Mission Statement

DESC works to end the homelessness of vulnerable people, particularly those living with serious mental illnesses or substance use disorders. 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.

Leadership

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Ron Wright, AIA
Principal, Ron Wright and Associates/Architects, PS

A safety net is made of ropes, held by anchors, made to catch people at the moment they need help the most.

Your safety net includes a home, maybe a savings account, supportive family or friends, a secure job, health insurance, and your community, all linked together with strong and tested ties.

You and DESC together create the safety net our clients and tenants rely on to survive. We catch them when they fall and provide a network of support.

You lift the people we serve out of homelessness. Together, we will continue to help more than 3,500 people every day to get, keep and thrive in safe homes.
Notable Numbers

9,577 clients served
1,248 tenants in permanent supportive housing
549 people connected to housing by DESC

Program Spotlight

S urvival services such as our emergency shelters are meant to be stop-gap solutions for people on the street until they can be connected with housing programs. In 2013, we began a concerted effort to focus on the people staying in our shelter for very long periods of time—almost a quarter of our clients had slept in the shelter for more than 540 days.

In 2016, the Keys to Home program housed 99 people.

We began our Keys to Home program to focus on assisting these long-term shelter stayers in obtaining and maintaining private market housing. The team coordinates with landlords across the county to place clients, and then provides ongoing support services to ensure their housing is successful and sustainable.

Since its inception in 2015, Keys to Home has housed 180 people—many of whom had been homeless for years. Today, less than 6% of our shelter population has been in our shelter for more than a year.
The Safety Net

**DESC** clients’ safety nets include things that might not be easy to find - such as a commitment to harm reduction. No matter who walks in the door, we look at the whole person to make sure they are being supported physically, mentally and emotionally. When there are gaps in that support, we connect them with the program that will fill those gaps.

For many of the people we serve, there was never a safety net to begin with, while others need help solidifying one or two unsteady anchors.
We pride ourselves on working with clients to provide holistic support. While we’re providing someone with emergency shelter, we’ll also work to address a suspected substance use disorder, and connect them to treatment for an untreated mental health issue.

Not only does this make things easier for clients, but it means that treatment teams have clear lines of communication as they work together to find solutions.

Additionally, it means that we can build strong relationships with our clients, and prove that we care about their well-being, and want them to succeed.

Integrated Services

87% of clients in DESC housing are enrolled in another supportive service

24% of our clients are enrolled in more than one DESC program

17% of our clients are enrolled in 5 or more programs
DESC continues to operate the lowest-barrier housing in Seattle.

In 2016, we broke ground on The Estelle, a new housing project in Rainier Valley, set to open in early 2018. Another building, on N 96th Street in Licton Springs, will break ground later this year, and open in 2019.

When these buildings open, we’ll welcome 191 more people home.

Desc 379,441 nights of housing provided across 14 programs

Housing First Case Study

Lauren* became homeless in 2009. While homeless, Lauren would forget almost all appointments she had made. She saw her case managers daily, and was totally dependent on others to get anything organized. Lauren lost a lot of her family relationships, including her daughter, who didn’t want to speak to her.

With DESC’s help, Lauren moved in to her own apartment in December 2016. Since Lauren has been housed, she has become a lot more independent and less reliant on others around her. She is able to make appointments and keep them. She also hasn’t used drugs or alcohol since being housed. She has expressed multiple times how faith is supporting her lifestyle. Slowly Lauren is working on recovering the relationships with her family, and recently got back in touch with her daughter. She proudly tells anyone and everyone that when her daughter graduated from college, she hugged Lauren before anyone else.

Lauren has expressed how much she loves her apartment. She said “I never want to leave.”

