



SPOKANE COMMUNITY COURT ANNIVERSARY EDITION

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY

The creation of Community Court relied heavily on support from the criminal justice system as a whole. Thus, partnerships were formed with the Downtown Spokane Partnership (DSP), Spokane Transit Authority (STA), Spokane Police Department (SPD), and the Spokane County Jail. The benefits of those relationships are highlighted in the following letter from **STA officer Kory Bjornstad**:

“I just wanted to share with you a success story that was a result of getting someone hooked up with Community Court. Daniel was originally arrested by me back in April for Unlawful Transit Conduct (loud/unruly behavior). During that arrest, Daniel told me that he had been living at the House of Charity and other homeless shelters, and was trying to find work. Daniel told me he was frustrated with all the people he saw at the homeless shelters abusing the welfare system and not working when they were able so that’s why he lashed out. At that time, I believed Daniel was a great candidate for community court due to his desire to not be homeless, to gain work and to get himself back on his feet. Daniel isn’t a bad guy; he was just really upset with people abusing the system.

Daniel contacted me today to tell me his great news. He was so excited when he told me that he now has a home

that he believes was a direct result of his community court appointments and other funding that had come his way. Daniel told me that he only has to pay \$312 for his rent (all utilities included) for the rest of his life. Daniel also said that his damage/security deposit was

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cut in half several times so that he could afford it. You should have seen the excitement on his face and in his eyes as he told me of his good news; it looked he was going to cry out of happiness.

I am so excited for Daniel that as a result of my contact with him and his interactions with Community Court, he is no longer homeless and is back up on his feet. I just thought I would share with you guys a success story that resulted from the amazing relationship between STA, the citizens and Community Court!”

“[Community Court] is an investment that benefits our entire region.”
Rick Eichstaedt, Executive Director, Center for Justice

“The City of Spokane is committed to criminal justice reform and acknowledge the enhancement and expansion of the Community Court will benefit our entire region by enhancing the lives of many of our less advantaged citizens.” **Ben Stuckart, Spokane City Council President**

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLLABORATION

“The court has spearheaded an amazing collaboration of community agencies, non-profits, and governmental entities that has improved the way our community works together.”

**Dan Sigler, Spokane Regional Director,
Pioneer Human Services**

“The library has always been a place people turn to for help... The Community Court collaboration expands the type of assistance available at the library.”

Andrew Chanse, Director, Downtown Library

“This court has the ability to reach people on a different level. I feel like we are reaching out to them where they are and offering support as we stand together. We are not standing apart in this endeavor.”

Janis Olson, RN, Providence Consistent Care

“The DSP has been collaborating with the City of Spokane’s Community Court since its inception in December, 2013. The court has been responsive to the expressed needs of the downtown businesses of creating a safe and welcoming environment for all of the City’s residents. By providing wrap around services to those individuals that have obvious health and housing needs, the stress on the local businesses has been relieved by an appreciable degree.”

**Mark Richard, President, Downtown Spokane
Partnership**

“We have been an active partner since the inception of Community Court... we have committed resources to ensure that the Court reaches their implementation goals by making all our programs available to participants.”

Mark Brownlow, Executive Director, SPARC

SINCE 2013...

- **900** bus passes have been provided by Catholic Charities
- Providence Consistent Care assisted **121** individuals in obtaining primary physicians and reducing visits to the emergency department
- Over **10,000** lunches have been provided to both participants of Community Court and library patrons demonstrating a need
- **143** participants obtained housing and case management assistance through collaboration between Better Health Together, Volunteers of America, Catholic Charities, and SNAP
- Lion’s Club distributed **223** pairs of reading glasses to individuals in need, and scheduled **128** eye exams to obtain prescription glasses
- **325** participants have graduated
- **Over 2,600** downtown community service hours have been completed by Community Court participants
- Skills’kin has enrolled approximately **65** participants for payee services
- **At least 50** participants have been referred to the Dental Emergencies Needing Treatment program (DENT)
- **Roughly 2,700** individuals with no criminal charges accessed provider services offered at Community Court on Mondays
- Over **1,000** participants have been referred to Community Court each year

“The partnership established through the court has challenged the orthodoxy and rigidity of many... The collaborative approach has helped to break silos across many human service organizations in our city. The program has helped many of the vulnerable members of our population to access housing, employment, healthcare, alcohol/drug and mental health treatment as well as many other services.”

Mayor David Condon

“In my 16 years at Catholic Charities in Spokane I do not believe I have seen a program that has done more to transform the lives and futures of the homeless and extremely low income ‘super-utilizer’ population than Community Court.”

Dr. Robert J. McCann, Executive Director, Catholic Charities Spokane

COMMUNITY COURT IN ACTION

Much of Community Court's success relies heavily on partnerships with providers that serve the Community Court participants. Below is a letter from Pioneer Human Services' Pathway House residential housing manager, **James Noriega**, about the benefits of this partnership. Pathway House provides supportive housing services for people in recovery by an onsite case manager.



