

Caring Clowns International

"Enriching Lives Through Joyful Connections"

"For the Greater Good!"

Our Quarterly Newsletter
Issue 8, October 2008

A Word from One of Our Key Partners

(Note: The following was an email to us from Karen Timken @ North Kitsap Fishline, after receiving a \$2,621.75 donation from CCI. Karen's email speaks for itself.)

"Bless you troupe of clowns for all of the wonderful good you do in the world. What a difference you make in so many people's lives. I wish I could express to you how thankful I am for your donation. The words I use don't seem adequate. I wish I could speak "heart", then you would truly understand. I am especially touched today as I have three new clients that have never asked for help from anyone before. As I met with each of them, they spoke of being independent, not having to rely on help and of how difficult it was to walk through our door knowing they could go no longer without outside assistance. Some cried and some tried not to. They were so relieved to find help and so humbled to have to ask for it.

I also did an interview for an article in the *Herald*. One of our new clients was willing to be interviewed as well. In closing the interview, the reporter asked her if there was anything she wanted the people in the community to know and she said, "I want people to understand that the people (like me) who visit this and other places offering assistance are worthwhile. We have been teachers, volunteers, builders and electrical engineers. We have much to give the community and care a great deal about it. The only thing that makes us different from the rest is that we have come into a situation that makes it difficult for us to provide for our own or our family's basic needs. We are not invisible, as human beings we have worth." Listening to her was profound. This woman was a special education teacher and a nanny for 30 years. Due to an illness, she is no longer able to work and currently relies on her 80+ year old parents to help her as they can. She is 53. This person did not have the money to get a critical prescription. We were able to pay part of it for her and found another agency that could pay the rest. This year there will be many more stories like hers. CCI is an important partner in helping to ease the critical needs of these wonderful people and their families.

Jed, in the time it has taken me to think about and write the two paragraphs above (about a half-hour), I have had four phone calls from people desperately looking for assistance. It seems the need is growing exponentially and I believe it will get much worse before it gets better. The gift from CCI could not have come at a better time.

From the bottom of my heart and on behalf of our many clients, thanks to you and the gang for what you are doing for Fishline and all the others that are touched by your loving hearts and generosity.

Bless you all,
Karen

*Karen Timken
Executive Director
North Kitsap Fishline*



North Kitsap Fishline, <http://www.nkfishline.org>, in Poulsbo, Washington is a CCI Key Partner. They provide Kitsap County needy residents with survival services: a food bank; emergency food boxes & holiday food baskets; emergency clothing, children's school supplies, emergency help for home utility bills, rental assistance and other services. The pledged donations of \$7,500 from CCI will provide 150 families with emergency food boxes.

From all of us to you,

Jed "Duffy" Selter

President and Executive Director

Caring Clowns International

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