

35 Years of Rebuilding Women's Lives

Seattle in the early 1980s was in the midst of a housing crisis (sound familiar?). Federal cuts to subsidized housing, the deinstitutionalization of mental health, and downtown revitalization overwhelmed the city with “displaced” people.

Jubilee's logo in 1983.



At the time, three Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace were working in a local shelter. After watching women move in and out repeatedly, they devised a different program to break the cycle of homelessness.

Jubilee Women's Center opened in a former Capitol Hill convent in the fall of 1983, named for the Sisters' 100th “Jubilee” anniversary, also in 1983. Believed to be Seattle's first

transitional home for women, Jubilee offered residents a supportive housing community in which to heal from crisis and domestic abuse and get back on their feet. With an 18-month program—six times longer than the typical shelter—women had more time to stabilize and work toward independence.

Over the next three decades, Jubilee continued to adjust its programs and services in response to the changing needs of clients and community. Jubilee became an independent 501(c)(3), ramped up fundraising efforts, added Seattle's first learning and technology center dedicated to homeless women, renovated facilities, moved to a holistic model of care, and acquired two additional residences, including a former ministry of the Sisters of Providence which was gifted to Jubilee in 2014.

Today Jubilee serves about 60 residents a year with a transitional program of affordable community housing, supportive care management, and job and life skills training to prepare women for sustainable, living-wage employment and a home of their own. Jubilee is also a critical resource for 2,000 low-income women annually who access free clothing, referrals, computer lab, and learning opportunities.

What's ahead for Jubilee? Exciting news! More on page 2.

Dear Jubilee Supporters,

This year Jubilee celebrates 35 years in service to extraordinary women—helping them stand up, face their fears, heal their souls, lift their spirits, build their confidence, find their voices, spread their wings, and take back their lives. But this isn't just a celebration for Jubilee. It's a celebration of you, our community, who walked with us every step of the way as volunteers, donors, and advocates. You believed in us, supported us, and by extension, empowered and inspired hundreds and hundreds of women on their paths out of poverty.

We invite you to join the celebration all year long! Come to a special event (see back page), give \$35 or \$350 in honor of our anniversary (donate at jwcenter.org), or host a “Drive for 35” to collect wish list items for residents (see page 3). Thank you for all you do to make a difference in the lives of women facing homelessness.

celebrating 35 years



Reflection & Refocus

Photo credit: Shaughn FitzGerald



This is a big year of reflection and refocus for Jubilee! As we mark 35 years of helping women rebuild their lives, we are making some exciting changes.

At Jubilee, transformation doesn't just apply to our clients. As an organization we try to continuously evolve so we can more effectively meet the complex and changing needs of women experiencing homelessness. Because of Seattle's growing income disparity, King County's different use of resources to address chronic homelessness, and the region's skyrocketing housing costs,

"We realize our focus has to be exceptionally strong around livable wage employment and housing in order for our graduates to be successful."

Jubilee is moving into some new territory in order to better serve women in 2018. We realize our focus has to be exceptionally strong around livable wage employment and housing in order for our graduates to be successful. This is what's new:

- We've grown our employment readiness program with a greater focus on helping women identify and enter a career that will move them toward living wage employment.
- We're helping women overcome a common barrier to securing housing after Jubilee with a new Matched Savings Program that enables residents to learn and practice valuable money management skills while they save up to \$2,000—matched by Jubilee 2-1 for a total of \$6,000—for first and last month's rent, and security deposit on their next home.
- We've purchased and are opening a new home in Capitol Hill with room for 12 graduated women from our program who need a "next-step" home before they can afford market-rate housing.

Like the founding Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, we have seen how women benefit from extra time to make permanent changes in habits, thinking, and behaviors so they can transform on the inside and move through the world differently on the outside. As we look ahead, Jubilee will continue to learn and adapt, looking for opportunities to more effectively empower women to move permanently out of poverty.

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.

Main Office
620 18th Avenue E
Seattle, WA 98112
206.324.1244
info@jwcenter.org

Sojourner Place
5071 8th Avenue SE
Seattle, WA 98105
206.545.4200

Staff

- Cheryl Sesnon, Executive Director
- Norma Addis, Data & Evaluations Manager
- Nathan Gifford, Facilities Coordinator
- Elizabeth Mather, House Coordinator
- Francoise Maxie, Finance Manager
- Angie Muthee, Development Director
- Aura Payne, Education & Outreach Coordinator, AmeriCorps Volunteer
- Carol Rozumalski, Occupancy Administrator & Care Manager
- Chrysta Storm, Volunteer Services Manager
- Jessica Taylor, SP, Resident Care Administrator & Care Manager
- Dani Turk, Employment & Education Manager
- Naomi Von Dinklage, Events & Special Projects Manager
- Anita Wilkins, Marketing & Outreach Manager