"We currently house two individuals who were two of the highest emergency room utilizers in Spokane. These two gentlemen had been trapped in their alcohol addiction for decades. They used the local emergency system to meet their health, social, and sometimes housing needs and unfortunately burned a lot of bridges. Both of them ended up in local emergency rooms more than one hundred times each in one year.

It was clear that they needed a community to help and rehabilitate them. So the Pathway House, together with the Spokane Downtown Community Court, Better Health Together, Consistent Care, and members of the local fire and police departments joined forces to close the gaps so that these two men could get the best help the Spokane community had to offer. With the help of this collaborative group, they are now thriving in

Pioneer's Pathway House and the neighboring community.

Both men are flourishing from the care they are receiving and now want to give back. They have received the help necessary to strengthen their life skills while living inside the Pathway House from many resources and they are participating in a healthy way in the community... One of the men is planning on training as a peer counselor and also wants to volunteer at Community Court weekly.

Pathway House's relationship with Spokane Community Court is extremely valuable. The Court is very unique in that it looks for resources for their defendants and aims to rehabilitate rather than incarcerate. In addition, a collaborative group of Spokane partner organizations meet twice per month to discuss local individuals who are high-utilizers of the emergency system and need the most help in our city. The Pathway House is a part of the collaborative group in that it provides supportive housing. In return, the collaborative group provides support to the Pathway House with generous amounts of case management, medical, and sometimes legal help.

Another reason we built a network with other care providers is that it helps all of our tenants, not only those who struggle with substance use disorders, to access more resources that promote rehabilitation. The story of our two residents who are in recovery illustrates how effective networking can be in extremely tough cases. What the collaborative partnership has learned from their stories can be applied in many cases. Pioneer knows that we cannot help our tenants in isolation. It takes community connection to restore and rehabilitate."

"[Community Court] is an effective tool that helps to end and prevent violence against women."
Susan Tyler-Babkirk, Program Director, Women's Hearth

"VOA supports all that the Municipal Court is trying to achieve by helping to meet the needs of the most vulnerable." **Jon Carollo, Director of Adult Services, Volunteers of America**

"We have been one of the partners with a table at the Community Court since its inception and we greatly value the access the court has provided for our patients and users of our programs."
Jeff Thomas, CEO, Frontier Behavioral Health

THANK YOU TO OUR WEEKLY PROVIDERS AND SUPPORT STAFF

Adult and Teen Challenge	Nate Gerig
Alcoholics Anonymous	Larry
Better Health Together	Virginia Matheny, Caitlin Halterman
CARES Team	Jamie Wiggins
CHAS Clinic	Johnnie Beans
CLOS	Janet Gravetter
Career Path Services	AJ Soto
Catholic Charities/Permanent Supportive Housing	Sabrina Bukowski, Kathleen Schmidt
Catholic Charities Volunteers	Ron Hardin, Cecil Jackson, Steve Johnson, Lee Taylor
Center for Justice	Rosie Ennis, Rick Eichstadt
Changing Lives of Spokane	Roger Rubin
City of Spokane clerks/support staff	Ellie Brown, Brenda Corbett, Margie Fulkerson
Community-Minded Enterprises	Mike McMurtrie
Department of Licensing	Gilbert DeLeon
Department of Social and Health Services	Phyllis Fern
DSHS/Division of Child Support	James Sugden, Daniel Dale
Frontier Behavioral Health	ATC, Homeless Outreach, 2-1-1, MCAT, CRS
Fulcrum Institute/RISE	Jennifer Hutchinson
The Gathering Place	Tonia Bryceson
Gonzaga Law School Juvenile Record Sealing	Kyle Olson, Phillip Silcher
Goodwill/HEN	Angie Foltz
Goodwill/SSVF	Amanda Vicars, Charles Campbell
House of Charity	Jerry Schwab
Lutheran Community Services	Jenn Nielsen, Kristina Poffenroth, Mark Kloehn
Molina Healthcare	Margie Locher, Maritza Flores
Northwest Justice Project	Jose Trejo
Pioneer Human Services	James Noriega, Jesse Smith
Providence Consistent Care	Janis Olson, Tim Nevins, Brynn Eixenberger, Genevieve Green
Reformers Unanimous	Randy Everts
Skil'skin	Joanna Mclaughlin, Matthew Hourigun
SPARC	Bethany Mahan
Spokane Central Lion's Club	Carole and Jerry Williams
Spokane Fire Department	Brian Schaffer
Spokane Homeless Coalition	Ryan M. Oelrich
Spokane Police Department	Capt. Arleth & All Downtown Precinct Officers
Spokane Police Department Volunteers	Miguel Garcia
Spokane Public Library	Sarah Bain, Eva Silverstone, Rae-Lynn Barden
STARS	Justin Dolan
United Healthcare	Robert Martin, Nikita Moroz
Universal Protection	Ron Homisak
Volunteers of America-HOPE House, The Collins Apartments, The Lloyd Apartments	LeeAnn Winters, Heather Thomas-Taylor, Michael Smith, TJ Regaldo, Kristi Muno, Karissa Elliott
WEAR Law Office/Disability Assistance Project	Rosemary Wear
Women's Hearth	Patty Norton

TOGETHER WE ARE A SUCCESS!