

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: CHANCE TO CHANGE

Our Chance to Change program (CTC) provides intensive co-occurring disorder treatment and community reintegration for young men and women ages 18 to 24 in King County Drug Court. The King County Drug Court partners with the criminal justice system and community organizations like THS to give people who commit certain classes of non-violent drug crimes a chance to get drug treatment instead of incarceration. The idea behind drug courts is that many people who commit drug-related crimes do so because of their addiction. They also tend to appear frequently in court and jails, often at great expense to the government and taxpayers. It is less costly to treat these people for their addiction and end the cycle of drug abuse and criminality than it is to incarcerate them time after time.

Participants in CTC make a 2-year commitment to choose education over drugs/violence and enter deferred prosecution. They receive mental health and substance abuse treatment, crisis intervention, case management, advocacy, parenting classes, Wraparound services, vocational services and mentoring and support. The participants in CTC have enormous motivation to change their lives, because if they successfully complete the program all criminal charges are dropped. If they fail out of the program, they are sentenced on the original charges—often to long jail terms.

During 2009-2010, THS treated 66 participants in CTC. **56% of the participants had successful outcomes**, meaning that they reduced their drug use or abstained completely, and improved in their mental health symptoms. This is a huge achievement considering the challenging nature of the participant problems in CTC.

Our participants report that CTC has allowed them to reconnect with their families, communities and also with their own selves.

We need your help to make this happen. Please go to www.ths-wa.org and click "Donate" to help THS keep programs like Chance to Change running.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2011 ALVIRITA LITTLE AWARD LUNCHEON!

Please join us at 12pm on Thursday, September 22nd at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Seattle as we honor Dr. Constance Rice from Casey Family Programs with the Alvirita Little Award in honor of her years of community service, her work on behalf of youth in foster care, and her efforts on behalf of adolescents and those with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

For more information or to register, please go to www.ths-wa.org.



Editor: Rehana Lanewala

ths moving forward

SUMMER 2011



making waves...

Helping people regain their health and future

Thank you to the Wockner Foundation for their \$5,000 grant to the Promoting Early Relationships program!

SPECIAL THANKS

Return service requested.

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NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Norman O. Johnson



I'm very proud of the great work that THS has been doing for nearly 40 years. We've consistently searched for the top evidence-based treatment practices so that we know our clients receive the best possible care. Our commitment to being a leader in chemical dependency and mental health treatment is demonstrated by the recent renewal of our 3-year accreditation by the independent, nonprofit Commission on the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). We were first accredited in 1996 and have received a 3-year accreditation (the highest level awarded) ever since. Through a rigorous peer review process we demonstrated that our programs conform to quality standards and that we are dedicated to pursuing treatment and program excellence.

Now we're expanding the ways in which we engage the community and share our innovative programs and THS news. We recently launched a brand new website thanks to Deborah Reder, a wonderful community volunteer. The new website will be easier to navigate and will be frequently updated with what's going on at THS and in the world of addiction and mental health treatment/prevention. We also produce quarterly newsletters highlighting programs, news, volunteers and client success stories.

Last fall, THS launched a Facebook page where we frequently post news, links, upcoming events and other ways to get involved. I'm excited about how we're utilizing social media to reach a broader audience and spread the word about our mission. One of the easiest ways to support THS is to stay connected with us on Facebook. You'll receive the latest addiction and mental health news as well as opportunities to get involved, and you can also help us increase our support base by liking or reposting comments and links. By doing this, you show your support for THS and also help convince your social network to get involved with THS. We trust the opinions of friends and family, so your recommendation is critical!

We want your feedback! Please write to info@ths-wa.org with any questions, comments or suggestions.

"After 34 years working with offenders I am more convinced now than ever of the importance chemical dependency treatment and that it saves and makes lives worth living. I think what you do is truly an act of love."

-Retired parole officer who partnered with THS to treat his clients

To learn more about THS and what we're up to, check out our new website at www.ths-wa.org.



Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/THS.WA

BOARD PROFILE

Walter Weston

Our newest board member, Walter Weston, first became involved with THS three years ago. He worked with THS in his capacity as a Business Relationship Manager at Wells Fargo where he managed the relationships for small and mid-sized businesses. He then joined the Alvirita Little Award Luncheon Steering Committee where he helped to plan our annual fundraising luncheon. Currently Walter is the Assistant Vice President of the Technology & Life Sciences Division at Comerica Bank.

Originally from Edmonds, Walter lived in California and Maryland before attending Hillsdale College in Michigan. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Economics in 2007. He serves on the Finance Committee of the THS Board and says he is **"excited to bring my finance and banking background to help THS succeed financially."** One of the reasons he was drawn to THS was because of the people working here. He says, **"I enjoyed working with Norman (the executive director) and felt that THS has a good mission and good results. But mostly it was the people."**

In his spare time, Walter enjoys playing basketball and running. He also is very interested in theater.



Walter Weston
Board member
since June 2011

LAYNE STALEY MEMORIAL FUND

THS, which provides treatment, education, and hope for addiction recovery, is proud to manage Layne Staley Memorial Fund (LSMF), treating heroin addicts and their families in the Seattle music community.

Layne was the lead singer of the multi-platinum rock group, Alice In Chains, which was formed in Seattle in 1987. He was also a member of the super groups Mad Season and Class of '99. Throughout most of his career Layne suffered from heroin addiction. He eventually died April 5th, 2002 due to early on-set-old-age from excessive use of prescription and illegal drugs, primarily heroin.



Photo credit: © Marty Temme

Shortly after Layne's death, his parents Nancy McCallum and Phil Staley started receiving donations from fans all over the world. Nancy and Phil worked with THS to create Layne Staley Memorial Fund. Nancy says that she saw LSMF as a way of "partnering with Layne on the next step in his work. He was very honest with people about the effects of drug use, urging them not to follow in his footsteps. Those were the messages in his songs, endearing him to his fans."

Nancy believes that treatment programs teach people how to solve problems and that problem-solvers are desperately needed. Nancy maintains that "Addicts in recovery are the light of the world."

The Fund is designed so that only the interest from donations is used for treatment. Your donation will always be at work. Because addiction is a "revolving-door disease," Nancy and Phil want to make sure that there will always be money available to help musicians in need.

For more information, please visit www.layne-staley.com or www.ths-wa.org

"Drugs are not the way to the light. They won't lead to a fairy-tale life, they lead to suffering."

-Layne Staley, 1995