



SUMMER FUN WITH AND FOR OUR YOUTH!

PRIDE A Return to the Parade and a Party with Style

Cocoon House staff once again joined corporate partner, Premera, for a festive walk in the Seattle Pride Parade on June 26th. Youth were there to cheer us on. We also held a fun and sparkly Pride party at U-Turn to show respect for and advocate with our LGBTQ+ young people and staff.

PROM Youth Board Sponsors a Young Adult Prom

This year the Cocoon House Youth Board held the first Cocoon House Prom: Morp (prom spelled backwards). With the help of staff, they put on a "Neon 80's" themed dance with karaoke, Guitar Hero, corn hole and a photo booth! Prom was a huge hit! Dressed in neon prom dresses, ball gowns and 80's styled outfits, the youth and staff spent hours dancing and singing their hearts out. Prizes were awarded to the best dressed, best singer and best dancer. Youth enjoyed a large burger bar with all the fixings and nostalgic snack cakes for dessert.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING Fun in the Sun

Each summer our staff comes together to create memorable summer fun for the teens living with us. This summer's activities include tie dye shirt making, painting and water balloons. Our staff have also designed activities to teach life skills, job skills and healthy relationships. Who says learning and growing can't be fun?

PREVENTION IN ACTION

Since 2020, we have distributed \$7,166,205 in government funds to our community for utilities, basic needs, medical bills and rent!

Your support is vital.
Make a gift today!



Joseph Alonzo, CEO



What success looks like at Cocoon House

- Reunifying with family following a stay with our Connections Host Home program
- Graduating from our Young Adult Housing program into their own spaces
- Gaining employment with help from our SnoCo Futures program
- Being accepted into college through Onward Learning, a partnership with EvCC

At Cocoon House we have been overjoyed to watch young people succeed in every program across the agency. However, it would be sharing only part of the story to talk about what youth CAN do with strong collaborations and trained staff support, when one of the biggest threats to the agency and the youth we serve comes from limited affordable housing and dwindling staff resources.

Limited housing options for young people experiencing homelessness is nothing new, but the scope of the housing shortage and the competition for housing is unprecedented in Snohomish County. Compounding the challenge is the growing lack of supportive personnel inside housing programs. Effectively working with young people requires time and trust. As much of the workforce around us has shifted focus toward more flexible work from home options or higher paying jobs to keep up with inflation, the pool of dedicated candidates committed to the kind of work we do has diminished.

Late last year, we were thrilled to see Snohomish County approve a 1/10 of 1% sales tax increase to help address long term challenges around affordable housing and behavioral health. These resources are truly vital to maintain critical services to our most vulnerable residents. However, as the population grows, behavioral health needs increase, and the costs of living/inflation steadily rise, we need to make additional strides, maybe even leaps and bounds in supporting viable housing and workforce options for all.

Building community is a core value at Cocoon House. We envision a community where our clients, staff, supporters and friends have access to the housing they need. Thank you for considering ways to provide a steady stream of support to proven housing programs and services for our area's most vulnerable residents. I urge you to consider ways to support wage growth in our 24/7 site-based housing programs where reliable staff are vital to our ability to function, and I thank you for investing in the career development and housing opportunities of future social workers, clinicians, overnight residential staff and counselors.

Community is about coming together for a common purpose. For us to break the cycle of homelessness for young people in our community the way forward is by supporting the development of affordable housing and investing in wage growth in our sector. Stay tuned this fall when we will be sharing more ways you can get involved in shaping the policies which will support Snohomish County youth and families.

Sincerely,



Connections Host Homes

Recently we housed a pair of siblings, aged 12 and 16 years old, who needed hands-on support during their stay due to severe neglect from a legal guardian. Our case manager gently provided basic life skills, things as simple as how to use hygiene products and how to eat when sitting at a dinner table using utensils. She also made sure they saw a doctor, a dentist and scheduled assessments for them as there was indication that they were on the spectrum. When the youth were leaving their host home stay, they were not able to return to the legal guardian, but were taken into protective custody to put supports in place and continue assisting them with basic needs. A school staff let us know that while they were in the host home, the 16 year-old was happy and smiling at school—a big change from how things had been for her previously.

www.cocoonhouse.org/hosthomes



Chrysalis Award Recipient Claudia McClain



Gio reads his poem for the crowd



Host parents Courtney and Brian share

June 1st was a special day! For the first time since 2019, our community came together in person to celebrate and invest in the young people we serve. Our special guests were members of our staff, Cocoon House alums, volunteers in our Connections Host Homes program, and a youth who is currently being served in our program. The audience heard from all of our panelists about the impact our staff make on young people every day. Over and over we heard that having a caring adult, someone who listens without judgement and believes in our young people makes all the difference to them. We heard from Emily, who worked with our Navigator, Eric, and who has maintained stable housing since last winter, thanks to Cocoon House's guidance and support. One of our newest staff, Melisa, shared about her stay at Cocoon House when

she was a young person and how the loving care she received allowed her to grow and move on from a painful childhood. Brian and Courtney shared with us what it is like to host teens in crisis in their home and how their teenagers have gained new empathy and understanding from hearing about what their guests have gone through. Being a host home has made them realize just how much every young person has to offer the world, and what a difference it makes when they get the support they need to grow and develop. And finally, the house came to its feet for a standing ovation after hearing from Gio, who wrote a moving poem about his experience of being homeless and what it is like to work with his Cocoon House advocates and mentors. If you missed this opportunity to hear about the impact of our work, please make sure to mark your calendars for our Evening in SILK Gala on October 14th!

Together our community raised over \$120,000 to break the cycle of homelessness for young people in Snohomish County.

Investor Spotlight

Amerigroup: Cocoon House is delighted to continue its partnership with Amerigroup, who recently invested \$5,000 in our housing programs to support youth as they navigate housing instability and other challenges. Amerigroup is also an annual corporate sponsor, helping to ensure that every dollar raised at Cocoon House events supports our programming for young people. We are so grateful for Amerigroup's generosity, and their commitment to youth and families throughout Snohomish County!

Haggen Helps: Cocoon House is incredibly thankful to the Haggen Foundation and for the opportunity to participate in their 2022 Cultivating Community Together Campaign, which provided Haggen customers with opportunities to invest in local nonprofit agencies that promote the health, resiliency and well-being of the community. During the spring, Marysville Haggen customers learned more about Cocoon House and donated at the register to help support our housing programs for young people. "We are honored to partner with such an amazing group. Cocoon House's mission to help break the cycle of homelessness through outreach, housing and prevention is one that we are proud to be part of. Non profits like this do an incredible amount of good and we are blessed that our Haggen community showed their support with much needed donations." – Brandi Craig, Store Manager Marysville Haggen. We are so grateful to the Haggen Foundation and our community for coming together to raise \$3,000 in support of services that make a big impact on youth!



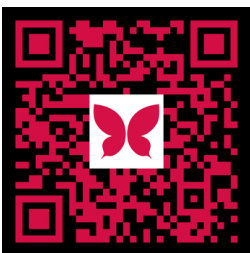
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Cocoon House presents - An Evening in SILK

Please be our guests at Cocoon House's annual An Evening in SILK Gala. Join us for a fast-paced auction, delicious food and good company; all in service of teens and young people. When we invest in their future, we make our communities stronger.



TULALIP RESORT CASINO
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022, 6:00-10:00 PM
10200 QUIL CEDA BLVD, TULALIP, WA 98271

LEARN MORE ABOUT SILK WWW.EVENT.GIVES/COCOONHOUSE