

Summer 2022 Newsletter

Lifeline Connections Celebrates 60 Years this Month

Our 60th anniversary celebration is August 10th!

We will have the privilege to hear from Lifeline Connections' former leaders, current executives and even the Mayor of Vancouver, Anne McEnerny-Ogle and the Director of the Whatcom County Health Department, Erika Lautenbach.

In addition to these key speakers, a man that was once a patient of Lifeline Connections will share his impactful story of how he was able to live a life of health and wellness.

Join us for this fun event and enter our raffle to win a limited edition shirt! You can also purchase additional shirts during the month of August for \$15 or sweatshirts for \$25.

Time:

1:00-2:15pm - Program

2:15-3:00pm - Network

Locations:

[VA Campus \(Vancouver Office\)](#)

[Orchards \(East Vancouver\)](#)

[Bellingham Office](#)

[Mount Vernon Office](#)



**FIGHTING FOR A
HEALTHIER
COMMUNITY**

Farewell and Good Luck to Joe Foster



Lifeline Connections has had the honor to have Joe Foster as the Chief Financial Officer since 2015 and most recently Interim President & CEO. During his time he's made a tremendous impact on the financial stability of the agency and has recently made changes that help the employees feel appreciated and encouraged to stay with the agency.

After receiving an offer from his alma mater, he made the difficult decision to move his family back to California and return to Westmont College.

We wish Joe all the best in his future journey and will miss him greatly! Thank you, Joe for everything you've done for the agency and for us as individuals.

Behavioral Health Services Continue to Expand for Lifeline Connections in the North Sound

[Lifeline Connections'](#) North Sound now has Community Based Services offices complete with a nursing wing for the Assertive Community Treatment Team.

The P.A.C.T. (Program of Assertive Community Treatment) team provides services for individuals where traditional treatment has been unsuccessful. We provide co-occurring services, rehabilitative case management, nursing, peer support and psychiatric services (medication) in Whatcom County.

Our Peer Pathfinders and Jail Pilot Programs are now fully staffed for the first time! They work with individuals with a stimulant or opiate use disorder who are at imminent risk of homelessness or are currently homeless. This team provides case management and peer support to help those in need connect to Medication Assisted (MAT) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatment along with housing services in Whatcom and Skagit county.

In addition, the North Sound region has a Housing and Employment Services Department. Newly promoted Housing and Employment Supervisor, Mark Nienaber is busy with his peers providing long term and bridge services to those in Whatcom and Skagit county.

If you or someone you know can benefit from any of our programs, please [contact us](#).



Be part of making a difference in your local community. Working at Lifeline Connections gives you an opportunity to create lasting, meaningful change in those we serve.

We have a generous benefits package that includes tuition reimbursement, paid time off, medical coverage and many positions even include a hiring bonus.

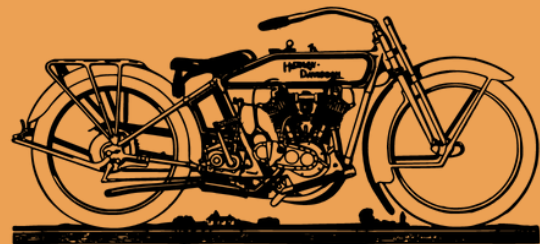
Clinical and administrative positions available!

Email your resume to: recruiting@lifelineconnections.org to apply for the following positions, or visit our website for a complete list of openings: www.lifelineconnections.org/careers

- Administrative Assistant (Vancouver, WA)
- SUDPT (Vancouver, WA)
- Mental Health Professional (Vancouver, WA and Bellingham, WA)
- Community-Based Mental Health Professional (Vancouver, WA)
- Cook (Vancouver, WA)
- Admissions Specialist (Vancouver, WA)

Windhaven Ride for Veterans

September 17th, 2022



On September 17th, the Amboy Washington American Legion Tum Tum Post 168, in concert with the American Legions Riders Chapter 168 and the American Legion Family is organizing a charity motorcycle and classic car rally for the benefit of Windhaven Veterans Program.

This funds raised will go directly to provide scholarships for the veterans in the Windhaven Veterans Program.

Click [here](#) to sign up to join this event.

Follow us on Social Media



Employee Spotlight: Executive Award Winners



We recently began holding virtual, agency-wide Quarterly Appreciation Gatherings. This allows the employees from all locations to come together and celebrate each other's accomplishments and receive updates from the executive team.

The **Executive Award** is given to an employee that has received an On the Spot and a nomination for the Excellence In Values Award. The executive team then reviews and selects one person. The **Excellence in Values Award** is for staff to nominate their Lifeline Connections colleagues for going above and beyond to show excellence in one of our values.

We are proud to announce that the winners in April and July are Mark Holan and Dallas Smith.