*Client’s name has been changed

COMING SOON–N 96TH ST AURORA HOUSE

COMING SOON–ESTELLE COTTAGE GROVE COMMONS

EVANS HOUSE

UNION HOTEL

LYON BUILDING

1811 EASTLAKE BUILDING

CANADAY HOUSE

MORRISON BUILDING

KERNER-SCOTT HOUSE

RAINIER HOUSE

379,441 nights of housing provided across 14 programs

2 new housing projects in development

COMING SOON–N 96TH ST AURORA HOUSE

INTERBAY PLACE

Housing First
Our shelters provide low-barrier shelter and services to those who need them. Between our Main Shelter, Connections, Kerner-Scott House and the Queen Anne Shelter, we are able to give 383 people a safe place to sleep every night.

In 2017, we opened the Navigation Center in partnership with the City of Seattle and OSL (formerly Operation Sack Lunch), which provides meal service. This location is open 24 hours, accommodates up to 75 clients with pets and belongings, and allows partners to stay together.

Survival Services

120,970 nights of emergency shelter provided
162,546 meals served
Health Services

Housing is healthcare - a person’s ability to access and use quality health services is directly aligned with their ability to get and remain in housing. This is why we’re so committed to making clinical services for substance use disorders, mental health, and physical health easily accessible for all our clients. In 2016, we continued toward our goal of siting medical practitioners in every housing project and program location.

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

Many of our clients have daily medications, and need help holding and keeping track of each dose. In our permanent supportive housing, thanks to help from the Kelley-Ross Pharmacy Group and some state-of-the-art equipment, we are able to have each client’s medications individually packaged for morning, noon and evening doses. When each dose is given to the client, it’s recorded in a log, so medical staff can track whether clients are taking their prescribed medications. Every week, Kelley-Ross distributed 24,000 dosages of medications across all DESC locations.

Health Services

57,305 case management sessions
8,022 substance use disorder counseling sessions for individuals
2,282 substance use disorder counseling sessions for groups
A critical part of our clients’ well-being is ensuring financial stability. For many of our clients, that means helping enroll them in assistance programs like Social Security. For some, we can also connect them to employment opportunities that can change their lives. DESC case managers also act as a payee for many clients, helping ensure our clients’ funds are securely stored and distributed. This helps our clients maintain a sustainable income to pay for things like cell phone bills and rent (when we get them housed).

Employment Services

people served by our Supported Employment Program in 2016, including:

- 102 clients connected to NEW jobs through our Supported Employment Program
- 26 clients supported by Connections, whether to find shelter, employment, or hygiene services
- 2,001
Innovation is a core piece of DESC’s mission. Whether we’re building new programs to fill gaps in local services, or adjusting our own programs to better fit the needs of the people we serve, we’re always adapting and engaging new ideas to serve vulnerable people.

One of our most innovative programs is the Crisis Solutions Center. Since its opening, it has diverted thousands of men and women experiencing homelessness from hospitals or jails to a more appropriate, therapeutic setting.

**2016 Advances**

- **2,525** people served by the Crisis Solutions Center
- **18** overdose reversals with naloxone
- **194** people housed by the HOME program

Research & Innovation

**Housing First, but what next?**

DESC’s main mission is to end homelessness for each of our clients, which we achieve every time we move them into housing. In our permanent supportive housing, we facilitate activities that will help clients improve their lives. This enrichment takes many forms, but one partnership with astounding outcomes has been the Life-Enhancing Alcohol Management Program (LEAP). Born from a partnership with the University of Washington’s HaRRT Research Center, the LEAP works with an advisory board of tenants, researchers, site staff and agency leadership to plan and facilitate meaningful programming focused on recovery and reducing alcohol related harms.

At our 1811 Eastlake building, the advisory board decided to implement art hours where a staff person would hold open time for residents to attend and paint, draw, craft, or make music together. Last year, the participants unveiled a painted mural of a “Peace Quilt”, with a celebration for the whole community.
During the holiday season, you helped us put together holiday gift bags for our homeless clients. These bags were filled with essentials such as clean socks and easy-to-prep food, which are important to people living on the street. Additionally, every one of our clients in supportive housing received a new laundry basket with laundry detergent and shower accessories. Your support made our clients feel more at home for the holidays.

You’ve donated $900,053 in warm meals, clothing, furnishings, and so much more. The effect of sharing your donations with our clients is priceless.

