IN LOVING MEMORY OF SHIRLEY A. CALDWELL

Therapeutic Health Services (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

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the following individuals and organizations who made in-kind donations to our Summer Youth Program:

- Burger King
- Grocery Outlet
- Steve and Deborah Mullen
- REI
- The Seahawks
- Seattle Aquarium
- The Sounders
- Woodland Park Zoo
Summer is usually a time for vacations when the normal pace of life shifts into a slower gear. But, 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 ushered 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 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.

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