

Executive Director's Report – September 20, 2023

EXPANDING THE CIRCLE	LEADING THE TRANSFORMATION	BECOMING A PILLAR
<p>of neighbors helping neighbors, who are representative of the diversity of our community as a staff, board and volunteer base.</p>	<p>to a variety of approaches for conflict resolution, prevention, and restorative practices within our community and systems.</p>	<p>that is a known, trusted, and valued institutional support for our community.</p>
<p>Strengthen community partnerships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ After a few months of effort behind the scenes, the Lacey City Council voted to contract for voluntary rental housing mediation services. Their staff liaison has met with our team (Elizabeth, Luis and Joe) to strategize effective utilization and public promotion of the contract. Jody is working with Chehalis Tribes on a tribal relations training for all of ResWA. 	<p>Expand community outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Luis, in his new-ish role as Business Relations Manager has been busy representing the DRC at various community networking events lately including the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce luncheon. He is also strategically focused on ensuring utilization of the Tumwater and Lacey housing grants. Events on the horizon include a resource fair at the Shelton YWCA as well as ASHHO. 	<p>Increase financial stability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ New ResWA contracts, which include new accountability measures for all centers, are in place for state funds. Two sizable grants were awarded in July from individual donors that are closing down their family foundations. They together total \$75,000 and are offered without restriction and without possibility of renewal. We remain focused on individual giving through the rest of 2023.
<p>Translate Equity Statement to action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Based on specific concerns raised around how the Intercultural Foundations Intercultural Development Inventory process impacts people of color, we are seeking a shared board and staff reset at retreat. Building on prior commitments, staff are participating in an all-day diversity, equity and inclusion training on 9/25 with Cultures Connecting. 	<p>Expand support for educators as well as youth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Avanti student teach-back from two 40-hour participants was held on September 13th and was amazing, according to Elizabeth and Leah, who were able to attend. More partnership with Avanti is on the horizon and we continue to seek grant funding to expand partnership with other schools. 	<p>Expand the organization's infrastructure & organizational stability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Robyn successfully had a new keyless entry system installed in order to create ease of access for volunteers as we prepare for the return of in-person mediation services prior to her departure (to DSHS). We are assessing the right configuration of what was her role going forward.
<p>Broaden client & volunteer accessibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Update on in-person services: First, the first few in-person mediations (post-Covid) have taken place and staff are working out the learnings so that we can bring more services back into the space. Second, the first in-person 40-hour (post-Covid) was a success for participants. The space was tight but quite workable. 	<p>Expand access to justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Elizabeth was successful in negotiating a new contract with Thurston County for continued restorative justice facilitated dialogues in our therapeutic courts. There is renewed interest in expanding the program to the juvenile court and Elizabeth will be making a presentation to the County Commissioners later this month! 	<p>Conduct education around fundraising, in alignment with strategic plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ June's meeting was meant to include a quarterly education component designed by Joe and Deborah around relationship building, but was postponed. The offering comes from a recent NAWA conference that they were able to attend together and will possibly be offered in October.