

IN LOVING MEMORY OF SHIRLEY A. CALDWELL



THS mourns the death of Shirley Caldwell, a long-time member of the THS family. Shirley worked for over 40 years as a social worker and was widely acknowledged as the mental health authority on African American children and families. She served on a multitude of state and national commissions and was a past president of the National Association of Black Social Workers. Shirley was a tireless champion of children and families.

Shirley began her career at Catholic Community Services in Spokane. After moving to Seattle, she was a senior social worker at the Odessa Brown Children's Clinic focusing in special needs issues for families of color. She came to THS in 1990 and was instrumental in creating a strong mental health program for youth and families. During her years at THS, she was a clinical supervisor and senior mental health consultant/trainer.

Shirley was well-known throughout Washington State for her knowledge and passionate advocacy for children and families. Her ability to attract and recruit quality staff for Therapeutic Health Services' mental health programs was unmatched—people came to THS just to work with her. Among her many accolades was the 1995 Governor's Child Abuse Prevention Award.

Shirley's vivacious personality was matched with a vibrant sense of personal style. She had a beautiful singing voice and acted in a number of theater productions.

Shirley retired in 2009 and passed away in June 2011. She leaves a legacy of tireless commitment to the children and families of the State of Washington and is a standard to which we all can aspire.

THS COLLABORATIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

THS is currently the test site for two projects within the University of Washington's School of Social Work Social Development Research Group.

Staying Connected with Your Teen is a family based self-study intervention to prevent substance use, risky sexual behavior and violence during adolescence. Funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, Staying Connected will be implemented at seven THS branches.

The Social Development Research Group is consulting with THS and King County on the Evaluation of the Assertive Adolescent and Family Treatment Project. Funded by the King County Department of Community and Human Services, the Social Development Research Group is assisting with the process evaluation of the program adaptations and analyzing the outcome data of the project as it is being used in treatment settings within THS.

"Recovery is all about rebuilding a life, because you're so different when you're using. And that's what THS did for me—helped me rebuild my life."

-Former THS client



Editors: Rehana Lanewala and Ken Schlegel

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FALL 2011



2011 Alvirita Little Luncheon
raises more than \$60,000!

Helping people regain their health and future

NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Norman O. Johnson



Summer is usually a time for vacations when the normal pace of life shifts into a slower gear. At THS, this summer concluded with a number of activities and a flurry of planning for the coming months.

In July we paid special tribute to a member of the THS family – Shirley Caldwell, who passed away this July. Shirley came to Therapeutic Health Services in 1990 and was instrumental in creating a strong mental health program for youth and families. During her years at THS, she was a clinical supervisor and senior mental health consultant/trainer. Shirley worked tirelessly for THS and was based out of the Rainier branch, so it is fitting that the conference room at THS's Rainier branch was dedicated in her honor on August 13. Many friends and colleagues of Shirley's joined other community supporters of THS on a beautiful summer day to share memories of Shirley and see the newly refurbished conference room.

The sunshine finally showed up and made our Summer Youth Program all the more successful. Visits to local highlights like the Woodland Park Zoo, the Seattle Aquarium and the Arboretum were combined with outings that allowed the kids to experience drama, music and art in personal and hands-on ways. Our Tennis and Golf Programs were better attended than last year, with nearly 50 kids taking part. The Youth Summer Program ended with a fun-filled barbeque at our Youth & Family Services – Seattle branch.

Autumn means back to school for everyone, including THS. Our youth programs at our Youth & Family Seattle, Everett and Kent branches are now in full swing, with counselors and case managers working with youth and their families – not just at our offices, but also in the field: at schools and other community locations.

Autumn also ushers in the annual Alvirita Little Award Luncheon. Over 300 luncheon attendees helped raise more than \$60,000 for our youth programs. Please read the article in this issue of the newsletter about the luncheon. With additional state and county budget cuts looming, it is even more important for THS to receive contributions from generous donors who support the work that THS does for adults, youth and families in the Puget Sound area. I want to add my personal thanks to that of our board and staff for your generosity.

