

# Fall 2022 Newsletter

## Lifeline Connections Welcomes a New President and CEO Andrea Brooks, MSW, LSW

I was very excited to officially join Lifeline Connections on September 19<sup>th</sup> as President and CEO. It's an incredible honor to lead and serve this extraordinary organization. I was grateful to attend the 60th Anniversary Celebration and learn about Lifeline's rich history and look forward to learning more from staff, community members and partners as I settle in.

Brandy Branch and I have been working closely together during my transition. I'm immensely grateful for Brandy and Joe's incredible leadership as interim CEO. I would also like to thank the executive team for their steadfast leadership during these transitions, as well as the management team. Most importantly, I would like to thank the entire staff of LLC for your dedication, resilience, and patience during the transitions of leadership for the past year.



I spent time at our Clark County programs September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> and plan to visit Bellingham and Mt. Vernon in November. I'll also spend time across all our programs and locations regularly, creating more opportunities for further in-depth conversation.

I'm most excited for Lifeline Connections to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), which is a new form of provider within the Medicaid program. This new model transforms Lifeline's approach to all our services. CCBHCs are designed to provide whole-person care by integrating physical health with a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services. CCBHCs are a game-changer, as they require truly coordinated care. This new CCBHC model is regarded as the "gold standard" of care. Lifeline Connections is on track to become one of only a few CCBHCs in the state of Washington.

In addition to the exciting and fulfilling work at Lifeline, I'm also thrilled to be in the PNW because I'm an avid lover of the outdoors – I enjoy hiking, rock climbing, mountain biking, etc. Being new to both Lifeline Connections and Washington, I would love to hear what you enjoy most about Lifeline and the area! I'm also open to any questions or feedback you may have.

Please plan to attend the December 1<sup>st</sup> morning networking event: [Snack and Chat](#) at [The Marshall House](#). It'll be a great opportunity for me to meet more of our community members and partners. I'll be there from 7:30am – 9:00am and look forward to connecting with each and every one of you!

## Thank You – American Legion Riders 168

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, the [Amboy Washington American Legion Tum Tum Post 168](#), in concert with the American Legions Riders Chapter 168 and the American Legion Family held a charity motorcycle and classic car rally for the benefit of [Windhaven Veterans Program](#).

Thanks to the incredible generosity, Lifeline Connections' Windhaven Veterans Program was the beneficiary of \$10,385.63! Thank you, John Nanny, and thank you post 168 for your support raising scholarship funds for 11 veterans to access these life changing services.



## Our North Sound PACT Team is Accepting Referrals

Our PACT (Program of Assertive Treatment) Team is a passionate group of individuals that are dedicated to serving our community members. Each day, they are in the community helping their patients navigate through activities of daily living. For example, they help their patients make and get to their appointments, apply for jobs, ensure use of properly prescribed medication and provide emotional support.

This Team is a highly-skilled multidisciplinary team of medical professionals. They include ARNPs, RNs, LPNs, case managers and peer support specialists. Together they serve patients with persistent and sometimes severe mental health conditions. With the level of support they give, these individuals can live independently and productively in our community while avoiding psychiatric hospitalization.

The best way to refer someone to our PACT Team for an evaluation and possible treatment is to download and complete our referral form and release of information which can be found [here](#). Then, you will fax the completed forms to (360) 306-8374.

If you have questions, you may also contact the Program Director, Julie Grendon with questions. She is dedicated to making sure everyone of our community members is given the tools to reclaim their lives.

P: (360) 397-8246 ext. 33018

E: [jgrendon@lifelineconnections.org](mailto:jgrendon@lifelineconnections.org)



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.

Multiple openings for each position!

Internal candidates please submit an internal application to the Recruiting team, while external candidates need to apply using our [website](#). You may also visit our [website](#) to view a complete list of openings.

- Certified Nursing Assistant (Vancouver, WA)
- SUDPT (Vancouver, WA and Bellingham, WA)
- Mental Health Professional (Vancouver, WA and Bellingham, WA)
- Cook (Vancouver, WA)
- Licensed Practical Nurse (Vancouver, WA)
- Admissions Specialist (Vancouver, WA)

## 5th Annual Reach Those Experiencing Homelessness

We are collecting items to put together 150 totes to distribute within Greater Clark County.

Donations accepted now through December 16th.



