Promoting Student Mental Health

Each month, Greater Lakes serves thousands of children and families at its three Pierce County clinics. But, unfortunately, some children are unable to get to these facilities to receive the care they need. Parents may lack reliable transportation, have busy work schedules or simply be too overwhelmed. Or, a teenager may want to receive counseling without involving her family. Whatever the reason, children who are unable to access treatment are often the ones who need it the most.

Fortunately, Greater Lakes has a long-standing program that takes services directly to kids, meeting them where they are — in the schools.

This year, 49 therapists are serving a total of 39 schools in Franklin Pierce, Clover Park, Bethel, University Place, Steilacoom and Fife School Districts. Therapists are in the schools one or two days a week and see up to eight children a day, providing almost 6,000 hours of service in a school year. They offer individual counseling, consult with families and staff, and lead groups on anger management, social skills and other issues. They may help with crisis situations or even teach classes in suicide awareness, stress management or mindfulness.

The positive impact of this school program is evident in the many testimonials that Greater Lakes receives from counselors, teachers and parents. Over and over, they witness positive transformations in children who suffer from depression, anxiety or behavioral disorders. They see students learning new coping mechanisms, developing self-care techniques, and making profound changes in their attitudes and behaviors.

Through Greater Lakes’ school services, children with the highest needs are able to receive treatment, heal from trauma and thrive academically. As one school counselor recently pointed out, “We don’t have the time to provide mental health counseling to the large number of students who are in need. You provide the support that our students desperately need but often don’t get. I can’t imagine our school without you!”
THANK YOU to everyone who attended Greater Lakes’ 54th annual event, held on May 22 at the McGavick Center at Clover Park Technical College. More than 150 guests enjoyed beverages and a variety of hors d’oeuvres as they met new people and caught up with old friends. But the true power of the evening came from the stories of those who have been helped, whose lives have been transformed through the compassionate and recovery-oriented care they receive at Greater Lakes.

One inspiring story came from Jaclyn, a recent graduate of Greater Lakes, who shared her recovery journey in a moving video. She described her illness as “being in a dark hole… alone and hopeless. There’s no way to get out of it, especially when it’s so severe. I felt like everyone would be better off without me.” But with the help of her therapist and Peer case manager, Jaclyn is now well-grounded in her recovery and engaged in work and school. “I can’t describe how grateful I am to Greater Lakes,” she said. “I’m now focused on thriving in life, rather than just surviving.”

By the end of the evening, the event had raised more than $83,000 which will benefit client support programs such as the Emergency Needs Fund, and will also provide resources for programs across the agency, wherever the need is greatest.

If you were unable to attend this year’s event, you can enjoy Jaclyn’s video on the event page of Greater Lakes’ website: www.glmhc.org. And be sure to mark your calendar for next year’s Vision of Hope Fundraiser on May 20, 2020!
The Vision of Hope fundraiser also featured a display table highlighting the work of Greater Lakes Cares, which provides school supplies and winter clothing to children and families in need.

Greater Lakes partners with Northwest Charity Donation Services to accept donations of cars, trucks, SUVs, RVs, boats, motorcycles and trailers.

NWCDS will transport the vehicle (running or not!) and provide you with the paperwork necessary for a tax deduction.

Just indicate “Greater Lakes” as the recipient, and once the vehicle is auctioned, the proceeds will benefit our Emergency Needs Fund.

To donate a vehicle, contact:

Northwest Charity Donation Services
1-800-961-6119 or www.nwcds.com
Make a Difference!
Greater Lakes relies on generous donations from our compassionate community to support our programs and provide hope, relief and recovery to those impacted by mental illness. Please consider making a gift to Greater Lakes — a gift that could change a life.

Mail your check to the address below, or make your gift online at www(glmhc.org).

For information about monthly giving, planned giving, or other ways to support Greater Lakes, call Marguerite Richmond at 253-620-5184.

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O U R  M I S S I O N
Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare:
• Empowers hope through compassion, engagement and connection with those we serve.
• Empowers relief through effective evidence based practices that promote skills and resilience.
• Empowers recovery by building upon strengths and supporting individuals in their goals.

O U R  V A L U E S
• Do the right things for the right reasons.
• Provide great customer service with high quality outcomes.
• Communicate openly, honestly, and respectfully.
• Problem solve collaboratively with clients, staff, and the community.
• Promote healthy options for clients and staff.
• Be nimble and responsive in creating solutions.

Adopted July 23, 2015

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