

## Host Homes: Forging Ahead to Serve Youth with Recognized Best Practice



In its nearly 30-year history, Cocoon House's vision and mission to break the cycle of homelessness and ensure that every teen and young person has an opportunity to thrive and reach their potential has not wavered. The community that supports our work is what has allowed us to remain nimble and responsive to the evolving needs of teens and young adults throughout Snohomish county.

Over the past year and through the Strategic Planning process, we've explored the feasibility of launching a Host Home program at Cocoon House. Host Homes is a nationally-recognized best practice for serving young people experiencing housing instability, and for several years local communities and funders have inquired about our interest in developing a Host Home program.

When a Host Home opens their door to a young person in need of a short-term housing placement, they are also giving that young person an option. While site based emergency shelter will always be an option at Cocoon House East in Monroe, the Host Home option offers a young person the chance to remain in their community, stay more easily connected to their home school and other supports, while working to reconcile with their family or identify other long-term housing options.

We are thrilled to announce that this Spring 2021, Cocoon House will transition the eight beds at our Central shelter in Everett to a nationally-recognized best practice Host Home model. This transition will not decrease the number of shelter beds for our community's teens - in fact, this new model will allow us to serve even more youth as we grow and expand the program. The Central facility will instead be used for our Host Home program staff, as well as a dedicated space for family counseling and other supportive services for youth and families to access.

For 30 years, Cocoon House has been known for meeting the emerging needs of our community. As the world around us has changed significantly over the past year, Cocoon House has the responsibility to respond accordingly. Our commitment to the community and those invested in our work is to be creative and responsive while maximizing the financial resources available. We are excited about this new program and look forward to sharing updates.



# 2020 Highlights

Young People & Families Served in our Programs

## Advocates & Anti-Human Trafficking Case Management

159 youth served

## CARES ACT

164 families supported

## ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program)

226 families stabilized

## Coordinated Entry

177 young adults received housing placement services

## Under 18 Housing

205 children sheltered

## 18-24 Housing

27 young adults housed

## Prevention- Case Management

57 families supported

## Prevention- Education

51 families mentored

## Prevention, WayOUT Seminar

77 families participated

## U-Turn (Drop-in Center)

460 young people assisted

## Youth Engagement Team (YET)

40 youth referred for support

## Snohomish Youth Assisted Housing & Rapid Rehousing

21 young adults housed



## BUTTERFLY 2021



Cocoon House's Annual Butterfly Celebration is transforming into a community support campaign.

Visit [www.cocoonhouse.org/butterfly](http://www.cocoonhouse.org/butterfly)  
to help us celebrate!

## DID YOU KNOW COCOON HOUSE HAS A YOUTH BOARD?

The Cocoon House Youth Board is a small and diverse group comprised of youth and young adults from across the agency. The group has worked hard to improve communication patterns between Cocoon House staff and youth and advocate for safe and youth-focused programming at Cocoon House. In addition to programming feedback, the group is starting a gardening project and their own street outreach program. Their hope is to visit schools, juvenile corrections facilities, group homes, and local parks in order to spread the word about Cocoon House while providing services to youth who are experiencing homelessness. We look forward to seeing what they bring to the agency this year.

*"It has been amazing to see the youth board participants step up and make such powerful strides for better and more safe future of Cocoon House. Their willingness to advocate for themselves and others is inspiring and I know they will have a lasting impact on our agency." - Jill-marie Costello, U-Turn Program Manager and Youth Board Advisor*

WE STAND WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, RELIGIONS

## INVESTOR HIGHLIGHTS

There's no denying that last year wasn't easy. But even during the most tumultuous of storms, the sun still rises. One of the bright spots during this uniquely challenging time has been seeing our communities come together in creative and inspiring ways to take care of one another.

In this spirit, the Food for Our Future project was born. Longtime Cocoon House partners McClain Insurance Services developed an exciting idea to help meet multiple community needs by purchasing and delivering weekly dinners from local restaurants for the young people at Cocoon House. After reaching out to some of their partners, Alpine Cleaning and Restoration stepped up to co-sponsor the effort. Along the way, other organizations joined the cause, including Everett-based Advocate One and PEMCO Insurance.

"Food for Our Future was an incredible highlight for our team in 2020. We are thankful for the continued support of our clients and community partners, which allowed us to pay it forward and support the teens living at Cocoon House. In the midst of the pandemic, it was also a joy to connect with our local restaurant owners and do our small part to help keep them afloat during these challenging times," said Claudia McClain, founder and president of McClain Insurance Services.

Each Wednesday for seven months, the teams brought delicious meals for the youth and staff at our Transitions housing program at The HUB - including surprise holiday meals complete with decorations, gifts, and festive desserts. They always kept the youth in mind, asking for favorite foods and special requests and delivering everything from sushi to pasta to bibimbap to "brinner" - a fun breakfast for dinner meal.

"There is nothing more rewarding than giving back and making a difference in the lives of the people in this community," said Kevin Kaczka, owner of Alpine Cleaning and Restoration. "That's always a focus for our team, and it's been more important than ever this year. We're also glad to have had the opportunity to help support Everett restaurants during these uncertain times."

Twenty-one restaurants participated, including an Alpine Cleaning and Restoration employee who catered - and cooked from scratch! - the Christmas Eve feast. There will be a time when COVID-19 is clearly in our rearview mirror, but the deep community connections and collective support that have been strengthened during this health crisis will have lasting impacts. Thank you Food for Our Future partners for making such a difference in our community!



The holidays can be a difficult time for many of Cocoon House's young people. This season, we were delighted to have been selected by **Amazon** to receive an incredibly generous holiday delivery of more than 100 beautifully assembled gift boxes - youth woke up on Christmas to a box filled with festive pajamas, a snuggly blanket, gloves, socks and so much more! Thank you to the entire team at the new **Amazon Everett Distribution Center** for making the holidays extra special for the young people who rely on Cocoon House for safety and support. We appreciate you!



# COCOON HOUSE

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## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### MONTHLY GIVING

A monthly gift allows us to continue the work we do. Your donation makes an impact towards our mission to break the cycle of homelessness.

### MATCHING GIFTS

Does your company match gifts? Contact Cocoon House for assistance to see if a matching gift may apply!

### HOST A FUNDRAISER

Set up your own Cocoon House fundraising page & share your link with others through e-mail, social media, or any other way you communicate with your friends and family!

### LEGACY GIFTS

Gifts of stock and other securities are a popular way to give to charity. Gifts of securities include not only publicly traded stocks, but gifts of mutual funds, Treasury bills & notes, corporate and municipal bonds, and stock in non-publicly held companies.

### STAY CONNECTED



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