Now through December 16<sup>th</sup>, the Recovery Resource Center, in partnership with [Lifeline Connections](#), [Recovery Café Clark County](#) and [Molina Healthcare](#), we are accepting donations to help those experiencing homelessness.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year our community will come together to collect items for totes that will be distributed within homeless camps in the Greater Clark County area.

Items in need are various hygiene and toiletries products to hand warmers, blankets, wool socks and protein bars.

Please consider a donation using the QR code above, our [Amazon Charity List](#) or you can drop items at the Recovery Café Clark County, Monday – Friday from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

After November 10<sup>th</sup>, you can also drop items off at the Recovery Resource Center from 9:00am – 5:00pm.

## Accepting New Patients Ages 13-17 for Mental Health Treatment



We have multiple opening for new patients for our [youth mental health](#) clinic-based program.

The younger members of our community can experience a lot of stress and change both at home and at school. Our counselors can help with:

- Anxiety and depression
- Family problems
- Trauma
- Relational concerns
- Academic challenges
- Communication

Contact us for an initial intake and assessment:

[Orchards Office](#)  
 11719 NE 95<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. A  
 Vancouver, WA 98682  
 (360) 984-5511



## Snack and Chat

Join us for a morning event that will introduce our new President and CEO, Andrea Brooks, MSW, LSW!

Before having the opportunity to meet Andrea personally and network with other community partners, we will announce our two Community Award Winners.

The Community Partner Award is given to an individual who partners with Lifeline Connections' staff for the benefit of the people they serve. The John Cox Award of Excellence is given to someone who advocates and champions the cause of behavioral health treatment in the communities served.

Please [RSVP](#) today and plan to attend, we would love to have you there!

"Being new to both Lifeline Connections and Washington, I would love to hear what you enjoy most about Lifeline and the area!" Andrea Brooks, MSW, LSW

**Date:** December 1<sup>st</sup>

**Time:** 7:30am – 9:00am

**Location:** [The Marshall House](#); 1301 E Evergreen Rd., Vancouver WA 98661

## HOST



**Homeless Outreach,  
 Stabilization and Transition**

This person-centered community outreach team, located in Clark County, Washington, helps engage individuals who are homeless with severe and persistent behavioral health conditions and experience barriers accessing traditional treatment programs.

They also provide the following therapeutic interventions: Intensive community support, housing support, peer support, medication management and monitoring, substance use intervention, mental health support, daily living assistance and individualized service planning.

The Host team members have incredible commitment and passion to the community they serve. Recently they helped an individual experiencing an overdose. While providing food and blankets to a homeless encampment, they were approached by someone asking if they had Narcan for a person that was unresponsive in his vehicle. Thankfully access to Narcan is now easier, they were able to give it to this person, but also had more on hand to help give the gentleman additional sprays until he became responsive.

If you someone you know would like services please [email](#) or call us today! (360) 397-8246 ext. 32000.

## William's Road to Recovery

William had a rough life and was beaten and taken advantage of by a family member as a young child. He never felt like he fit in resulting in behavior that got him kicked out of the house and onto the streets. Spending much of his time institutionalized he did not know what life was like on the outside. He also had the perception that his family didn't care about him. "I was like a triple tornado running from people and ruining lives".

With fifteen-and-a-half years in prison, five prison terms, 23 felonies, seven which occurred in one week after his brother's death, more than 20 years of methamphetamine use and seven treatment centers, William was finally done, felt suicidal and knew he needed help.

William got himself into Lifeline Connections, but also into a life of service.

While in treatment, William was able to put his ego aside and began to identify mental health conditions that needed to be addressed. Learning to manage his mental health became a big part of his treatment and remains a big part of his recovery today. "Once you deflate the ego, start listening and taking direction, and find God things get better."

Today William has his own place, a full-time job, his 16-year-old son living with him and a third child was welcomed into his loving home. He has also rebuilt the relationships with his family. William's mom calls three-four times a week and tells him she loves him and how proud she is. "I mean super-duper-luper proud of me!" William says with a smile.

When asked what his short-term goals are his response was "Being a better man today than I was yesterday."



## Share Your Story



Many times people learn through the experience and eyes of others. Your journey can be a powerful tool to others.

We would love to hear about your recovery journey and any key moments within it.

Share your story [here](#) and make an impact.

Follow us on social media for more news, updates and events!



@LifelineConnections

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

