

## Rebuilding a Life at Jubilee

When Laurie first came to Jubilee Women's Center in 2013, she was at a crossroads in her life. A long struggle with alcoholism had derailed her dreams, but a successful alcohol treatment program was giving her a second chance. Laurie knew Jubilee presented an opportunity to create a healthy and stable future. What she didn't know was how she would stay the course on this new path.



This is where Jubilee's holistic, supportive program makes a big difference. On-site care managers work with each woman to make a customized plan for independence, connect her to the resources she needs to be successful, and guide her along the way.

"My care manager, Dannette, has been a lifesaver," Laurie explains,

listing off all the ways she received support, from developing interpersonal skills, to completing a job training program, to securing permanent housing.

One of the biggest challenges for Laurie was learning to live in community with 26 other women at Jubilee's largest residence in Capitol Hill. Though each woman has a private room at Jubilee, the rest of the house—kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms, laundry rooms—are shared by all. This was a new experience for Laurie, who initially shied away from connecting. However, she soon discovered it had its advantages.

"Living in community has been very positive. It taught me how to be around other people, how to be patient and respectful, how to be more positive, and how to trust again," she explains. "I can't express enough the appreciation I have for the community here."

While in Jubilee's program, Laurie took advantage of every opportunity for personal and professional growth. She attended on-site classes to learn life skills like Living in Community, Money Management, and Pathways to Housing, along with tech training that moved her from computer-illiterate to computer-savvy.

To create a stable future for herself, Laurie completed training at the Seattle Vocational School to become a

certified medical assistant. "It's one of the things I'm most proud of," says Laurie, who graduated with a 3.45 GPA.

While she interviews for positions in her field, Laurie works at Safeway to build up her savings. Her dream is to launch her career at UW Medical Center where she did her internship.

On top of all this, Laurie recently moved in to her own apartment. "I'm excited to be on my own, but a little nervous," she admits. However, her confidence and candor let on that she is a much different woman than the one who entered Jubilee four years ago.

Laurie agrees, "Jubilee has made me a better person."

### A Brief History of Jubilee



In the early 1980s, three Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace were working with Seattle women experiencing homelessness and realized that many women got stuck in a cycle of poverty because they couldn't settle anywhere long enough to heal, address the root causes, and work to rebuild their lives.

With a vision for a longer-term housing and support program, the Sisters rented an empty convent in Capitol Hill, and, in honor of their 100th "Jubilee" year, Jubilee Women's Center opened its doors in 1983.

Though Jubilee became an independent nonprofit in 1999, the Sisters have stayed involved as board members, volunteers, donors—and inspiration!

# Reflections

Photo credit: Shaughn FitzGerald



I'm sure it comes as no surprise that this year's one-night tally of people experiencing homelessness in King County is up from 2016. According to All Home, the greater Seattle area's lead agency on homelessness, a total of 11,643 people were experiencing homelessness on January 27.

Of those counted, 53% of people were in transitional housing or emergency shelters and the remaining 5,485 were sleeping on the streets, in vehicles, or encampments.

*“The new All Home model is a positive step, but there is an unintended consequence...”*

Skyrocketing rents make homelessness a regional challenge. The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment in Seattle is now \$2,004 (rentjungle.com), and the overall cost of living is about 24% more expensive than the typical U.S. city, according to the Council on Economic and Community Relations. Add the fact that an individual must now earn at least \$22.07 (Seattle

Jobs Initiative) to meet minimum standards of living, and we can understand why Seattle is a hub for income disparity—with no end in sight.

On the good news side, the All Home model, which aims to make homelessness in King County “rare, brief and one-time,” is focusing on getting people with a long history of homelessness, severe service needs, and disabilities into housing as rapidly as possible. This is a positive step, but there is an unintended consequence: Individuals who don't fit these priority eligibility requirements are at the very bottom of the priority list under this new model, including a significant number of “working poor” women who used to qualify for subsidized housing but will now be forced to rent at market rate.

This gap in services is the catalyst for Jubilee's refocused efforts on better preparing homeless women to be self-sufficient in our challenging market. We are expanding our employment track programming, adding opportunities to build financial security, and exploring new ways for low-income women to access permanent housing. Watch for more information on our long-term strategic plan at [jwcenter.org/news](http://jwcenter.org/news) and in future newsletters.

Cheryl Sesnon, Executive Director



**JUBILEE**  
WOMEN'S CENTER

**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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## Staff

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Jozy Gessner, Employment Specialist & Care Manager  
Nathan Gifford, Facilities Coordinator  
Tanya Marceau, Education & Outreach Coordinator,  
AmeriCorps Volunteer  
Elizabeth Mather, House Manager  
Francoise Maxie, Finance Manager  
Angie Muthee, Senior Development Manager  
Carol Rozumalski, Occupancy Administrator &  
Care Manager  
Marti Spicer, Projects Coordinator, Companis  
Chrysta Storm, Program & Administrative Coordinator  
Jessica Taylor, SP, Resident Care Administrator &  
Care Manager  
Dani Turk, Education Center Manager  
Naomi Von Dinklage, Volunteer Services Manager

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# Care Managers: The Heart of Jubilee



Not pictured: Dannette Allen

Jubilee’s holistic program wouldn’t be what it is without our care managers. The on-site staff meet regularly with residents, and some alumnae, to help them overcome barriers, build resiliency, and maintain long-term stability. Care managers are the “guides from the side” who help each woman make a plan and stay on track toward a fulfilling and self-sustaining future.

