



# Companis

professionals  
serving  
the  
nonprofit  
community.

At the office of Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets, Companis Worker Tim Dean and former Companis Worker Susan Blythe-Goodman provide support to Seattle area homeless young people.

## Companis connects

And that can make some pretty wonderful things happen

Take Susan Blythe-Goodman and Tim Dean. These two – one a former Companis Worker and the other a recent Companis Worker placement – connect young people to needed services ranging from shelter and food, to the education they need to build a new life. And now, together, they are connecting their agencies to begin a new Companis-initiated program with arts as outreach to street youth.

Susan, 26, began her Companis year at Seattle Education Access, which provides a path to young adults facing obstacles to higher education. Today, education for homeless young people is her “driving passion.”

When her placement ended, Susan was hired to run the high school degree program for Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets (PSKS), a Seattle nonprofit that this year will serve 600 young people. Because of Susan’s connections with Seattle First

Baptist Church, where she is a member and which offers free office space to Companis, PSKS clients began joining the weekly community dinners the church hosts. Susan also acts as SEA tutor coordinator and liaison with PSKS.

Enter Tim, 46, who started a Companis placement in 2013 and is also a liaison with PSKS. Tim says his motivation to serve is simple. He wants to pass it on.

“Someone showed me that there is an easier way when I could have landed on the streets. I believe that youth on the streets need someone to recognize who they are, where they come from, and what they need.”

Tim began forging a new collaboration between PSKS and Diverse Harmony, the

nation’s first gay-straight alliance youth chorus, where the business and chorus managers are also Companis Workers. An estimated 50 percent of street youth in Seattle are LGBTQ.

At Diverse Harmony, Tim welcomes homeless and at-risk youth, and can offer a connection to social services. He uses the broader Companis network – Companis has placed professionals at more than a 100 nonprofit agencies in our 20 years – to make even more creative connections possible.

Call it **Companis math**.

**Companis + SEA + PSKS + Diverse Harmony + Seattle First Baptist Church = exponentially more outreach** to homeless or at-risk young people. The sum of the whole is truly greater than the sum of its parts.



Your Investment =  
Companis Impact

Through your financial support, **67** Companis Workers have been in service to **44** nonprofit agencies in the Seattle area in 2012–2013. Companis professionals filled staffing gaps that existed due to budget constraints in a tight economy and provided nonprofits with more than **\$1.7 million** in value.

Companis does what would otherwise go undone!

# filling staffing gaps

## WE BEGIN 1993

Companis is launched by Seattle First Baptist Church with a national seed grant. In 1997, Companis became a secular, 501c3 organization.

## HOMELESS 1994

Linda Medley becomes the first Companis Worker, placed at The Sharehouse, a cooperative of nonprofit agencies serving homeless people. In our 20-year history, Companis has placed 20% of our professionals with agencies providing shelter and services to our homeless neighbors.



## ASIAN and R ASIAN COMMUNITY 1998

John Malcomson is placed at Asian Counseling & Referral Service to coordinate the agency's first volunteer program. Since then, the number of volunteers has tripled, with 750 volunteers performing 84,000 hours of service last year. In 2007, John returned as a manager of the program he began at ACRS following 3 other Companis Workers who were placed at the agency.

## HEALTH CARE ACCESS 2006

Companis Workers are key staff in the organizing years of Project Access Northwest, which provides specialty health care to people lacking insurance. So far, 22 Companis Workers have helped deliver this vital service. All told, 15% of Companis Workers have been placed with health care agencies.

## AT RISK YOUTH 2007

Maria Watson is placed at YouthCare-Orion Center. Companis also has placed professionals at Seattle Education Access, PSKS, Teen Feed, Diverse Harmony, Medina Children's Services Project Sister, the Crisis Clinic Teen Link, Seattle Children's Home mobile outreach, Arts in Motion and Lambert House.



## RECESSION 2008

In September of 2008, 19 Companis Workers are serving 14 nonprofit agencies. As government safety nets evaporate and foundation funding shrinks, Companis grows exponentially, with 67 professionals serving 44 agencies in 2012-2013.



## SENIORS 1994

The first Companis cohort forms with six additional workers, including Karen Lewis Carlos, who becomes activities coordinator at Hilltop House Retirement Community. Twenty years later, Karen has encouraged hundreds of Hilltop residents to live more active and fulfilled lives.



## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES 1996

Faced with a budget shortfall, Washington Special Olympics turned to Companis Worker Anne Ellestad to manage thousands of volunteers statewide. "The beautiful part of the story is that I could see how Companis benefited organizations like ours, but then I also saw how it allowed Anne to really give her gift," says then-executive director Linda Reppond. "That's why I've been supporting Companis ever since. It makes you a believer." That work continues through our partnership with Provail, where Amber Joy is placed as a job coach helping people with disabilities find work.



