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Olympia is a compassionate community and together we can ensure every Olympian has a safe place to call home! We would be honored to add your company to our sponsorship list. Sponsorships begin at $500 and go up from there. Please contact Development Director Lynsi Polanco at 360-918-7822 for more information on sponsorships.

We also encourage your attendance at the event, should you wish to fill a table by being a table captain, please contact Development Associate Megan Lobdell at 360-918-7844 for more information. If you would like to RSVP to the event, email Megan at mlobdell@communityyouthservices.org to reserve your spot today.

Have a Heart for Kids Breakfast 2018
Date: March 1, 2018
Time: 8:00 am
Location: Hotel RL, Olympia

Prop. 1: Olympia Home Fund tax is a necessity
CYS is a proud supporter of the Olympia Home Fund which is scheduled for a special election this February.

The Home Fund is a measure to build or renovate permanent supportive housing to our most vulnerable neighbors in Olympia. The measure will create at least 350 affordable units in the first 10 years by increasing the Olympia sales tax by 1/10 of 1% which equals about one penny for every $10 spent. Proposition 1 is supported by numerous community organizations and was recently endorsed by the Olympian newspaper. You can view the article below. This measure is a cost effective and compassionate solution that will provide vital resources to address the challenge of homelessness in our community.

Ballots will be mailed on January 26th and election day is February 13th. Please visit Olyhomefund.org for more information.

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38 Years Later—Jim St. Ours Says Goodbye
Also known as Mr. Division, Jim started off as an intern back in Aug. of 1980. He was attending Saint Martin’s College and needed an internship. He was introduced to CYS by a professor at SMC. That professor happened to be Norma Shelan, Charlie’s wife. Jim is well known around the states and county, as he has had calls from all over the world about our Diversion program.

After his internship he was hired as a Diversion Specialist and then shortly afterwards, was promoted to the Juvenile Diversion/Restorative Justice Director. After 38 years he officially retired from CYS on January 2nd and we took the time to ask Jim St. Ours some questions before his retirement.

Q: What do you have your degree in and where did you graduate from?
A: I graduated from Saint Martin’s College with a BA in Sociology.

Q: What do you remember about the atmosphere at CYS when you first got here?
A: We were in a very small space and everything was Army green, from the floor, walls and bathroom. We started with a staff of 10 with only one meeting room and one lunch room. Everyone knew everyone since we were so small. We would all go to lunch together. There were times since we were right above an auto shop that we could smell the exhaust and we would all have to go down and tell them to hook up the hose. And in the winter time there was always ice on the windows and also scorching hot in the summer.

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Q: What do you do your degree in and where did you graduate from?
A: I graduated from Saint Martin’s College with a BA in Sociology.

Q: What do you do when you retire?
A: I stayed in touch with the youth and families. I especially enjoy the challenges of coming up with strategies that I can utilize to work better with the youth and their families.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?
A: I still enjoy working with the youth and families. I especially enjoy the challenges of coming up with strategies that I can utilize to work better with the youth and their families.

Q: What is your least favorite part of the job?
A: Time-wasted (sorry Terri), the challenges of running a program that routinely had funding issues and driving to work during inclement weather especially ice and snow.

Q: How did you know it was time to retire?
A: I was tired. I was a workaholic and now I am seeing senior itis. I had a list of things that needed to get done such as my knees. I got both of them down last year and things have just been falling in line. I knew I couldn’t retire until I had my knees done.

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