PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: CHANCE TO CHANGE

Our Chance to Change program (CTC) provides intensive co-occurring disorder treatment and community reintegration for young men and women ages 18 to 24 in King County Drug Court. The King County Drug Court partners with the criminal justice system and community organizations like THS to give people who commit certain classes of non-violent drug crimes a chance to get drug treatment instead of incarceration. The idea behind drug courts is that many people who commit drug-related crimes do so because of their addiction. They also tend to appear frequently in court and jails, often at great expense to the government and taxpayers. It is less costly to treat these people for their addiction and end the cycle of drug abuse and criminality than it is to incarcerate them time after time.

Participants in CTC make a 2-year commitment to choose education over drugs/violence and enter deferred prosecution. They receive mental health and substance abuse treatment, crisis intervention, case management, advocacy, parenting classes, Wraparound services, vocational services and mentoring and support. The participants in CTC have enormous motivation to change their lives, because if they successfully complete the program all criminal charges are dropped. If they fail out of the program, they are sentenced on the original charges—often to long jail terms.

During 2009-2010, THS treated 66 participants in CTC. **56% of the participants had successful outcomes**, meaning that they reduced their drug use or abstained completely, and improved in their mental health symptoms. This is a huge achievement considering the challenging nature of the participant problems in CTC.

Our participants report that CTC has allowed them to reconnect with their families, communities and also with their own selves.

We need your help to make this happen. Please go to www.ths-wa.org and click “Donate” to help THS keep programs like Chance to Change running.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2011 ALVIRITA LITTLE AWARD LUNCHEON!

Please join us at 12pm on Thursday, September 22nd at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Seattle as we honor Dr. Constance Rice from Casey Family Programs with the Alvirita Little Award in honor of her years of community service, her work on behalf of youth in foster care, and her efforts on behalf of adolescents and those with HIV/AIDS in Africa.

**For more information or to register, please go to www.ths-wa.org.**
“After 34 years working with offenders I am more convinced than ever of the importance chemical dependency treatment and that it saves and makes lives worth living. I think what you do is truly an act of love.”

- Retired parole officer who partnered with THS to treat his clients

Therapeutic Health Service is designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. EIN 91-0882971. All contributions are tax-deductible within the limits of the law.

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Released by the Board of Directors as of January 2011

BOARD PROFILE

Walter Weston

Our newest board member, Walter Weston, first became involved with THS three years ago. He worked with THS in his capacity as a Business Relationship Manager at Wells Fargo where he managed the relationships for small and mid-sized businesses. He then joined the Alvinta Little Award Luncheon Steering Committee where he helped to plan our annual fundraising luncheon. Currently Walter is the Assistant Vice President of the Technology & Life Sciences Division at Comerica Bank.

Originally from Edmonds, Walter lived in California and Maryland before attending Hillsdale College in Michigan. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Economics in 2007. He serves on the Finance Committee of the THS Board and says he is “excited to bring my finance and banking background to help THS succeed financially.” One of the reasons he was drawn to THS was because of the people working here. He says, “I enjoyed working with Norman (the executive director) and felt that THS has a good mission and good results. But mostly it was the people.”

In his spare time, Walter enjoys playing basketball and running. He also is very interested in theater.

Walter Weston
Board member since June 2011