

The Junction

March/April 2010

Jeremiah Center
8330 212th St SW
Edmonds, wa
98026



junction

-noun

1. an act of joining; combining.
2. the state of being joined; union.
3. a place or point where two or more things are joined.
4. a place or point where two or more things meet or converge.
5. an intersection of streets, highways, or roads.
7. something that joins other things together.

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COUNSELING CENTER NEWS

by Christena Greenlee, Director of Counseling Services

Families are struggling to meet their basic needs in this difficult economy. Many families are out of work and without insurance to help pay for services. To further complicate families in this situation, the state has been cutting so many services for families, and many of the deepest cuts are to adolescent's services. Currently there is very little state help for families needing behavioral health services for their teens.

At times like these, it is critically important to have the services provided by the Jeremiah Center. In 2009 alone, the counseling staff provided approximately 180 counseling hours for 18 adolescents; many of those counseling hours included parents.

One of our teens, receiving counseling services, has experienced much trauma in her family. The family struggles financially, physically, and emotionally.

This teen, not knowing how to manage her emotional and

family problems, has cut on her own skin, attempted suicide, has become sexually active, and struggles with depressive episodes. Her parents, not knowing how to help her, have had continual conflict. The battles became so bad that the teen moved out of the house and into Cocoon House for a short time. The state also got involved with the family because of the conflict. There was so much stress in this family from all sides that one of the parents began to have suicidal thoughts.

Our counselor worked with the state and with the school social worker to try to get some intensive family services to help them to build skills and repair their relationships.

Unfortunately, the state, having cut all services to adolescents, could not offer help to this family. Because our agency has flexibility and funding, we were able to schedule some family meetings to help them begin to talk again and to build safety into their interactions. Our counselor can continue to meet

with the family as a group and with the adolescent individually to help build emotional and physical strength and safety. This family has begun to repair their relationships and to build hope for their future together.

We are trying to work closely with other agencies/ organizations in the community who also work with youth. We have received referrals from and work with Cocoon House and with local school counselors looking for help for their students. We will be attending the Lynnwood Family to Family meeting with the local Department of Children and Family Services office this month to talk about our services.

We are continually honored to be able to work with the families who have come to the Jeremiah Center and we hope to be able to do so for many years. Thank you for your support of our services and for the help to families in our community who truly need it.

KAZBA

By Joshua Jones, Program Director

“Kazba has done so much for me in the time that I’ve spent there. Kazba is like a home away from home...”

TESTIMONY:

Hi, my name is Kyle, I am 17 and a student at Edmonds Woodway High School.

Before I came to the Jeremiah Center, I had nothing to do with my time after school, well nothing productive at least. I usually spent my weekdays procrastinating on my homework . I would go out with friends and get none of my homework done.

Now that I go to the Kazba (the Jeremiah Center’s After School Program), I have a safe and fun environment to hang out with my friends a few days a week. On the slow days the Jeremiah Center is a good place to get my homework done. It is awesome playing video games with my friends and Josh at the Kazba. Sometimes we even play pillow-polo or just chill out in the rain.

Kazba has done so much for me in the time that I’ve spent there. Kazba is like a home away from home. I love it!

This testimony from Kyle is just one of the many examples of how the Jeremiah Center is making a difference in the lives of youth here in our community. The Kazba after school program at the Jeremiah Center has given youth a real home during the after school time - between 2:00-5:00 pm - when most youth statistically get into trouble.

This fall, youth have been expressing themselves in different and positive ways at the Jeremiah Center, and I thought it important to share with you one of those experiences: Several months ago I was approached by some youth who had a passion for DJ music. So after a quick conversation we decided the best way to give them a musical outlet was to let them DJ at our Kazba after school program. So now we have two in-house DJs who play music for other youth and have a place to perform. We are hoping we can accommodate more teens in this same way.

The reason I share this is because our donors are the reason that this is possible. The kids say thank you everyday to me for one thing or another that we do, but who they are really unknowingly saying thanks to is those of you who provide a way for the Jeremiah Center to operate in this community. If you are interested in learning more, or even volunteering with the Jeremiah Center, please contact us at:

jeremiahcenter@gmail.com.

THANKS!



ANNUAL LUAU BENEFIT DINNER AND AUCTION

By Michel Harris, Board Member and Volunteer

The Jeremiah Center will be having a three course **BENEFIT DINNER & AUCTION** on Saturday, April 24th at the Jeremiah Center in Edmonds. The dinner and silent auction begin at 6:00 pm. We will have testimonies from youth, staff and donors about the impact the Jeremiah Center has in our local community. There will be fabulous food and items to bid on. We hope you will be able to come and support this endeavor to reach out to the youth in this community.

As a member of the Board of Directors for the Jeremiah Center, I encounter frequent confusion about what the Jeremiah Center is and who we reach. The Jeremiah Center is a non-profit 501(c)(3) health and human services agency. The vast majority of the youth we reach are from South Snohomish County and the Shoreline area.

Our mission is to provide services and hospitality to youth. We currently provide an afternoon drop-in center two afternoons a week and one night on the week-ends. We also have professional counseling services for youth and families at a low cost. The Jeremiah Center is completely dependent upon the generosity of individuals, businesses, organizations and religious congregations that support us financially.

As a volunteer, I have firsthand experience with the difference the Jeremiah Center has made to the young people who come here and hang out in the afternoons and evenings. Over the last few years we have watched the number of young people using our services grow — with more than sixty youth coming weekly to our drop-in services, and a couple hundred hours of counseling being given last year. As our counselors and counseling services have become better known to the community, we have been able to expand the beneficial impact we have on area teens and their families. As a volunteer I have been able to also use my gifts and talents to expand my relationships with area youth and contribute to the services at the Jeremiah Center.