Board of Directors

- Joe Krukowski, President, Waste Management
- Shari McClure, Vice President, UW Medicine - CSI
- Sean Maygra, Treasurer, BDO Financial Group
- Mary Beth Gemperle, Secretary, Community Volunteer
- Molly Hancock, Farestart, Past President
- Annette Smith, Jubilee Alumna & Student
- Chero Chuma, CSJP, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
- Judith Desmarais, SP, Sisters of Providence
- Jen Engles-Klann, The Derschang Group
- Jennifer Hall, Sisters of Providence
- Georgene Karambelas, Community Volunteer
- Nancy O'Brien, Community Volunteer
- Kate Opatz, Montana & Nacho Borracho
- Marilyn Sherron, AT&T
- Ruth Verhoff, Lion Fish 1
- Cecilia Zapata-Harms, CZH Global Leadership

Finding Her Voice



Tessa arrived at Jubilee in April 2017, worn down by years of depression that cost her job, several months in an emergency shelter, and a new diagnosis of bipolar disorder. She had begun the challenging work of putting her life back together as a transgender woman, but she was still grappling with mental health issues that made it easier to stay isolated in her room than engage with others.

Sharing a home with 26 “sisters” was daunting under those circumstances, but soon became a catalyst for change. Community dinners, sewing classes and knitting groups, job preparation courses, and even shared TV time in the living room slowly drew Tessa out of isolation and into meaningful connections.

Last fall Tessa joined the Women’s Justice Circle hosted at Jubilee and knew she had found her niche. The Women’s Justice Circle empowers low-income women

“Joining a Women’s Justice Circle allowed me to have a voice and speak to those people who actually control policy.”

to come together to learn the skills of grassroots organizing and leadership to take action for change.

“As a homeless woman with a serious mental illness, politicians naturally aren’t going to really listen to me

when they make policy,” Tessa explains. “Even when the policy they make is all about people like me, they work on it without us, because they assume that we aren’t capable of contributing to the process. Joining a Women’s Justice Circle allowed me to have a voice and speak to those people who actually control policy.”

Tessa is definitely being heard now. She recently researched, wrote, and presented a 50-page proposal to state and local politicians detailing how to make more housing available for homeless people with disabilities. On February 1, Tessa attended Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day in Olympia and spoke to legislators on behalf of women experiencing homelessness. She also shares her life stories in a blog.

Though Tessa is currently looking to reenter her field in computer programming, since she’s found her voice in the policy arena she is also exploring her dream job—working somewhere that makes a difference for others like her.

Easy Ways For Your Group to Help Out



We make it easy for your friends, family, colleagues, teammates, and other groups to engage with Jubilee in a meaningful way. Here are two easy ways to get involved:

1) Coordinate a drive for consignment-quality women’s clothing or wish list items from <http://www.jwcenter.org/get-involved/donate/wish-list/>.

Jubilee can provide logo signs, fact sheets, and a container to fill.

2) Host a party where you ask each attendee to purchase an item from our Amazon wish list and ship it directly to Jubilee instead of bringing gifts. Or try Facebook’s new Fundraiser feature and host a super-easy online benefit your network can support with just a few clicks.

For other ideas and more info contact Chrysta at 206.957.5512 or volunteer@jwcenter.org.

“Alexa, Find Jubilee’s Wish List”



Jubilee now has a wish list on Amazon! To find our list, go to <https://tinyurl.com/amazon-jwc> or go to your Amazon account, open Account & Lists, then Find a List or Registry, and search for Jubilee Women’s Center. You can even opt

to send your purchase directly to Jubilee.

Items on the list help us stock our residences, provide high-needs items for clients, and furnish private rooms for new program participants.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Giving made easy! Shop through
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.



620 18th Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT #834

JUBILEE news.

Inside:

Jubilee Celebrates 35 Years

What's Next for Jubilee

Client Feature: Speaking Up
for Social Justice

We Make it Easy to Help

Check Out Our Amazon
Wish List

Dinner & Auction March 2

jwcenter.org



Enjoy local wine and beer plus tasty bites from chef stations and a dessert bar. Play for prizes at wine toss and balloon pop. Pose with your posse at the photo booth. Then bid on fabulous items and experiences at our silent and live auctions—all to benefit Jubilee women. Buy your tickets today!

When: Friday, March 2, 7-10 p.m.

Where: AXIS Pioneer Square, Seattle

Tickets: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3173818>

Info: jwcenter.org/get-involved/events/,
206.582.1203 or 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, 206.957.5512
or 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

Contact:

donations@jwcenter.org, 206.957.4392
or jwcenter.org/get-involved/donate

Connect

- Website: jwcenter.org
- Facebook: [JWCenter](https://www.facebook.com/JWCenter)
- Twitter: [@JubileeSeattle](https://twitter.com/JubileeSeattle)
- NEW! Instagram: [jubileewomenscenter](https://www.instagram.com/jubileewomenscenter)