

Education and Employment Spotlight



Education and job-readiness skills are undeniably vital in a young person's journey to independence and stability. To support the upward mobility of young people in Snohomish County, Cocoon House is leading these efforts in partnership with Housing Hope, Refugees and Immigrant Services NW, and Seattle Jobs through the SnoCo Connect program. SnoCo Connect is a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth program funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. SnoCo Connect offers a wide array of employment and education support for youth ages 16-24. In addition to assistance with high school completion and enrollment in post-secondary education, the program enables Cocoon House and its partners to provide new paid internship opportunities that allow young people real-world experiences to help practice and solidify essential job readiness skills. Typically 4 months in duration, internships explore young people's varied career interests – from dental and nursing programs, to commercial driving, and agriculture and farming opportunities. SnoCo Connect staff work in

tandem with internship supervisors to provide extra support throughout the program, meeting the individual learning needs of each participant, as well as any additional requirements for the placement such as specific work clothing and tools. Workshops for each intern cohort provide additional learning opportunities for growing and practicing soft employment skills including communication and relationship building. Last year, 19 young people were placed in paid internship opportunities, with employers such as HopeWorks, Habitat for Humanity, Boys & Clubs of Snohomish County, Farmer Frog, Schack Art Center, Esther Place, Pasado's Safe Haven, and Community Transit, among others.

Sharing Wheels, a bicycle shop in Everett, provided an internship recently for Eddie, who had a valuable experience in the program. "Eddie is a great addition to our team," said Ed Roos, Sharing Wheel's Shop Manager. "He always comes to work early, with a great attitude. He works independently, always finding something to do and is learning some great life and work skills. When he first arrived, he knew very little about bikes, but he has incredible tenacity to learn and do the work himself. And always with a smile, laughter and witty comment. This guy's going places, and I look forward to being a mentor and guide for him on his journey." Learn more about this exciting program at: www.snococonnect.org.

Thanks to a generous investment from The Boeing Company, Cocoon House is working on an exciting social enterprise strategic and business planning project that will provide the framework for expanding current employment services for young people. Low-barrier social enterprise programs provide an effective means to help young people who experience the most barriers to employment success gain the experience and soft skills they need for future job success, financial stability, and independence. The social enterprise strategic planning committee will evaluate business models, various options for social enterprise programs, resources required to successfully launch a social enterprise program, as well as maximizing integration with existing employment and outreach services. We look forward to keeping you updated on these developments!

2023 Programming Impacts At-a-Glance

2023 was a busy year at Cocoon House, with many successes big and small to celebrate, and we are pleased to share a few programming highlights. From helping young people experiencing homelessness to meet their basic needs, to working with youth to remain engaged in school and learning vital employment readiness skills, to strengthening families and preventing youth homelessness throughout Snohomish County – our community of caring supporters ensure that young people have the support and resources they need to thrive. With your partnership last year:

125 young people were served in our housing programs for teens.

25 young adults participated in our Journeys program, a housing program for 18-24 year-olds.

559 young people received services at U-Turn, our drop-in center at the HUB in Everett.

346 young people were served through a variety of street outreach and case management services.

64 families participated in Cocoon House's WayOut Seminars, a program designed to build trust and communication.

58 families received in-home case management to support families in conflict and address factors that contribute to instability.

10,000 basic needs items such as food, clothing, and hygiene goods were distributed to youth in need.



Make a gift today!

Cocoon House Agency Values

Across all aspects of our agency, Cocoon House strives to embody our six core agency values: Community, Equity, Respect, Growth, Advocacy, Leadership, and Safety. Throughout 2024, we will be exploring each of these values and sharing the various ways these values show up in our services, programming, and partnerships. Follow along as we take a deeper dive into the values that Cocoon House upholds – sign up for our email mailing list, and join the conversation on our social media channels!

News from the Cocoon House Advocacy Team



Cocoon House advocates for youth at the local, regional, and state level to improve systems and services for all youth. We are focused on advocating against oppressive systems and policies that negatively affect youth and empowering the community to help advocate for youth rights. The Cocoon House Advocacy Team (CHAT) is comprised of staff throughout the agency and helps train and support staff in legislative engagement. Last month, Cocoon House staff and young people traveled to Olympia for Mockingbird Society's Day of Advocacy. They courageously spoke about their experiences and advocated for positive change in policies affecting youth. It was a powerful and inspiring opportunity for both the Cocoon House staff and the young advocates to make their voices heard and drive meaningful impact.

Cocoon House's 18th Annual An Evening in SILK

Cocoon House's 18th Annual An Evening in SILK was an incredibly inspiring event! From start to finish the energy in the room was palpable, and with generous support from our community, we raised over \$390,000 that will go directly towards providing hope and opportunities for young people and their families experiencing homelessness throughout Snohomish County.

For Chance and Sarah, the young people featured in our video and joining us at the event, SILK brought moments of sharing personal growth and renewed confidence to face major challenges as young adults. When Chance and Sarah found Cocoon House, they found hope, stability and a community of support. They were encouraged to dream big and received the guidance they needed to meet their goals – with all of us cheering them on every step of the way.



“Sponsoring and attending SILK is an honor and highlight for our team each year. We are deeply inspired by the stories and voices of youth who have participated in Cocoon House programs. The event is a chance to see what our community is capable of when we work together on important issues like youth homelessness.” – Nick Pembroke, Owner, McClain Insurance Services

Each thread of support creates a stronger Cocoon House, a stronger investment in the futures of young people, and a stronger community. Thank you for helping to make last fall's event such a spectacular success!

“Sponsoring Cocoon House is a privilege for our team that we do not take for granted. It has made a huge impact to how we interact with our local community and wish to help other local business do the same. Cocoon House provides much needed assistance to the next generation of young adults and it is our privilege to assist them in their mission of making a difference and to provide them with all the possible opportunities in front of them!” – Kevin Kaczka, Alpine Cleaning & Restoration

It's not too early to mark your calendars! Cocoon House's 19th Annual SILK event will take place on October 11, 2024 at Tulalip Resort Casino – and we look forward to seeing you there! If you are interested in corporate sponsorship opportunities, please contact Christina Cuenca at christina.cuenca@cocoonhouse.org.

Calling All Volunteers!



We're always looking for volunteers who are committed to supporting the success of young people in our community. From meal delivery options and site beautification projects, to event-related support and off-site initiatives such as food, clothing, or supply drives, we have a volunteer opportunity to meet your needs!

Please visit www.cocoonhouse.org/volunteer to learn more!

WE STAND WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, RELIGIONS

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Butterfly Reimagined

Please join us for Cocoon House's
Butterfly Celebration, an interactive evening
cohosted by the Cocoon House Youth Board

Thursday, May 2, 2024

5:00 - 7:00pm

Premera Blue Cross

Discovery Hall

220th St SW, Mountlake Terrace

Scan code to register before
April 19th

www.cocoonhouse.org/butterfly2024

