Message from CEO, Joseph Alonzo

Dear Friends and Supporters,

FY16-17 was a year of transition, and it is my true honor to introduce myself as the Chief Executive Officer of Cocoon House. After serving over four years as VP/Chief Operations Officer at Cocoon House, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to lead this great organization! I am eager to continue the traditions held by Cocoon House of innovating new ways to break the cycle of homelessness for teens and young adults.

Cocoon House has a rich history of growing to meet new and changing community needs, and this year we continued to set and meet challenging goals in order to address the concerns we see in our region. We are wrapping up a four-year strategic plan – a plan that was carried out with the enthusiasm and persistence of staff and board alike. The agency met goals relating to program impact for youth and young adults, organizational culture, leadership development as well as operational and financial sustainability.

As a part of completing that plan, we set out on a Capital Campaign to raise $14.2M to construct a new Colby Ave Youth Center. I am very pleased to announce that we have successfully hit our target and the building is now under construction. We are currently preparing to move existing programs, while developing new programs to occupy the center beginning in April 2019! My vision for young people we serve this year is to have better access to affordable supportive housing options, while also increasing access to employment skills development.

I am very excited for the year ahead, and the opportunity to work within a community that is passionate about ending homelessness for teens and young people. Our goals for the next year are to expand and strengthen our partnerships geographically throughout Snohomish County in order to continue meeting the evolving needs of youth, families, and our community. Another area of focus for us will be identifying ways to connect with families who have younger children as a strategy to keep families together and get upstream in preventing a young person from ever being homeless.

Thank you for your continued support and investment in Cocoon House. I look forward to our year ahead together.

Respectfully,

Joseph Alonzo, CEO
Cocoon House
Mission
The mission of Cocoon House is to empower young people, families, and the community to break the cycle of homelessness through outreach, housing and prevention. This mission supports the belief that every young person deserves a home and the opportunity to achieve his or her fullest potential. We accomplish this mission through our core values.

Vision
Every young person in our community is safe and thriving.

Our Core Values
Integrity, Community, Relationships, Family, Safety, Diversity, Compassion.

Programs

Outreach
Cocoon House’s Outreach team works throughout Snohomish County providing emergency supplies, hygiene and food packs, and access to housing and local resources to young people ages 12-24. Meeting youth on the street, in the community, in schools, at partner agencies, or at the Cocoon House Outreach Center in Everett, the team works to build trust and help young people access the support and services they need – from a shower and laundry facilities, to safe shelter and housing options.

Housing
Cocoon House provides short and long-term housing to homeless young people ages 12-17 years old and their children. Providing much more than a safe place to sleep, teens receive help engaging in school, preparing for employment, building independent life skills, and accessing community services (both on and off site) as they plan for stable, permanent housing. We have homes throughout Snohomish County in Arlington, Everett, and Monroe.

Prevention
Cocoon House believes preventing teens from becoming homeless means educating and supporting parents to build safe, structured environments for teens to develop. As a National Best Practice, Cocoon House’s Project SAFE offers therapeutic phone consultations, education, and supportive programming to parents and guardians to increase their skills and confidence in raising their developing teen or pre-teen. Our intensive, 13-hour WayOUT Seminar increases communication and trust between teens and their parents or guardians.
Financial Highlights

2017 YTD Revenue

- 54% Government
- 24% Individual Giving
- 16% Foundation Giving
- 2% Investments
- 4% United Way

2017 YTD Expenses

- 73% Programs
- 16% Administrative
- 11% Fundraising

Our Strategic Goals

- Develop Strength of Leadership
- Ensure Financial Stability
- Create a Culture of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Create Solid Infrastructure for the Future
- Positive Program Impact

Engage With Us

- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- LinkedIn
Outreach – Jordan’s Story

Jordan was 16 years old when he first came to our U-Turn drop-in center for food and to speak with a case manager about resources. He was a chronic drug user, and struggled with retaining stable employment. In a short time, Jordan made the choice to enter detox. Once his program was complete, Cocoon House helped place him in housing, worked with him to obtain identification and other documentation. Jordan now has stable housing, works full time, and recently enrolled in night school to complete his GED.

Housing – Jessica’s Story

Shortly after fleeing an abusive home, Jessica learned she was pregnant. Alone and scared, she was referred to Cocoon House’s Maternity Group Home through our outreach services, and was happy to have a safe place to prepare for the arrival of her baby. During her time in the program, Jessica received hands-on education on birthing and newborn care, mental health services, and had the opportunity to build a supportive group of peers. A week before her 18th birthday, Jessica transitioned to her first home, a 1 bedroom apartment where she and her daughter began their new life together. Jessica is employed and thriving, and her infant daughter has only known a safe, loving environment.

Prevention – Susan’s Story

Susan realized she needed help parenting her son. She was a survivor of abuse and neglect as a child, and feelings of fear and inadequacy came out in anger, frustration, and inflexibility during tough interactions with her son. Their relationship was deteriorating quickly. She reached out to Cocoon House for help, and attended our WayOUT seminar with her son. She learned to ask for forgiveness and they built skills together to repair their relationship and enhance their communication.
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$100,000 +
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$50,000-$99,999
Whitehorse Foundation

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One youth, one family at a time we will end homelessness in Snohomish County

- Joe Alonzo, CEO