We want your feedback! Please write to info@ths-wa.org with any questions, comments or suggestions.

"Community organizations like THS might be considered a safety net. Well, I consider THS to be a trampoline. A trampoline lifts, a trampoline keeps you going, and a trampoline helps you soar."

-Dr. Constance Rice

BOARD PROFILE

Louis Hunter

A Seattle native, Louis Hunter grew up along the Rainier Avenue corridor. He graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in English and then attended law school at Seattle University. Louis is currently a public defender with the Associated Counsel for the Accused and works with Seattle's Community Court. Community Court is a non-traditional approach to the criminal justice system. Rather than go to jail, people who commit low-level misdemeanor offenses (e.g., theft, trespassing, prostitution, etc.) are linked with community services that address the root causes and underlying issues of repeated criminal behavior. The services can include housing, mental health and drug/alcohol treatment, and employment training.

Louis has been a long-time mentor for youth in South Seattle and mediates problems, encourages them to go to school, and provides guidance on how to successfully deal with conflicts. It was in this capacity that he first heard of THS and the services that we provide. He says that **"through my experiences with the kids I mentor and through court, I've seen what THS does in the community. We are a good organization that is run well and I like the idea of providing treatment and services to juveniles."**

In his position as a THS board member, Louis wants to bring his background as a lawyer and mentor to young people to **"help THS grow and continue the good work it's doing now, especially in addressing the needs of at-risk youth."**



Louis Hunter
Board member
since July, 2011.

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THE 2011 ALVIRITA LITTLE AWARD LUNCHEON: FUNDRAISING AND "FRIENDRAISING"

On September 22, over 320 attendees filled the Leonesa Ballroom at the Grand Hyatt Seattle, helping THS to raise more than \$60,000 for youth programming. Created by THS' Board of Directors in 1988, the Alvirita Little Award honors an individual or organization that has contributed continuously and selflessly to children, youth, adults, and families at-risk in our community, especially those affected by chemical dependency and mental illness. The award is named in memory of Alvirita Little (May 25, 1913-June 24, 2006), who contributed over 50 years of professional and volunteer service in support of youth and families in the Greater Puget Sound Region.

Emceed by Joyce Taylor, co-anchor of KING 5 Morning News, the program included a video highlighting our ENCOMPASS™ program, as well as comments from Karen McPhee, the mother of an ENCOMPASS™ program participant. ENCOMPASS™ is the first effective, truly integrated, evidence-based treatment for youth ages 13 to 25 years who have co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders.

This year's award was given to Dr. Constance Rice in recognition of her years of community service, her work at Casey Family Programs on behalf of youth in foster care, and her efforts on behalf of adolescents and those with HIV/AIDS in Africa. In comments made after the presentation of the award, Dr. Rice acknowledged that many community-based organizations like THS are referred to as "safety nets." She views THS as a trampoline because "a trampoline lifts. A trampoline keeps you going, and a trampoline helps you soar."

THS would like to thank everyone who made this year's luncheon a success. Believe it or not, we will soon begin planning next year's event. If you would like to get involved, please contact Ken Schlegel, Director of Development and Marketing at 206-323-0930, extension 201 or KennethS@ths-wa.org.

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Luncheon photography by Sarah Alston, www.sarahalstonphotography.com



Dr. Constance Rice has been a longtime civic volunteer and community advocate on behalf of youth in foster care and those with HIV/AIDS in Africa. She has served on the boards of Seattle Community College, Seattle Art Museum, the Downtown Rotary, the Rainier Club, The Seattle Foundation and Swedish Hospital. She was the department chair of Women & Ethnic Studies and Senior Chancellor at Shoreline Community College and is an affiliate professor at the University of Washington's Center for Human Design in Engineering. Dr. Rice is currently the Managing Director for Knowledge Management for Casey Family Programs.