

Matched Savings Makes Final Step to Housing More Accessible

For many trying to move past homelessness, it can be a struggle, even with a job, to save enough for the first and last months' rent required up-front for housing.



With the high cost of rent in the Seattle area, we are talking about thousands of dollars that stand between the woman who has worked hard to achieve a degree of financial security and the rental agreement that celebrates her independence. At Jubilee Women's Center, we are

breaking down this barrier for our residents through a new savings incentive program and equipping women with critical skills for moving past poverty, permanently.

"Financial health is a core component of Jubilee's holistic program," said Jubilee Executive Director Cheryl Sesnon. "Our matched savings program gives women an incentive to apply what they learn in their money management classes and develop healthy financial habits for life, with the short-term benefit of growing funds to get them over a major housing hurdle."

Work on financial literacy begins as soon as a woman arrives at Jubilee. During a meeting with her care manager, each resident completes an assessment on key personal development areas including her financial circumstances along with a plan for education and counseling.

*"As soon as matched savings was offered, I signed up. The program is unbeatable!"
~a Jubilee resident*

Jubilee requires each resident to take a 5-week course in money management to start building a foundation for financial security. The course begins by looking at attitudes, beliefs, and family patterns around money, and wraps up with financial counselors from HomeStreet

Bank's Capitol Hill Branch who help the women pull their credit reports and learn steps to improve their credit scores.

Residents who have completed the money management course then have an opportunity to join the matched savings program. It works like this: They open a savings account and deposit up to \$100 a month. If they consistently invest at least \$20 a month without any withdrawals for 20 consecutive months, Jubilee will match their savings 2:1, giving them up to \$6,000 at program completion. This can be just what it takes for a woman to make a successful transition to independent living.

Currently, 14 Jubilee women are on track to a match with a total of \$6300 deposited so far. Matching funds for this program are provided through the generosity of Jubilee donors. If you would like to help or learn more, please contact donations@jwcenter.org.

Jubilee by the Numbers

Highlights from fiscal year July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018

58 women received affordable housing, holistic support services, learning opportunities & employment prep in the residential program.

Nearly **2,100** homeless and low-income women received referrals, shopped for free clothes, took classes, & used the computer lab.

84% of departing residents moved into independent housing.

60% completed job training or school.

50% of eligible residents gained employment.

Reflections



I was first introduced to Jubilee at the fall fundraiser in 2005. The speaker that year was a woman I worked with, who I saw almost daily. She got up and told her story, and it blew me away. I had no idea what she had been through.

She had escaped a dangerous domestic violence situation and used all her financial resources to get as far away from her abusive husband as possible. She feared if he ever found her, he would kill her. She ended up in Seattle, homeless and on the streets. She eventually got to Jubilee where she found a safe place to live, support to help her overcome PTSD, educational opportunities to get her back into the workforce, and independent housing.

Please join us October 9 to celebrate 35 years of organizational growth, community support, and the extraordinary women we serve.

A few months after that event, I was asked to join Jubilee's board and jumped at the opportunity. I have been involved ever since, now 13 years. Every year I attend the fall fundraiser and continue to

be in awe of the tenacity, resilience, and accomplishments of Jubilee women, and their courage to get up in front of a crowd and share their inspiring stories.

I hope you will join me and 450+ other community members on October 9, 12-1:15 p.m., at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel. Help us celebrate 35 years of organizational growth, community support, and the extraordinary women we serve. (You can RSVP or find out more about the event at jwcenter.org/event, on our Facebook Events page, or by contacting events@jwcenter.org.)

Joe Krukowski
Board President



The mission of Jubilee Women's Center is to support women experiencing poverty to build stable and fulfilling futures, one extraordinary woman at a time.

Led by the guiding principle that women of all races and cultures are to be treated with respect and dignity, Jubilee provides programs and services that empower women to make positive life changes.

