

Executive Director’s Report – April 17, 2024

EXPANDING THE CIRCLE of neighbors helping neighbors, who are representative of the diversity of our community as a staff, board and volunteer base.	LEADING THE TRANSFORMATION to a variety of approaches for conflict resolution, prevention, and restorative practices within our community and systems.	BECOMING A PILLAR that is a known, trusted, and valued institutional support for our community.
Strengthen community partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Due to nearly three years of partnership via the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program, Mason County Department of Public Health is now seeking a housing stability contract similar to what exists with the cities of Lacey, Tumwater and Olympia. This is great news for Mason County residents and property owners. 	Expand community outreach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Both Ken and Luis participated in Lacey’s Homeowners Association Fair in the first weekend of March. The event was a big hit throughout the day, expanding awareness and engagement with our housing services. The sense was that every participant in the fair connecting with the DRC table and found valuable information. 	Increase financial stability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ March caught us up somewhat regarding the beginning of the year shortfall. Our bank account continues to maintain a one month operating reserve to manage cash flow in our leaner months, and we expect expenses and revenue will continue to level out in the Spring. ➤ The BOD account has \$1100+ to date.
Translate Equity Statement to action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Both the Operations Team and the Programs Team are doing an intentional review and integration of the worksheets included in the Equity Toolkit from ResWA to examine our practices and protocols from an equity lens. Examples include reviewing our communication strategies, hiring practices and stewardship efforts. 	Expand support for educators as well as youth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ While the schools partnership with Avanti continues, we are seeking additional funding via a grant proposal to the Lucky Seven Foundation to expand this work to another interested school. 	Expand the organization’s infrastructure & organizational stability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In preparation for lease renewal in November of this year, the overwhelming staff preference is to stay put, with appreciation for our space, location and parking. If we had to move, considerations were offered regarding being on a bus line and having a bigger training space.
Broaden client & volunteer accessibility: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An opportunity to celebrate our volunteers is fast approaching – the annual volunteer picnic. Ash is getting guidance from Joe on getting this event organized for July – date TBD. Consider holding both July 17th and 24th. 	Expand access to justice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Restorative Justice Facilitated Dialogue team has three cases in the works – this is great forward movement, having gotten past a prior referral hurdle that largely halted cases. Luis is stepping in to eventually manage this program. 	Conduct education around fundraising, in alignment with strategic plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The annual deep dive on strategic direction occurs in November – please save the date for 11/16 as this year’s retreat between board and staff. This will be a pivotal period to set direction with your new Executive Director!