like herself are not native English speakers.

The immense feelings one experiences at Community Supper are of sheer appreciation. Our volunteers and dinner guests are so grateful for all the wonderful opportunities that Community Supper provides.

We would be remiss to not mention that Holy Spirit Lutheran Church provides amazing support to Attain Housing during the Holiday Season by creating the “giving trees” and the much needed physical space to create food baskets for Thanksgiving celebrations for homeless families and those at risk of becoming homeless. **THANK YOU** Holy Spirit Lutheran Church!

For many in our community, food stamps can't be stretched far enough, so a nutritious, hot meal makes all the difference in the world.





Jennifer Barron
Executive Director

Dear Attain Housing Friends:

As the winter turns to spring, we see more families out enjoying the parks and beautiful oasis of green plush grass. However, when you are homeless this beautiful park can become your haven, not out of choice but need. The 35th annual One Night Count of homeless people in King County took place in the early hours of Friday, January 23, 2015. The King County Coalition to End Homelessness organized more than 800 volunteers who fanned out across the county to count the number of men, women and children who were homeless and sleeping outdoors without shelter between 2:00 and 5:00 a.m. They counted people trying to survive in cars and tents, riding late night buses, or curled up in blankets under bridges or in doorways. At least 3,772 men, women, and children were without shelter during the three hour street count. This number is an increase of 21% over those found without shelter last year. This number is always assumed to be an undercount, because we do not count everywhere, and because many people take great care not to be visible. The challenges homeless families encounter are complex and multi-faceted. Becoming homeless thoroughly disrupts life, as stability and routine all but disappear.

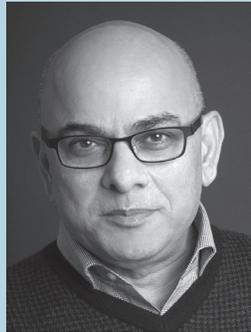
Homelessness severely impacts the health and well-being of all family members; homeless children experience more mental health problems, such as anxiety, depression, and withdrawal and are twice as likely to experience hunger, and four times as likely to have delayed development. These conditions have potentially devastating consequences if not mitigated early.

To help children and their families have stability, safety, and an opportunity to thrive, Attain Housing is working to meet the housing needs of families. However, housing is not enough. Many times the crisis of homelessness is the first time a family is able to identify and face difficult issues that have been suppressed. Most, if not all, homeless families have faced domestic violence, abuse and severe family disruption. Attain Housing's case managers are there to help families when the circumstances of becoming homeless leave no choice but to address the issues. Case management is a systematic approach to identifying goals that focus on an individual's ability to learn new coping and personal development skills so that they can solve their life issues. Our case managers delight in the opportunity to celebrate our client's goal achievements which ultimately leads them to self-sufficiency.

Attain Housing's goal is to assist our families in a meaningful way to break the cycle of homelessness and help them find community connections, thus ensuring stability for the children. A hallmark of this work is the recognition that a stable home is the foundation all families need to provide children with the opportunity to become healthy, productive adults. In a stable home, children gain self-assurance and have educational opportunities, both of which contribute mightily to their ability to make wise choices and problem solve. Your involvement and support for Attain Housing makes transformation possible for the vulnerable children and families we serve. Thank You!

WELCOME SAM CHUGHTAI TO ATTAIN HOUSING'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Please help us welcome our new Board Member, Sam Chughtai. Sam is an industry leader in Data Science and Cyber Security with over 25 years of experience working with global corporations and Big 4 consulting firms. He is recognized in his field as an advisor to C level management in the Fortune 500's. Sam has held major leadership positions with IBM, Microsoft, Price Waterhouse Coopers, KPMG, and Lawrence Berkeley Lab. Sam lives in Seattle and is passionate about volunteering for non-profits to support education, veterans and children with special needs. Sam currently serves on multiple non-profit and for-profit organizations' boards.



WELCOME MYA AND PAOLA TO OUR TEAM

Attain Housing is delighted to announce that Mya Olendorf, Development Assistant, and Paola Noel, Event Coordinator, have joined our team. We are so happy to now have a full staff... and no doubt, both Mya and Paola will make a positive impact for Attain Housing. They bring many skills and talents. Welcome aboard! If you get an opportunity, drop in and say Hi.

THANK YOU TO OUR ATTAIN HOUSING SUPPORTERS for your recent contributions:

Safeco Foundation.....	\$20,000
Umpqua Bank.....	\$4,000
Horizons Foundation.....	\$5,000

Kutting Edge Fitness
CHARITY BOOT CAMP EXERCISE HOUR
Every Saturday in May • 9:00 - 10:00 AM
8524 122nd Ave NE, Kirkland
New customer fee - \$10
All proceeds benefit Attain Housing

give BIG

The Seattle Foundation

May 5, 2015

The Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG campaign is a one-day, online charitable giving event to inspire people to give generously! The Seattle Foundation and local businesses will match a share of every contribution made through their online Giving Center between 12 AM and midnight on May 5.

www.seattlefoundation.org

Mark your calendar, add it to your smartphone, set your reminders, and pass on the word about the opportunity to help Attain Housing and the homeless families we serve.

VISION A safe and supportive community, where opportunity exists for all families to achieve stable housing and self-sufficiency.

MISSION Bringing our community together to partner with homeless families by providing affordable housing, empowering them with practical case management and hope.

