



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
8/13/10

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2010 Recognition Awards Announced

Honoring six Clark County advocates for their work to end homelessness

The Council for the Homeless hosts the 11th Annual "Hope & Action" Recognition Luncheon on Friday, September 24th at the Hilton Vancouver Washington. Registration starts at 11: 00 a.m. The luncheon and awards program begins at noon.

Six awards will honor those whose achievements highlight their dedication to ending homelessness and improving the lives of those experiencing homelessness in Clark County. This year's luncheon message highlights the role we all play in building opportunities for our young people to have a safe and decent place to call home.

Keynote presenter is Joshua Morgan-Griggs, an advocate for young people living without a stable supportive home environment. Joshua grew up in the Oregon foster care system and understands the challenges young people face when they lack permanent connections - including a safe place to call home - during the teen and young adult years. Morgan-Griggs will share his story as well as a call-to-action for a community response.

The 2010 "Hope & Action" honorees are:

Quiet Hero *Marion Noe* is known for her positive outlook on life, which she brings to her role as a volunteer for the Emergency Shelter Clearinghouse. When Marion answers the phone at the Clearinghouse she is often the first point of contact for people facing a housing crisis. Her kindness and positive nature is a lifeline to those she helps.

Community Partner *Carrie Slayter* will be recognized for her tireless work as a volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul. She is committed to helping others with their immediate needs such as finding food and shelter, and finding the way to long-term self-sufficiency. Carrie recently became part-time staff at Friends of the Carpenter where she organizes outreach and micro-enterprise activities including the highly revered wood working program.

Community Advocate *Mandy Kubisch* is the program supervisor for the Janus Youth Yellow Brick Road. Mandy is dedicated to young people in need of social services, and the youth and young adults throughout Clark County who need support count on her as a stable and honest mentor. Under her direction, Yellow Brick Road is a safe place for youth to come and begin their journey to a better life.

Community Partner *Community Services Northwest Family Housing Program* provides housing and intensive case management support services for families that are experiencing homelessness and multiple barriers to self-sufficiency. The program is a model of collaboration with other community agencies. The CSNW Family Housing Program staff are dedicated to increasing and improving resources available to families in our community.

Community Supporter *Hazel Dell Lions Club* is a group of dedicated community members showing that together community service organizations can be an integral piece to building great communities that provide for our neighbors in need. They are a regular contributor to the Council for the Homeless. In addition they support a sight and hearing van, the Fruit Valley Elementary Christmas Store, The Stop Hunger Warehouse and more.

Community Volunteer *Alana Smith* served for four years as a volunteer coordinator for the Winter Hospitality Overflow (WHO) program. Alana's high energy level and her ability to really listen to people are two assets she brings to her service to others. Working at the WHO has been a rewarding experience for Alana. She is moved by the compassion of the volunteers and the deep need of those needing shelter.

Special Recognition will be given in memory of Jim Hernandez, Council for the Homeless staff member who passed away in April of this year.

Hope & Action Luncheon tickets are \$35 per person. Tables of ten are \$300. Purchase tickets or tables by phone at 360-993-9561 or by mail at Council for the Homeless, 2500 Main Street, Vancouver WA 98660. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.icfth.com. Please note online tickets are \$36.99 per person, which includes a service fee.

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The Council for the Homeless is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit planning and advocacy organization charged by Clark County, the City of Vancouver, and the Vancouver Housing Authority to lead the community's efforts to end homelessness through advocacy, planning, and resource development.