



2017 Annual Report

 **take the
next
step**
sky valley's community resource center
friendship • help • hope

neighbors

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DROP-IN CENTER • COMMUNITY DINNERS

youth

KIDZ CLUB • STUDENT LEADERS • GROWING TOGETHER TEEN MOMS

community

MONROE HOMELESS RESPONSE GROUP • HOUSING ACTION COMMITTEE

and so much more

Our Mission

to offer friendship, help, and hope to our neighbors in need...of all ages

Dear friends,

Working together, we all make Monroe a better place to live for every single person. Together, we can and do change hearts, change minds, and change our community.

Take the Next Step didn't start with a grand vision to change the world or even our community; it was quite the opposite. Eighteen years ago, I went back to teaching at Everett Community College. There I was asked to teach GED and basic life skills in a WorkFirst program. I met many incredible, mostly single moms, who were so courageous and worked so hard to break the cycle of poverty wanting to give their children the chance at a different, and hopefully, better life. Their courage and their stories changed my heart and my mind...

My students were constantly frustrated with the dead-end resources, disconnected phone numbers and outdated programs given to them by government agencies and other organizations. One class determined to do something about it; they did the research and created a notebook of real, viable resources. I brought that notebook back to classes quarter after quarter. With my students' encouragement saying, "You have to share this with more people!" That notebook became the foundation for our Community Resource Drop-In Center. We opened the Drop-In Center in 2005, not knowing what to expect.

Over the past 12 years, we've watched what was going on around us, listened to our neighbors' stories, and with our community's help, we have been able to respond in some truly amazing ways.

What I love best about Next Step is the way it changes all of our hearts and minds and gives the compassionate and generous members of our community a place to plug in - to give and serve our most vulnerable neighbors in need.

As I write this, Mary Wysocki is preparing to become our first Executive Director. Mary is amazing, enthusiastic, and full of energy - you'll love her!

Thank you for your love, care, and support of the Next Step and all that you have done with and for our community. Together, our work has been a great encouragement to me and the many people we serve.


Donna Olson
Founder and Board Chair

youth

5,408
visits

9,243
meals

45
nights

COMMUNITY RESOURCE DROP-IN CENTER

Since we opened the Drop-In Center in 2005, we have welcomed more than 50,000 visitors. This year, nearly 60% of those who came through our doors were homeless men, women, and children.

Last year, we met 318 homeless individuals.

Those are startling statistics that 6 out of 10 people we see suffer homelessness. But what as distressing for us is the fact that the other 4 who are safely housed are struggling so much to make ends meet that they need our help too.

COMMUNITY DINNERS

We had more servers than guests for our first Community Dinner. We wondered, are people really hungry in our neighborhood?

Now, every week volunteers make and serve almost 200 meals.



COLD WEATHER SHELTER

Our homeless friends tell us the only thing you can do when it's freezing cold is to walk all night...just to stay alive.

This past winter, 22 volunteers gave our homeless neighbors a safe, warm place to stay for 245 "person-nights"!

When the Police Department prepares and serves dinner to our hungry and homeless neighbors, you know you're living in a great community!

KIDZ CLUB AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, Monroe Covenant Church opens their doors for 60 - 70 elementary school Kidz Club students.

We start with a healthy snack, a time to connect with their favorite volunteers - 50 adults and 28 Student Leaders who help them with reading, homework, and to learn new skills for life.

Teachers tell us, "Now your kids are ready to learn."

In the summer, we WAKE the Neighborhood for 120 kids!

STUDENT LEADERS

When our 5th grade graduates didn't want to leave Kidz Club, we started Student Leaders.

Middle and High School students commit to regularly volunteer at Kidz Club and meet every other week with our Kidz Club Director, Raylin Lucey, and mentors to learn about leadership and life.

It's a big commitment. Our Leaders take it seriously... including a promise to keep up their grades.

GROWING TOGETHER TEEN MOMS

This has been a year of rebuilding and new growth for Growing Together. We're grateful for our leaders and mentors who have been so faithful. Several of our original teen moms are now leaders.

We begin this new year with 20 young moms and children who are growing together as a committed group of friends.

A special thanks goes out to Leaders in Learning for many good connections.

neighbors

150 kids
+28 student
leaders

good things



The Monroe YMCA invites our kids for an afternoon of swimming and fun activities during school breaks.

We have a lot of amazing partners!

45 the average age of our homeless visitors

423 volunteers gave us 13,862 hours

and more...

HOMELESS RESPONSE GROUP

One Tuesday every month, we lead a group of committed folks representing more than 20 businesses, churches, city and county government, community organizations, concerned citizens, and schools who work together to help and find solutions for our homeless neighbors.

Can you imagine more than 3,000 students in Snohomish County will be homeless tonight?

HOUSING ACTION COMMITTEE

More than half of all renters and home owners pay more than 30% of their family income for housing - that makes housing unaffordable for 2,500 households!

Fair Market Rent for a two bedroom apartment in Snohomish County is \$1,878 per month. It's too easy to become homeless in Monroe.

We're advocating for and exploring affordable housing options.

The Police Department serves dinner and a fireman teaches Kidz Club about goodness...we live in an incredibly generous and caring community!

VOLUNTEERS

We do all this with only six part time and one full time staff - barely four full time equivalents.

Those nearly 14,000 hours are worth \$425,000!

We can't do this without you! You make Monroe a better place to live for every person.



WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES



\$476,000

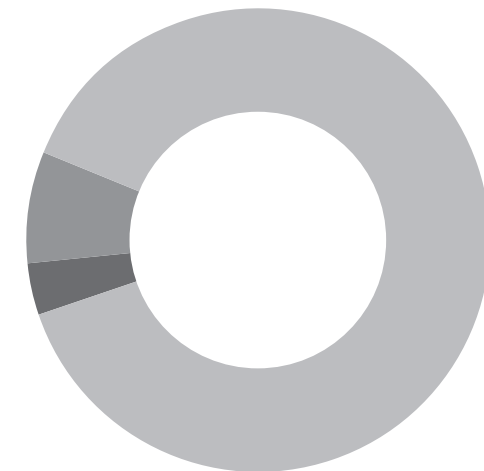
Total Support Income in 2017

- **\$134,000** INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS
- **\$ 64,000** BUSINESSES, CHURCHES, ORGANIZATIONS
- **\$ 65,000** GRANTS
- **\$212,000** GIFTS IN KIND

\$446,000

Total Expense in 2017

- **\$396,000** PROGRAM SERVICES (89%)
- **\$ 34,000** ADMINISTRATION (7%)
- **\$ 16,000** FUNDRAISING (4%)



4¢

our cost to raise \$1 in 2017

89¢

of every dollar goes directly to programs that offer friendship, help, and hope to our neighbors in need

community

THANKS TO OUR ANNUAL SUSTAINING PARTNERS



THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Our Annual Sustaining Partners contribute more than \$10,000 to the work of Next Step every year.

Community Partners provide us with \$2,000 or more to help us make our community a better place for every person.

Email our Executive Director, Mary Wysocki: mary@tttns.org if you'd like to learn more about partnering with the Next Step.

AND TO ALL OF OUR 41 BUSINESSES, 20 CHURCHES, 11 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, 5 FOUNDATIONS, AND 261 INDIVIDUAL DONORS WHO GENEROUSLY GAVE OF THEIR FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO HELP US MAKE MONROE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE FOR EVERY PERSON.



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