Blanton Turner Property Management

2014 Recipient of the Bill Petter Homeless Housing Advocate Award



The Bill Petter Homeless Housing Advocate Award is given each year to an individual or entity for exceptional dedication and investment of time, talent and treasure to further Attain Housing's work helping homeless families transition to stability and self-sufficiency. At our Attain Housing Benefit Luncheon on March 6, Blanton Turner Property Management was presented with this prestigious award. On their website you can read the following which no doubt will bring a smile to your face: *"Let's make it known that Blanton Turner cares just as much about volunteering as we do a killer happy hour."*

Blanton Turner is a Seattle-based property management and development consulting firm providing multi-family and student housing developers and owners with real estate solutions for an ever-changing economy. Cathy from Attain Housing says, "The Blanton Turner Volunteer team has been such a great group of people to collaborate with this past year. Their help with property clean-ups, unit turnovers and genuine desire to give back to the community has been such a great asset to Attain Housing. From carpet cleaning to power washing, this group has stepped up to help our families by preserving our properties for future residents."

Thanks for all your hard work and dedication and we look forward to continuing to work with you in 2015!

Attain Housing's Benefit Luncheon

Thank you so much for your support of Attain Housing's mission to provide transitional housing and life-saving case management to homeless families in King County. At our luncheon on March 6, friends of Attain Housing contributed mightily to the lives of many homeless individuals and families with children by raising over **\$57,000**. Your generosity provides the platform from which our clients can spring forward to attain permanent housing and self-sufficiency.

We are exceedingly grateful to all our **Donors, Event Sponsors, Table Captains, Petter Family Foundation Matching Fund, our Guest Speakers Thach Nguyen and James Whitfield, our Honorary Chair Jane Hague, King County Councilmember, Emcee Jeff Burnside of KOMO 4 News, our Attain Housing Family Client** for sharing her heartfelt story with all of us, our cellist **Thaddeus Psarris**, and our ever faithful **Event Volunteers**. THANK YOU one and all.

Attain Housing's Executive Director Jennifer Barron and Development Director Tami Gilman with Luncheon Speaker Thach Nguyen.



A LOOK BACK OVER 14 YEARS - In Page Eney's Own Words

Page has been a faithful employee and volunteer for Attain Housing since 2001; a founder so to speak. She is retiring as an employee, but it should be noted that she is volunteering more hours now than the hours she actually worked previously. We are so happy to have her continue to support us as a volunteer. She shared her personal journey with Attain Housing:

WOW! I just realized I have been with Attain Housing (KITH to me) over half of its existence. In 2001 when I joined the staff of three, we were in a strip mall in Totem Lake over a Motorcycle shop. The fumes and the noise were most distracting. When St. John's purchased the office building at 125 State Street, KITH moved to the current office space in April 2002. At the time KITH owned only 16 apartments; Petter Court 2 was purchased in 2002 bringing the total to 20. In 2004 KITH took on case management for Housing at the Crossroads (HAC) and in 2013 acquired 12 more housing units when we merged with HAC. Can I say doubling the workload for my position? It has been my joy to watch this organization grow over these past years. I would have to say one of my fondest memories were the regular visits by Bill Petter bringing the staff cookies. We are so fortunate to have the Director and Staff we have today who have brought us to a new level of service to our community. They are an excellent team to lead us on into the future. But I must say that over the years what has kept this organization going are the many board members and volunteers who give so freely of their time and energy. So my parting words are THANK YOU to each volunteer who has helped to keep this organization going over the past 25 years. And now I look forward to being a part of that group.



ATTAIN HOUSING LEADERSHIP

Jennifer Barron, Executive Director
 Ken Davidson, President, Board of Directors

LEAVE A LEGACY

Contact Attain Housing about how to bridge the gap
 for the homeless through the next generation.



www.facebook.com/AttainHousing



Follow us on twitter
 @AttainHousing

Windermere Real Estate Presents

*Wish Star
 Upon a Star*

Attain Housing's Fall Benefit
 DINNER & AUCTION CELEBRATION

September 26, 2015 • 5:00 - 9:30 PM
 The Westin Bellevue
 Co-Chairs: Kelly Lawrence and Lynn Sanborn
 Emcee: Elisa Jaffe

Register now at www.attainhousing.org

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Windermere REAL ESTATE

GOLD SPONSORS: [HomeStreet] Bank, TALON PRIVATE CAPITAL

SILVER SPONSOR: LEAS AUTOMOTIVE

SUPPORTING SPONSORS: FORD KIRKLAND, WINDERMERE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/GILL & ASSOC

IN-KIND SPONSORS: Novelty Hill Januik, Betz Family Winery, Crown Linen Designs, Metropolitan Market, Kirkland Living

Memorial Day
**COMMUNITY
 CELEBRATION**

5.25.15
 Kirkland Marina Park
 Free event. Food available to purchase.

EvergreenHealth

**7 Hills
 of Kirkland**

7:00 AM
 Register to ride at
www.7hillskirkland.org

NOON-4:00 PM
 Featured Band: Rear View Mirror – Hits from the '60's
 Art Exhibit: Ryan James Fine Arts
 Face Painting
 Popcorn & Light Refreshments (donations accepted)

NOON-2:00 PM
 The Bubbleman Garry Golightly

2:00-2:45 PM
 Memorial Day Honor Ceremony

PRESENTING SPONSOR: EvergreenHealth

PLATINUM SPONSORS: King County, KIRKLAND, MB4 MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION



SATURDAY, MAY 23, 2015
 7:00 AM - Noon
 Peter Kirk Community Center
 352 Kirkland Avenue
 Kirkland, WA 98033
<http://kirkland.kiwanis.org>

**KIWANIS CLUB OF KIRKLAND
 AND ATTAIN HOUSING**

**PANCAKE
 BREAKFAST**

Donation: \$7 person

*Supporting Attain Housing &
 7 Hills of Kirkland Bicycle Ride*

**PANCAKING TO END
 HOMELESSNESS**

