

## Formidable Fabulous Fortunate Friday the 13th



Donors raise their paddles high to pledge over \$210,000 in support of DESC's mission to end chronic homelessness.

*After thirty years of reaching out to Seattle's most vulnerable and homeless men and women...*

*After providing shelter from rain and protection from the dangers of life on the streets for 10,958 consecutive nights...*

*After working tirelessly to locate and place people living with mental illness, addictive disorders, and multiple disabilities into apartments of their own.*

*After helping thousands of displaced men and women reclaim their lives...*

*... DESC paused and took a deep breath to commemorate and celebrate the accomplishments of three decades!*

Not an organization usually given to extravagance or self congratulations, perhaps it was fitting that DESC's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala took place on a damp and blustery Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> in November at the Seattle Marriott Waterfront Hotel - just blocks from where many DESC clients once clustered under the Alaskan Way Viaduct.

## "The results of generosity are always beyond calculation." Miriam Beard

The 450 friends, advocates, and donors who came together to recognize DESC's contribution to our community were treated to a revealing, inspiring, truth-filled, and emotional program. The trials and dreams of actual DESC clients came to life in a newly produced video docu-portrait. On screens around the room, guests watched and listened to Dodge, a resident of the Morrison, living with mental illness and wheelchair bound, as he spoke lovingly of his small home



Diane Lovejoy and her brother Matthew.

where he was proud to welcome visiting friends and his aspirations to get a dinette set and a toaster.

Giant portraits of DESC clients by photographer David Entrikin formed the backdrop for a host of fervent speakers, including Congressman Jim McDermott, DESC Board Chair Clark Kimerer, and Bill Hobson, long time Executive Director of DESC.

But it was during the moments when community volunteer, Karen Marcott-Solimano, and Diane Lovejoy, sister of Matthew, a DESC client, shared their true stories that the room became silent and many eyes became misty. Through their stories guests experienced the pain and reality of people living with mental illness on the streets of our community and discovered the tested solution to ending chronic homelessness.

On behalf of Dodge, Matthew, and all of our clients who have reclaimed their lives through the help of DESC, thank you for your gifts and pledges so generously put forward at the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala.

Watch DESC's DocuPortrait

"Where They Are"  
by NonFiction Media

on our new website debuting in 2010

[www.desc.org](http://www.desc.org)



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# 30th ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION



TOGETHER  
WE RAISED  
\$210,000  
THANK YOU!

## THANK YOU GALA SPONSORS!

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*continued from page 2 (Gala Participants)*

### THANK YOU GALA TABLE SPONSORS!

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### SPECIAL THANKS!

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The Grateful Palate  
Java Jackets  
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Northwest Totem Cellars  
Tom Partman  
Renaissance Vineyard and Winery  
Seattle Cellars  
Sherwin-Williams  
Stonington Art Gallery  
Kenny Taylor  
Lucas Torno  
Wells Fargo  
Mike Zachary  
and all of our many volunteers!

## Coming Up at DESC

## Save the Date

GIMME  
SHELTER

Benefit Concert  
January 29, 2010

The Triple Door  
featuring  
Billy Joe and the Dusty 45's

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: friends and supporters raise over \$200,000 to end homelessness; Congressman Jim McDermott; DESC Board Chair Clark Kimerer; 450 celebrate DESC's 30th Anniversary; Orkestar Zirkonium entertaining gala guests.

# DESC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

## 1979

ON NOVEMBER 19, DESC OPENS ITS DOORS AS AN OVERNIGHT EMERGENCY SHELTER IN THE BALLROOM OF PIONEER SQUARE'S MORRISON HOTEL. From 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., a staff of 14 welcomes nearly 200 homeless adults to a new kind of shelter for Seattle's most difficult-to-serve population. Ahead of its time from the very beginning, DESC embraces a "low demand" model of service where rules do not constitute a barrier to access. DESC begins as a partnership between the City of Seattle, the Greater Seattle Council of Churches, and WAMI (Washington Advocates for the Mentally III).

## 1980

DESC IS GRANTED A LICENSE BY THE STATE TO DELIVER MENTAL HEALTH CARE, the first step in the development of a full continuum of care for clients.

## 1981

DESC EXTENDS ITS HOURS, DUE TO INCREASED DEMAND FOR SERVICES. The shelter is now open from noon to 7 a.m.

## 1983

WITH LONG LINES AT THE SHELTER RESULTING IN PEOPLE BEING TURNED AWAY, DESC develops a lottery system to replace the former first come, first served method.

## 1984

DESC CLIENTS AND STAFF ARRIVE EN MASSE AT SEATTLE'S PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING TO PUBLICLY PROTEST THE LACK OF SHELTER BEDS. The act results in new community shelters, including the first severe weather overflow shelter opened by the City and King County.

DESC IS FEATURED IN THE NATIONALLY BROADCASTED PBS DOCUMENTARY, "SHELTER," produced by Seattle station KCTS.

## 1989

DESC BEGINS COORDINATING DOWNTOWN STREET OUTREACH WITH DAETN (Downtown Access, Engagement & Transition Network) to establish first contact with Seattle's most vulnerable homeless adults. This eventually leads to DESC being selected for the Federal Demonstration program, ACCESS, and the current HOST program.

## 1990

DESC'S SHELTER EXPANDS OPERATIONS TO 24 HOURS DAILY.

DESC BECOMES THE FIRST AGENCY TO PARTNER WITH COMMON MEALS (now Farestart), to serve weekend meals to its shelter clients.