**Jessica Taylor, SP, MFTAL - Resident Care Administrator & Care Manager**

“I make sure the Jubilee community runs smoothly—that residents get the care they need and care managers have the resources they need to provide for the residents. What I like most is that I get to work with wonderful women who are trying to transform their lives. These women touch my heart.”

*“Care managers are not in the driver’s seat; we are like the GPS on the dashboard.” ~Carol*

**Carol Rozumalski, MSW, MEd - Occupancy Administrator & Care Manager**

“I take care of the business-oriented aspects of Jubilee, including applications, leases, and reporting program outcomes, as well as care management. My role is to

provide a structured process so the women can focus on the more important aspects of why they are here.”

**Dannette Allen, MATS - Care Manager**

“My role is to accompany each resident on her journey to gain stability in health, housing, and community connections. I provide emotional and spiritual support and encouragement, and identify resources and tools needed to achieve goals. I have been in human services for 30 years and find it an honor to help those whom I serve to heal, see their beauty, and achieve their goals.”

**Jozy Gessner - Employment Specialist & Care Manager**

“I specialize in connecting women with job training and employment opportunities. The goal of my care management is to meet the women where they are now in their journey and to cultivate the trust and support for them to rise above their circumstances. The most meaningful part of my work is watching a woman find her own voice and reclaim agency over her life.”

## Calling Volunteers!



Jubilee volunteers are a valued part of the team, helping us extend our resources and bringing in specialized skill sets which are sincerely appreciated by staff and residents. We are currently seeking volunteers to fill some of our more unique needs:

-**Skilled painters** to help with various indoor paint projects

-**Lawyer** to do pro-bono child

custody work with a resident

-**Wordpress expert** to help with periodic website troubleshooting and design enhancements

If you can help, short- or long-term, or if you would like more information, please contact Naomi Von Dinklage, volunteer services manager at 206.957.5128 or naomi@jwcenter.org. Check out all of our volunteer opportunities at [jwcenter.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://jwcenter.org/get-involved/volunteer).

## How to Donate a Vehicle



You can donate a car, truck, RV, boat, motorcycle or other vehicle and support women at Jubilee! To donate, contact our vehicle donation partner, Charitable Auto Resources (CARS), at 855-500-RIDE

(7433) or [jwcenter.org/get-involved/donate/vehicles](http://jwcenter.org/get-involved/donate/vehicles). A CARS rep will schedule a pickup and send Jubilee a check for your donation within five days of your vehicle’s sale. You’ll get a tax receipt from Jubilee!



Giving made easy! Shop through [www.SMILE.amazon.com](http://www.SMILE.amazon.com) and a percentage of what you spend will go to Jubilee, at no extra cost to you!

Just enter “Jubilee Women’s Center” as the organization you wish to support.



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# JUBILEE news.

## Inside:

Rebuilding a Life at Jubilee

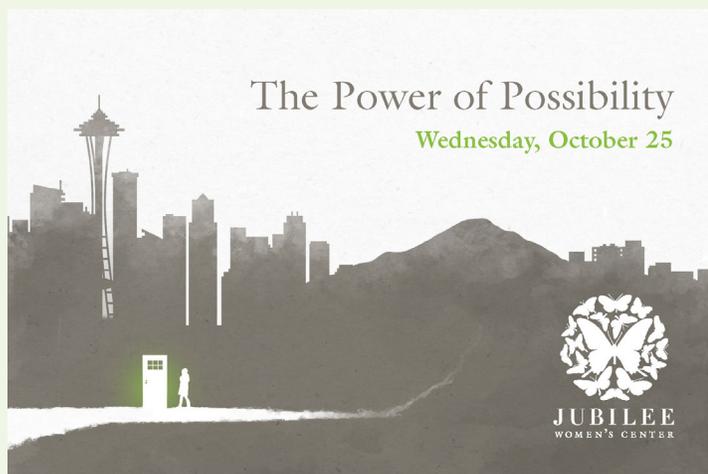
Cheryl's Reflections

Care Managers: The Heart of Jubilee

Specialty Volunteers Needed!

Save the Date for NEW Fall Event October 25

[jwcenter.org](http://jwcenter.org)



What does the Power of Possibility mean to you? Hear what it means to the women of Jubilee at our 20th annual fall fundraiser. Save the date to **lunch with us** and celebrate the women you have supported on the path from homelessness to possibilities to a fulfilling future. Be inspired and help fuel their work toward self-sufficiency! Invitations to come in August.

**When:** Wed, October 25, 2017, Luncheon Program 12-1:15 p.m.

**Where:** Sheraton Seattle Hotel

**Info:** [jwcenter.org/get-involved/events/](http://jwcenter.org/get-involved/events/),  
206.442.2951 or [events@jwcenter.org](mailto:events@jwcenter.org)

## Get to Know Us & Get Involved

### Volunteer

- Prepare a community meal with friends or colleagues
- Help out in the office or boutique
- Join other young professionals on the Associate Board

**Contact:**

[volunteer@jwcenter.org](mailto:volunteer@jwcenter.org), 206.957.5512  
or [jwcenter.org/get-involved/volunteer](http://jwcenter.org/get-involved/volunteer)

### Donate

- Bring us your quality women's clothing, shoes, jewelry
- Host a drive for high-needs items on our wish list
- Make a financial contribution of any size
- Donate your vehicle through [donatingiseasy.org](http://donatingiseasy.org)

**Contact:**

[donations@jwcenter.org](mailto:donations@jwcenter.org), 206.957.4392  
or [jwcenter.org/get-involved/donate](http://jwcenter.org/get-involved/donate)

### Connect

- Website: [jwcenter.org](http://jwcenter.org)
- Facebook: **JWCenter**
- Twitter: **@JubileeSeattle**