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Cheryl Sesnon, Executive Director
Norma Addis, Data & Evaluations Manager
Maria Durish, Events Manager
Nathan Gifford, Facilities Coordinator
Marie Girard, Care Manager
Matt Lewison, Operations Director
Elizabeth Mather, House Coordinator
Francoise Maxie, Finance Manager
Angie Muthee, Development Director
Carol Rozumalski, Occupancy Administrator & Care Manager
Chrysta Storm, Volunteer Services Manager
Dani Turk, Employment & Education Manager
Anita Wilkins, Marketing & Outreach Manager

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Twitter: [@JubileeSeattle](https://twitter.com/JubileeSeattle)
Instagram: [jubileewomenscenter](https://www.instagram.com/jubileewomenscenter)

Moto Women Run Full Throttle for JWC



Jubilee is fortunate to have some of the most wonderful volunteers around (no bias here). During our last fiscal year, 531 volunteers gave 11,362 hours to help Jubilee women. For some, volunteering is a personal gift of time or talent. For others, it is an opportunity to come together with a like-minded community to give back. The Rainer Ravens is one such group.

The Rainer Ravens is a collective of women who embrace the motorcyclist culture in Seattle. They have bodacious bikes, endless energy, and huge hearts. In 2016 they connected with Jubilee because they wanted to help women in the community who were struggling.

“We chose Jubilee because we wanted an organization large enough to know what they are doing but small enough that we could make an impact.”

“We have many women in our group who have had difficult times, so we wanted to give back,” said Lisa Terry, who helps lead the Ravens. “We chose Jubilee because we wanted an organization large enough to know what they are doing but small enough that we could make an impact.”

And what an impact they’ve had! The Ravens have

prepared several delicious meals for Jubilee residents. They’ve raised thousands of dollars through raffles at their annual moto campouts. And they’ve hosted clothing, hygiene, and gift card drives, most recently collecting more than 600 bras to distribute to residents and other low-income women through Jubilee’s free clothing boutique. Now that’s support!

“It is touching for us as organizers to see how much the Ravens want to give back and how big their hearts are,” said Lisa. “The group is about inclusivity, building community, and supporting each other, so working with Jubilee is part of what we are all about.”



Welcome, Matt!



We are pleased to introduce Matt Lewison who has joined Jubilee as Operations Director.

Matt comes to us after 11 years at FareStart, a long-time Jubilee partner. He brings experience supporting and leading a team of social service providers and knowledge of comprehensive

case management with a focus on job readiness and retention. In his previous role with FareStart, Matt knew many of the Jubilee women who were part of the culinary training program, which makes him a familiar and trusted face. Matt also works closely with Development Director Angie Muthee and Executive Director Cheryl Sesnon on organizational best practices and strategic planning.

When he is not working, Matt enjoys live music, team sports, outdoor activities, and collecting rocks and minerals. Stop by and hello!

New Home Coming Soon



In February, a group of generous donors stepped forward with the funds to purchase and remodel an additional residence for Jubilee Women’s Center.

Located just a few blocks north of Jubilee’s main site in Capitol Hill, the new home will meet a need for those Jubilee program graduates who would benefit

from an interim step of affordable housing and extra time to strengthen their financial position before making the leap into market rate housing.

Remodeling is currently underway to bring the residence up to code, create functional private and community spaces for 12 women, and refresh the interior after a decade as a group home for men. The new residence is expected to see its first renters by the end of the year. Watch for information about an open house later this fall.



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JUBILEE news.

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Welcome, Matt!

New Home Coming

Monthly Impact Circle

jwcenter.org

Join Our Monthly Impact Circle

Show your ongoing commitment to helping women move past homelessness with a monthly contribution to Jubilee Women's Center. Here's why it's a good move...



It's efficient. Recurring funds put gifts to work faster and take up less time on fundraising.

It's convenient. Set up a recurring donation online for an automatic monthly transaction.

It's easy. How much you give each month is up to you. But by passing on a couple of lattes,

a cocktail, or a meal out, you have already freed up what it takes to make a difference for a Jubilee woman.

It's impactful. You'll receive regular impact updates so you know how your contribution is being used.

The challenge. Since Jubilee is celebrating 35 years of helping women rebuild their lives, we invite you to consider a commitment of \$35 a month. This subsidizes a room for one woman for 2+ days, underwrites 3

employment preparation classes, or purchases a grocery gift card for a week of food.

The reward. Your gift of any size will help a woman work toward living-wage employment and stable housing. The first 35 Monthly Impact Circle members who pledge \$35 or more a month will be recognized on our website and in social media.

“Monthly giving means Jubilee has funds coming in they can count on day in and day out, not just during prime giving seasons.” ~long-time donor

Sign up today. Learn more at jwcenter.org. You can sign up using the donate button on the upper right corner of our website, through donations@jwcenter.org, or by calling 206.442.2951. Thank you!