In-Kind Gifts

A volunteer group serves lunch at the Morrison Hotel
Our 623 volunteers donated more than 25,000 hours of time last year. From cooking meals and serving coffee to sorting and folding clothes and painting our buildings, your work is critical to our clients’ success!

A huge thanks to all who helped in 2016!

Value of volunteer hours to DESC: $758,000*

*Calculated using Independent Sector report www.independentsector.org/news-post/value-volunteer-time/
Thank You 2016 Donors

$5,000+

Britta Hovind • Brian & Colleen Howie • James Howland • Robert & Mary Howland • Hailee & Charles Howe • Joseph Howland • Linda Howe • Margaret Howland • Ted Howe • Ivan Howland •শব্দ শালী ঝর্ণা • শাক্তিক শস্ত্রিয় • শিশু শালী • শাক্তিক শস্ত্রিয় • শিশু শালী • শাক্তিক শস্ত্রিয় • শিশু শালী •

$1,000+

Donors who have given for at least 10 consecutive years

Key Club monthly giving program
Consolidated Statement of Financial Position-DESC & Related Partnerships

Assets
- Cash & Cash Equivalents: $4,802,600
- Accounts Receivable & Prepaid Expenses: $4,078,697
- Restricted Assets & Housing Reserves: $11,708,920
- Land, Buildings, Furnishings & Leasehold Improvements (Net): $112,569,083
- Notes Receivable, Construction in Progress & Other Assets: $2,208,439

Total Assets: $135,367,739

Liabilities
- Accounts Payable: $1,267,232
- Client Custodial Accounts & Other Liabilities: $7,671,659
- Notes Payable: $56,438,384

Total Liabilities: $65,377,275

Net Assets: $69,990,464

Total Liabilities & Net Assets: $135,367,739

Consolidated Statement of Activities-DESC & Related Partnerships

Revenue
- Contributions: $1,183,050
- Contributions - In-Kind: $900,053
- United Way of King County: $1,558,318
- Public Contracts: $23,282,626
- Housing Rents and Related Income: $5,065,015
- Medicaid and Other Health Insurance: $5,976,680
- Interest: $10,391
- Real Estate Development Income: $596,158
- Other: $451,615

Total Revenue: $39,023,906

Expenses
- Clinical Programs: $14,175,122
- Housing Programs: $19,404,414
- Real Estate Development: $168,825
- Fund Raising: $503,522
- Management & Administration: $4,584,244
- Client Custodial Accounts & Other Liabilities: $7,671,659
- Notes Payable: $56,438,384

Total Expenses: $38,836,126

Operating Surplus (Deficit): $187,780

Net Income (Loss): $(3,720,636)

Financial Summary

For the year January 1 to December 31, 2016

Operating Expenses
- Real Estate Development: $168,825
- Fundraising: $503,522
- Management & Admin: $4,584,244
- Clinical Programs: $14,175,122
- Housing Programs: $19,404,414

Total: $38,836,126

Operating Revenue
- Interest: $10,391
- Other: $451,615
- Real Estate Development Income: $596,158
- Contributions In-Kind: $900,053
- Contributions For Operating Expenses: $1,183,050
- Contributions For Non-Operating Expenses: $1,360,149

Total: $4,202,153

Contributions to DESC
- Value of Volunteer Service*: $758,901
- Contributions In-Kind: $900,053
- Contributions For Operating Expenses: $1,183,050
- Contributions For Non-Operating Expenses: $1,360,149

Total: $4,202,153

* Value assessment by www.independentsector.org

The information presented above is based on DESC’s 2016 audited financial statements. If you have any questions, or would like a copy of the full report, please contact Megan Mayes, Director of Fund Development, at 206-515-1553.
A big thank you to all the clients whose photos are featured in this report:

Kathryn Allen  Sean Herng
Wayne Barker  Daniel Kazaleh
Christopher Bohannon  Gladys Moon
Hector Contreras  Reggie Rye
Demarcus Garry  John Steptoe
Tina Telles

Client photos courtesy of Zulily.