## LGBTQ YOUTH 1996

Paul Raushenbush, now senior religion editor for the Huffington Post, is placed as the first activities director at Lambert House, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth service organization. Several Companis Workers follow.



## COMMUNITY SAFETY NET/ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 2002

Stan Kehl turns King County's WIN 211 program from a good idea into an effective statewide resource. Stan, a Companis board member, now directs the Eastside Legal Assistance Program, which provides counsel to domestic violence victims. Companis Workers Kathy Fleming and Ruth Fossett are placed at ELAP in 2013.

## CIVIL RIGHTS & EDUCATION 2003

A family tradition begins for the Bjork family when Lyle is placed with the Alliance for Education. Daughter Rachel becomes a Companis Worker at Boomtown Café, serving Seattle's homeless, and Mom Ann is placed with the Religious Coalition for Equality in support of LGBTQ civil rights education.



## DISASTER RELIEF 2005

Dr. Paul Roby is deployed to Houston five days after Hurricane Katrina. In 2010, Christine Carter and Carol Mastenbrook join the Jimmy & Rosalynn Carter Work Project building homes in Haiti.

# balancing service through reflection

## MARRIAGE EQUALITY EDUCATION 2012

Companis places professionals Angie Buysse and Phil Mervin with Pride Foundation.



## LOW COST RX 2013

Companis Worker Rod Shutt launches the Seattle office of the Prescription Drug Assistance Foundation in 2009. He serves there for 3 years before being hired by PDAF. In 2013, Companis Worker Alanna Gunne opens PDAF's Snohomish County program.

## WORKER SUPPORT 2013

Founding Companis Executive Director Craig Darling talks with Companis Workers at retreat.



## HOMELESS WOMEN 2012

Placing licensed social worker Alyson Moon at Mary's Place allows expansion to overnight shelter for the women's shelter. Two professionals also are placed at homeless women's day center Elizabeth Gregory Home, followed by 2 more in 2013. Alyson is later hired by Mary's Place. "That's 80 new beds you guys started for us," says Executive Director Marty Hartman. "What a blessing."



# Our Mission

*Companis* matches full-time volunteer and community workers with nonprofit agencies that need staffing assistance. The agencies helped by *Companis* may be young and not yet financially self-supporting, or they may be established agencies trying to expand services or begin pilot projects.

*Companis*, often referred to as “Seattle’s Peace Corps,” offers an opportunity for community service to applicants from all walks of life. The *Companis* Worker support program promotes action through reflection as the highest value in achieving an effective balanced life while in service among our neighbors. *Companis* is a unique resource, working as a community, for the community, to create community.

## staff

Craig Darling, Executive Director  
Gary Davis, Associate Executive Director  
Rita Hibbard, Executive Associate  
Phil Mervin, Office Manager  
Elizabeth Patrick, Worker Support Coordinator

## board of directors

Greg Lyle-Newton, President  
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Sarah Speck MD  
Tom Stanfield

## profiles of companis donors

### Meet Marisa McKelvey

“When I was 19 years old, I spent an amazing year as a *Companis* Worker placed at a daycare program for low-income families. It was such a great idea for that time in my life when I was searching for a career and the meaning of life in general. I realize now that my decision to become a registered nurse found its seed in my *Companis* year. Fast-forward 14 years and now, with my husband Matt, I am a grateful *Companis* donor. Maybe in another 14 years our beautiful daughter Audrey will be a *Companis* Worker and claim important life lessons like I did!”



### Meet Marjorie Edwards



“I heard about *Companis* for the first time in 1996. I remember thinking what an effective way to help a wide range of nonprofit agencies, and I’ve been supporting *Companis* ever since. I’ve been especially pleased at how *Companis* has grown and responded to the stress put on so many nonprofits in the past few years since a tough economy has made it difficult to serve the increasing numbers of people requiring social services. I’ve increased my support to *Companis* and hope that others will do the same.”

## Charles Z. Smith & Eleanor Smith named recipients of the Janet G. Newell Award for Community Service

The *Companis* Board of Directors is pleased to announce that retired Supreme Court Justice Charles Z. Smith and his wife, Eleanor, are the recipients of the Janet G. Newell Award for Community Service sponsored this year by the University of Washington School of Law. Justice Smith, the first ethnic minority judge in the state, was appointed to the State Supreme Court in 1988 and is credited with launching the national movement to get state courts working together on issues of bias. The grandson of slaves and son of a Cuban father, Smith was an active member in the redress movement for Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. The Smith family also has been committed to taking care of neighbors, one at a time, surrounding them with love until they can claim their own voice and strength. When one person’s need was met, Eleanor Smith and her family would move on to the next neighbor in need of love, advocacy and support. Charles and Eleanor Smiths’ dedication reminds *Companis* of the slogan prominently displayed in our office — the words of Mother Teresa describing how best to go about the business of helping others, “One and One and One and One.”