## 1992

DESC PRIORITIZES OVERNIGHT BEDS FOR THOSE INDIVIDUALS MOST VULNERABLE ON THE STREETS - those living with disabilities, women, and elderly men - thereby replacing the former lottery method.



UNION HOTEL

## 1994

THE UNION HOTEL OPENS, DESC's first supportive housing program featuring 24/7 on-site clinical and support staff for 52 previously homeless residents.

DESC DEVELOPS A SCATTERED SITE HOUSING PROGRAM, to assist homeless clients enrolled in DESC's new SAGE program in renting affordable apartments while receiving on-going care.

## 1995

DESC ESTABLISHES SAGE, a program delivering Medicaid-funded mental health treatment to clients. This marks DESC's inclusion into the mainstream mental health service community.



LYON BUILDING

## 1997

DESC ASSUMES MANAGEMENT OF THE LYON BUILDING. A 64-unit facility owned by AIDS Housing on Washington (now Building Changes). As DESC's first Harm Reduction Housing model, the program focuses on homeless adults affected by the HIV/AIDS, mental illness, and/or addiction.

DESC INTRODUCES TO THE REGION THE CONCEPT KNOWN TODAY AS HOUSING FIRST BY OPENING KERNER-SCOTT HOUSE, which uses housing as a way to engage people into services. Its 40 apartments are designed to provide stability for homeless, mentally ill, and/or addicted adults with no previous connection to services.



KERNER-SCOTT HOUSE

## 1999

DESC BECOMES A LICENSED CHEMICAL-DEPENDENCY PROVIDER, allowing both emergency shelter and housing clients with co-occurring mental health and chemical dependency problems to receive critical services.

DESC BEGINS THE CRISIS RESPITE PROGRAM (CRP) Working in partnership with Harborview Medical Center and King County Medical Health Court, CRP provides shelter and case management for mentally ill homeless adults still emerging from a recent crisis or jail.

## 2000

DESC LAUNCHES CHASERS, its internally developed electronic data system that enhances the agency's emphasis on highly integrated services and housing. The system is later adopted by other human services agencies.

## 2002

DESC'S KERNER-SCOTT HOUSE WOMEN'S SHELTER OPENS, providing 25 beds for Seattle's most vulnerable mentally ill homeless women.

## 2003

A \$27 MILLION RENOVATION OF THE MORRISON BEGINS, resulting in a state-of-the-art shelter and day center, centralized administrative offices, and five floors of supportive housing. The Morrison becomes DESC's largest housing project, marking the turning point at which DESC houses more people than shelters them.



THE MORRISON

## 2003

DESC EXTENDS ITS PRIORITIZATION OF VULNERABILITY TO DAYTIME SERVICES, and implements an evaluation tool to objectively measure a client's vulnerability based on his/her health, disability, and level of functioning.

## 2005

AFTER TWO YEARS OF CONTROVERSY AND LAWSUITS SURROUNDING THE PROJECT, 1811 EASTLAKE OPENS, providing 75 units for chronically homeless people with severe alcohol problems who, previously, were the community's high utilizers of public services. In 2009, The Journal of the American Medical Association publishes a study revealing that 1811 Eastlake annually saves taxpayers \$4 million dollars.



1811 EASTLAKE

## 2006

DESC LAUNCHES THE CONNECTIONS PROGRAM, establishing a center where non-disabled clients can access showers, computers, job-counseling and other services to help them find employment, housing and independence.

## 2007

DESC LAUNCHES PACT, a nationally recognized program that works with people with serious and persistent mental illness. The PACT model is distinguished by its intensive outreach and team-oriented, trans-disciplinary approach.



EVANS HOUSE

EVANS HOUSE OPENS 75 supportive housing units on Capitol Hill, marking DESC's first housing program to extend beyond downtown Seattle.

## 2008

AN INNOVATIVE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM IS ESTABLISHED TO MATCH DESC CLIENTS WITH LOCAL EMPLOYERS. DESC's thrift store serves as a valuable training tool to enhance clients' basic job skills and prepare them for retail employment.

## 2009

RAINIER HOUSE OPENS, providing an additional 50 supportive apartments in the Columbia City neighborhood.

DESC BREAKS GROUND ON CANADAY HOUSE, which will provide 83 supportive apartments, 25 of which will be designated for veterans. Canaday House is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.

## TOMORROW

DESC CONTINUES TO EXPAND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING AND CLINICAL TREATMENT UNTIL THERE ARE NO MORE PEOPLE IMPACTED BY HOMELESSNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

## Thank You Gala Participants

DESC IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE BROAD SUPPORT FROM OUR COMMUNITY. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE GALA:

Alice and Jim Abbott, Acclaim Sign & Display, Andrea Akita and Walter Zisette, Kathleen Albrecht, Humberto Alvarez, Monica Anderson and Margo Burnison, Graydon Andrus and Suji Lee, Lyle and Betty Appleford, Robin Appleford, Molly Archer, Nancy Ashley, Atlas Supply, Duncan Autrey, B&B Aircraft Equipment, Claudia Bach, Jeri Baer, Will Bailey, Teresa Barcus, Tom Barrett and Christina Clayton, Scott and Diane Barron, Kevin and Carrie Bartasawicz, Anthony and Elizabeth Beaupre, Ambika Beck, Carla Behrend, Lynn Bekris, Andy Bell and Patti Guenther, Deborah Bell, Merlyn and Maury Bell, Penelope Bell, David A. 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The Downtown Emergency Service Center 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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