As a financial donor I have been able to see firsthand the lives we intersect with and the value of the Jeremiah Center staff who reach out to the youth in our area as they navigate the joys, perils, hope and crisis' of life. Words are not adequate to explain how our staff and volunteers have impacted the lives of youth throughout this community through the care, hospitality and acceptance the Jeremiah Center promotes.

Please invite your family, friends and anyone who passionately cares about youth to attend the Jeremiah Center's Luau Benefit Dinner and Auction on April 24th.

Tickets are \$35. You can reserve yours by contacting the Jeremiah Center at 425-778-3978.



SHOP AMAZON — AND GIVE TO THE JEREMIAH CENTER!

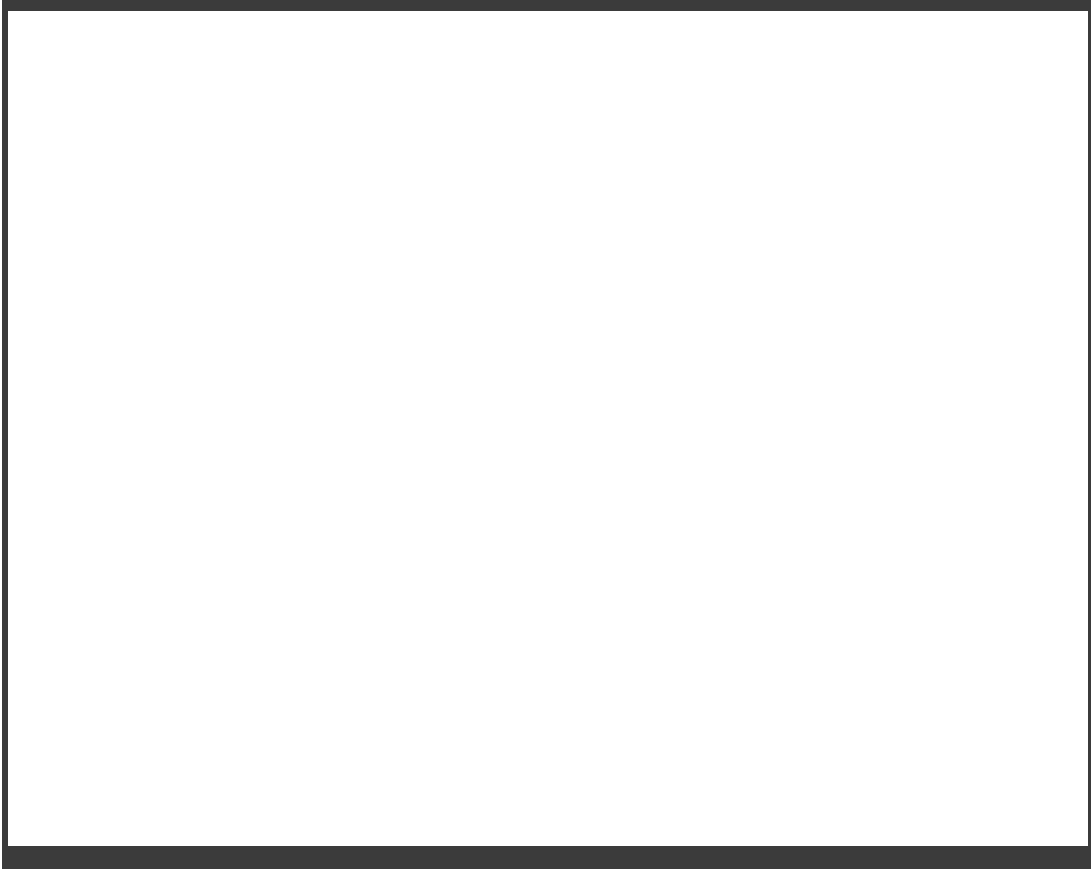
If you are an Amazon.com shopper, your purchase can benefit the Jeremiah Center.

Before shopping, please visit our website, click the Amazon link, and for any purchase you make Amazon will pay a referral fee to the Jeremiah Center.

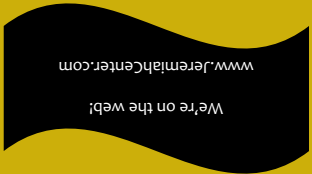
As an Amazon Associate, the Jeremiah Center currently receives 6% back as a referral fee for purchases made using the link on our website. The referral fees have ranged from **\$25 to \$680** a month! The percentage we receive increases with the number of items purchased using our link (up to 15% possible).

Purchases must be made via the Amazon link on our website. The link is located on the right side of the Jeremiah Center homepage, and generally looks something like this:





JeremiahCenter@hotmail.com
Phone: 425-778-3978
Fax: 425-675-2917



Jeremiah Center
8330 212th St SW
Edmonds, wa 98026

WISH LIST ITEMS FOR THE JEREMIAH CENTER

- ◆ Ikea Couches (\$350 each)
- ◆ 37" Flat Screen TV (\$500)
- ◆ ~~Nintendo Wii (\$300)~~
- ◆ Nintendo Wii Games (\$50 each)
- ◆ Room Dividers (\$600)
- ◆ Counseling
- ◆ 2 Rubber Mats for Beverage Center (\$50)
- ◆ CT Bus Pass Books (\$30)
- ◆ ~~Commercial Microwave (\$200)~~
- ◆ Grocery Cards (\$10/\$15/\$20)
- ◆ Gas Barbeque (\$500)



Thank you
for
your
support!

Our list grows as the needs of our community youth continue to grow. We can always use donations of cash for counseling hours. Most of the kids we see are not able to pay much, but the overhead stays the same. If you wish to help in this way, please designate your donation for "counseling services". It will help cover the hours of counseling provided for those who would not have it unless we were here.