



July 2016

## Making a Difference Every Day

### Community Center Partners with Kent Youth & Family Services

The Greater Maple Valley Community Center has entered into a partnership with Kent Youth and Family Services to provide counseling with a focus on co-occurring disorders. The partnership will target youth 13-21 years old with both mental health and substance abuse challenges. Counseling will include co-occurring, group, and family counseling and will be based at the Den Youth Center adjacent to the Community Center. Assessments and evaluations will also be available at this location.

The desire to offer these services at the Den arose from strategic conversations by the GMVCC Board of Directors and the Tahoma School District. After agreeing that there was a largely unmet need for these services within the City, Community Center staff began discussions with Kent Youth and Family Services to forge a partnership that brought them to Maple Valley.



"Having Kent Youth and Family Services operating in our building is a real coup for Maple Valley," according to Erika Guernsey, GMVCC's Director of Prevention & Intervention Services. "We know of a number of young people seeking these types of services that have had to travel to Renton, Auburn, Kent or even Seattle. This can be especially tough for someone without a car so having counseling available right here can mean the difference between a successful intervention or not."

Guernsey already provides drug and alcohol prevention programming in the Tahoma School District so intervention counseling is a wonderful complement to the Community Center's existing services.

## Who makes this place tick?



**Signe**

**Tracy**

**Erika**

**Cindy**

This Community Center is incredibly lucky to have four lead staff members with the talent and experience to make a difference every day. These four are responsible for making sure that our finances are squeaky clean, our programs are top quality and that our facility is clean and safe.

The heart and brains of the operation is **Signe Tao**, our Finance Director. Signe joined the organization in 2004 as the Operations Coordinator and has worked her way up the ladder to her current position.

**Tracy Jones** has been our Director of Health & Wellness since September of 2015. Tracy, who constantly challenges our seniors to stay physically, mentally and emotionally sharp, started with the GMVCC as a hike leader and is another example of a staff person who moved up to take on a lead staff role.

Our Prevention & Intervention programs are held in the very capable hands of **Erika Guernsey**. Erika comes to us from the Orting School District where she worked as an EBD Para Educator/ABA Therapist. She is currently working on her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Legal Studies.

Our newest Lead Staff is **Cindy Frey**, our Facilities and Office Manager. Cindy joined the team in April of this year and has been a wonderful addition. Her experience includes working as a Supervisory Production Controller at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard where, among other things, she was responsible for evacuating 1,000 Americans out of Japan following the devastating 2011 earthquake



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*Your Hometown Specialist*  
(206) 380-8905 cell  
(253) 859-8500 office  
(253) 859-1089 fax  
juliedawson@johnlscott.com  
juliedawson.johnlscott.com  
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