

The Story Page

Stories of Hope and Healing

The new Bob G shelter opens in Queen Anne

After nearly a year, working in tandem with King County authorities, CCS/CHS are converting a once vacant Queen Anne hotel into a permanent, enhanced shelter. With funding from King County, this project is one of several local hotels housing CCS/CHS clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The great success of this model has now led to a permanent shelter to be managed entirely by CCS staff.

When COVID-19 hit, the St. Martin de Porres shelter and the Lazarus Center, along with other CCS programs, had to reinvent the wheel. The overnight, congregate shelter model became untenable as the pandemic changed our health and safety requirements. In March 2020, the most vulnerable clients were moved to the King County Airport. More than 100 residents temporarily relocated to nearby motels and hotels. Sixty clients eventually moved into The Inn, a 69-room hotel in Queen Anne. As of July 2021, 68 clients are staying in the Bob G. King County purchased the building in May of 2021. CCS/CHS will continue to fully staff the shelter and offer case management and many other services. By converting The Inn into the Bob G, current residents can remain where they are until they transition into supportive or permanent housing.

Beyond health and safety benefits, hotel rooms provide comfort and security not available in congregate shelters. Having privacy reduces the anxiety and trauma of homelessness. The stability of a single, private location allows staff to effectively manage cases and assess client needs, barriers, and strengths. Clients can store belongings, keeping their personal possessions secure. Family units can stay together in their own space. Children can use the Wi-Fi to access remote schooling. Hotel shelters provide predictable access to food. Staying in hotel rooms not only stops the spread of COVID-19 through our most vulnerable communities, but also puts clients on the path to housing.

King County's goal is to create permanent, supportive housing for 1,600 unhoused people by the end of 2021. The Bob G shelter will be one of many. This new shelter is named for Bob Goetschius, the longtime director of St. Martin de Porres and the Lazarus Center. Bob was incredibly committed to the men and women at the programs and clearly saw the goodness in the people he served. His care for others continues to inspire. The Bob G shelter will continue to honor his legacy by serving clients with dignity and respect.



REAL IMPACT BECAUSE OF YOU

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*Just having your dignity
back means all the
difference in the world.*

- CCS client and Bob G resident



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