For a child who grows up around abuse and neglect, it takes more than grit and self-determination to break away and carve a path to a healthier, safer future. It also takes consistent, positive guidance and support from the community. At the NWCF Forum in January, we heard from three victims of child abuse who vowed that the cycle of abuse and neglect would end with them—and three of the NWCF-funded agencies that are giving these individuals the support and guidance they need to succeed.

Larry & Cocoon House: “If you’re given a second chance, always try your best.” Larry’s father was an abusive alcoholic, and Larry started to go down a similar path when he was 17. He drank, smoked pot, vandalized, and was homeless by age 18. Through friends, he heard about Cocoon House—an agency that provides safety, prevention, and housing programs to help homeless teens. With guidance from Cocoon House, Larry has taken the steps necessary to achieve sobriety and give back to the community: he attends AA meetings and community college classes, lives independently in his own apartment, and volunteers at the Cocoon House drop-in center and with their street outreach team. “I wanted to make a difference in the lives of others, and prove that I could make it. Thanks to Cocoon House, I’m achieving my goals.”

Jessica & Parent Trust: “For my kids, the cycle has to stop with me.” Abuse and addiction were a way of life for Jessica’s family. During her childhood, she bounced between living with her heroin-addicted mother, an alcoholic and abusive grandfather, and a negligent father. When Jessica became a mother herself, she was determined to be a positive role model for her children. Without a strong example to draw from, it hasn’t been easy. She struggled with a pain pill addiction, but was able to find her resolve by focusing on her kids. With support from an in-patient treatment program and specialized coaching and education from Parent Trust, Jessica is developing the parenting skills and other crucial protective factors needed to keep her family safe.

Ray & HopeSparks: “HopeSparks never gave up on me.” His parents’ alcoholism and drug addiction forced Ray into the foster care system at age 4. By 8, he had run away to live on the streets. By 20, he was using meth and began a decade that would include jail time, homelessness, marriage, and bringing three children into his chaotic world. Throughout this tumult, Ray sought to protect his own children.

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Working together to end abuse and neglect.

Breaking the cycle of child abuse and neglect is a complicated task. NW Children’s Fund takes a multi-faceted approach—funding programs that address a wide array of key risk factors including domestic violence, homelessness, social isolation, and lack of parental preparation.

In January, NWCF distributed $350,000 to 34 agencies that offer unique prevention, intervention and treatment strategies, and collectively work to break the cycle at many points throughout the continuum.

From the unattended life he had known as a child. Ray faltered more than once. He credits the love of his children and unwavering support of Hopelinks with helping him to overcome his addictions at last and become the kind of parent his kids need and deserve. “Every day, I strive to be a better person.”

2012 NW Children’s Fund Golf Classic
Presented by F5 Networks
Saturday, September 14, 2012
The Golf Club at Redmond Ridge
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Join us for a terrific afternoon of golf benefiting our community’s most vulnerable children. To participate or become a corporate sponsor, contact Jeff Christianson at 206-272-6462 or the NW Children’s Fund office.

We applaud all the amazing organizations we fund for the invaluable work they do—and we applaud you for making our investment in these programs possible.

Healing Abused Children

Dawson Place Child Advocacy Center / Coordinated medical, mental health, advocacy, prevention and law-enforcement services for abused children in Snohomish County.

Families Like Ours: Foster and Adoptive Family Education Programs / Education and support for non-traditional families, both pre- and post-foster care adoption.

Lutheran Community Services Northwest: Permanency Planning Foster Care Program / Permanency planning and case management for foster children and their families.

Olive Crest: Foster Family Program / Recruitment, training, and licensing of foster families for children traumatized by abuse and/or neglect.

Seattle Children’s Home / Programs helping children and families learn to manage mental health and recovery.

World Association for Children and Parents: “A Family for Me” Program / Multimedia program that helps place special needs children in the Pegol Sound with permanent families.

Sound Mental Health: Children’s Domestic Response Team / Specialized counseling services to help children and their supportive parents recover from domestic violence.

Supporting Fragile Families

Atlantic Street Center / Child and youth development, family support, and professional health counseling to help families raise healthy, successful children and youth.

Brigid Collins Family Support Center / Evidence-based programs that support the healthy development of families as a means to prevent child abuse.

Cocoon House / Outreach, prevention, residential services and advocacy for homeless and highly disconnected youth.

Community Youth Services: Parents as Teachers Program / Information and support for street-involved and homeless young parents to increase parenting skills.

Domestic Abuse Women’s Network / Services for women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

First Place / Pre-K through 6th grade education and family support for children who are vulnerable due to crisis or homelessness.

Housing Hope: Child Development Program / Therapeutic programming to help homeless and at-risk families overcome barriers to age-appropriate development for their children.

Friends of the Children / Long-term, intensive early intervention and advocacy for homeless and at-risk youth.

Healing Place Child Advocacy Center / Coordinated medical, mental health, advocacy, prevention and law-enforcement services for abused children in Snohomish County.

Families Like Ours: Foster and Adoptive Family Education Programs / Education and support for non-traditional families, both pre- and post-foster care adoption.

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