Mark Holan: "I've been with Lifeline for 7 years, 5 of those years doing Jail Transition Services and Supported Housing for 2+ years. I've been in the Mental Health Field over 30 years and continue to love this type of work. I am an avid reader; a supporter of The Arts in all its forms; a very decent cook and support everything that has to do with human rights."

Dallas Smith: "I began my journey with Lifeline Connections Women's Recovery Center on January 15, 2019. During the last almost 4 years I have had the privilege to be a NOC Residential Aid, Asst. RA Supervisor, Peer Support Specialist, and I am currently the Residential Aid Supervisor of our unit. Within our community, I have served in Leadership at Oxford House, I also have relationships with Open House Ministries, Bridges to Change, PCAP, and many other agencies. I have a passion and connection to the population we serve. I am invested in helping women and mothers help themselves."

Congratulations and thank you to Mark and Dallas for your dedication and compassion to our community and to our agency.

Healing Animal Partners – A New Clark County Program for Veterans



Healing Animal Partners is a new Clark County program that connects veterans and horses to help them build connection.

Veterans that have a PTSD diagnosis, trauma-related symptoms or significant symptoms of PTSD qualify for an 8-week group through Windhaven Veteran's Program then they can transition to individual counseling partnered with horses through the Healing Animal Partners program.

When able, this is billed through insurance but is primarily supported through fundraising and scholarships. Your donation to this program will have a direct impact on the life of a veteran.

If you would like to refer someone to the program or would like more information, please fill out the form located here.

Youth Summit: Own Your Future



Join us and other community partners at Youth Summit, August 16th from 12:00pm – 4:00pm at River City Church to help our community members explore how to take ownership of their future through these Adulting 101 workshops:

Education: 1:45pm – 2:30pm
 Employment: 1:45pm – 2:30pm
 Relationships: 2:45pm – 3:30pm
 Mental health and substance use awareness: 2:45pm – 3:30pm

Keynote Speaker, Tyler Month, The Underdog Mentality: 12:30pm

Resource Fair open from 12:00pm – 4:00pm
 Lunch provided: 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Thank you to Columbia River Mental Health for coordinating this community event!

A Mental Health Recovery Journey

My name is Vedad Pezer, and I am a Mental Health patient of Chad Hays. I am writing this letter to acknowledge and recognize the outstanding, highly effective, successful, genuine, and life-changing experience I have had with Chad as my counselor.

I had enrolled in Mental Health service at Lifeline with Chad 3 years ago when I was 25 years old. At age 14 my father had committed suicide, and the following year I had become a drug addict. By age 16 I was kicked out of my home with my mom and began couch-surfing. By age 20 I was homeless and lived on the streets, used meth, and began to accumulate a long list of criminal charges. My mind was in a state of torment and fear. I had become a truly extreme, unhealthy, and self-destructive member of the homeless community in Portland and was even living in a forest for about 1 year.

After about the 30th time of getting arrested and thrown in jail, I had connected enough dots and had been inspired to live differently and to try and live healthily. My mom and little brother gave me a chance to help me get better and invited me back to live with them. I had quit drugs cold turkey.

I had many warrants in Clark County and finally began to work on fixing them. They requested I get a Mental Health evaluation, and I did so at Lifeline. The woman who diagnosed me with Adjustment Disorder, PTSD, Depression, Substance Abuse, was named Elisabeth (I may have spelled her name wrong). My short experience with her was very warm and helpful as well. Her diagnoses were insightful and brought me much awareness.

Chad and I began working together, meeting every week in person. He and I set a few goals together, all which have been accomplished over the following couple of years. I had a suspended license and was riding a bicycle to get to Lifeline, and had no money. Today, I drive Semi-Trucks locally (C.D.L.), a great career, a car, and even a new motorcycle! I have been working consistently for 2 and a half years. I have been able to save up \$50,000 in my bank.

The Mental Health goals I had set to accomplish with Chad were very personal, challenging, and massive life-changing goals. He was the first person I experienced true validation with. He has been there through all of my experiences these past 3 years and has helped me to achieve an empowered state of Self-Validation.

My life has become so well built. I did not think it was ever possible to become this healthy, functioning, and thrive even.

He and I are planning to very likely complete our work together, and have set one last goal together about a month ago. This goal is already being fulfilled, miraculously! I feel confident and ready to not need any more treatment probably by the end of this summer.

Chad has truly been an Angelic counselor for me. He is a very nice man, and very skilled in his work.

He was always prompt for any extra questions I had for any resources, and completely flawless with all communication and professionalism. I hope that other people receiving Mental Health services have as good an experience as I have been blessed to have.

How You Can Help

Lifeline is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization. Your donations make recovery possible by ensuring people get help when they need it.

Giving is easy! Visit www.lifelineconnections.org/how-you-can-help/ for easy, secure on-line giving. You can also contact us at development@lifelineconnections.org or call (360) 397-8246 ext. 30548 to discuss how your gift can make the most impact. Thank you!

