

## Upcoming Events

Save The Date

# Auction 2011 Sky's The Limit



March 12, 2011  
Museum of Flight

Updates are posted on our News&Events Page at  
[www.compasshousingalliance.org](http://www.compasshousingalliance.org)

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## Compass Housing Alliance

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COMPASS  
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# COMPASS News

November 2010



COMPASS  
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A LUTHERAN ORGANIZATION

## Gary's Story



In 1988, 36-year-old Gary would have seemed an unlikely future homeless client of Compass Housing Alliance. As he describes, he was “one of those people who had it together.” An incredibly intelligent man, he was an army veteran, had a place to live, a steady job at Public Radio in Minneapolis, and a nice life. But the onset and eventual diagnosis of bipolar disorder turned his life upside-down.

Gary moved to Seattle in 1990 because he felt “scattered.” And then things really fell apart. He became homeless and depressed. He started doing drugs. At one shelter he stayed at, he was still able to use his smarts to help other clients fill out their Social Security and Disability paperwork, but the downward spiral continued.

After a year at that shelter, someone told him about Compass. He attended the public meals and started getting his mail at the old Compass Center building at 77 South Washington Street. As he has continued to struggle with his mental illness and drug addiction over the years, Compass has remained a welcoming presence with an open door. Gary is grateful to staff who have seen him through the struggles of substance abuse, mental health issues and a long prison stay. “Tracy Jones is a hero,” he says. “She kept me and countless others on some kind of stable ground when being on the street can make you really crazy.” (Tracy Jones was the Program Coordinator of the Client Services Office.)

Gary still struggles to stay off the streets. He spent seven years in prison on a narcotics charge and has been homeless since getting out this May. He’s working on accessing benefits from the VA and Social Security and is happy to have a place to do banking. “This is the only place I’ll put my money,” he says.

At 59, Gary is aware of what he has lost due to his illness, years on the streets, and time in prison. “Building my life is going to take time,” he says. Gary describes how homelessness diminished his self-esteem and caused his sense of purpose to disintegrate. But he is trying hard and thankful for a place like Compass. “Coming here gave you a chance to feel respected. [the staff] never told me a lie.”

## Warmth ★ Friends ★ Hope for the Holidays

Help provide meaningful gifts for the homeless men and women of Compass Housing Alliance

### What we need this year:

1. **Cash Donations** - the best way for us to provide support and essential items during the holiday season and throughout the year.
2. **\$5.00 Gift Cards** - to McDonald's, Starbucks, Subway, grocery stores etc.
3. **New Backpacks or Duffle Bags.**
4. **New Sweatshirts** (L, XL, and XXL sizes are most needed).
5. **New Hats and Gloves** - dark neutral colors are preferred.

Please deliver all gifts to 77 S. Washington St., Seattle, WA **by December 13th**. Questions? Kristi at [kweber@compasshousingalliance.org](mailto:kweber@compasshousingalliance.org) or 206-357-3108.

## Other Items We Need

- **Bath Towels!!**
- **Canned soup - chili, chicken noodle soup, and beef stew**
- **Instant oatmeal**
- **Canned fruit**
- **Ground coffee**

## Knock Your Socks Off Success!



### Thank You!!

We collected over 4,500 pairs in just over a month!! We're so excited! And so are our clients' dry, warm feet.

## Move-Out Kits Rock the House!



Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church has been providing move-out kits to the Pioneer Square Men's Program for over three years. Each kit is LOADED with essentials that everyone needs when starting out in a new home: linens, pots, pans, broom, cleaning supplies, coffee maker and more! When a resident from the Men's Program moves out, we are able to send him on his way with a good starting point to create a new home.

To the gracious people at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church,

*I extend my profound gratitude in the blessings bestowed upon me through your service and sacrifice. After years of isolation and solitude, I am immensely blessed to have so many wonderful caring people assist*

*me in restoring my life in order. Every item received through your service is of great need to those of us who are rebuilding the remnants of self-sustainability. There is a shared seedling of hope rendered in every item received. God bless your congregation for their generosity*

Gratefully Yours,  
Eric  
Compass Men's Program Resident

### Kits Include:

- Dishes, cups, silverware
- Saucepan & frying pan
- Spatula & slotted spoon
- Bath and hand towels
- Kitchen towels
- Pillow and sheets
- Broom and dustpan
- Dish soap and sponges
- Glass cleaner
- Toilet Cleaner
- All-purpose cleanser
- Laundry detergent
- Toaster
- Coffee pot

All tucked neatly in a brand new laundry basket!

## Compass Turns 90!

November 10, 2010 is the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Compass Mission.

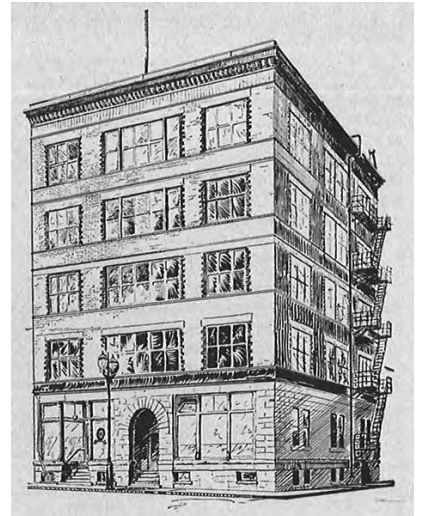
Over the years, we have expanded our services, added sites, and joined with other organizations to make our work more effective.

But the underlying mission remains the same: provide a refuge and safe place, serve our clients with dignity and respect, and be an example to the community.

The mission is possible because of your support. This is a tough budget time. **Please consider a gift in honor of this milestone.**



Founders Alva and Rev. Otto Karlstrom



Drawing of 77 S. Washington Building

## Extreme Home Makeover, Compass Style!



This was an exciting year for makeovers of the space at Hammond House Women's Shelter. The shelter has always been a warm inviting space, despite its location in the cement basement of a downtown commercial building. But this year, two wonderful volunteer projects spruced up the whole shelter in ways we couldn't have imagined!

This spring, architect Michelle Quesada, the original designer of Hammond House, designed and painted a mural in the entrance stairway. Her daughter Louise and a crew of other volunteers helped. The flowered mural is bright and cheerful, and the women love it.

On September 24th, an amazing team from Microsoft took on a 36-step project that included painting, new headboards (that double as bulletin boards), coat hooks for each woman, new shower curtains, cleaning, new computer workstation, updated phone area, and much much more. They even donated a new computer and provided a "welcome home" gift bag for each of the women who stay at the shelter. Another mural was also part of their project. They painted butterflies and flowers along a half-wall that runs through the dormitory area and added inspirational words. Shelter case manager Karen reports that the guests at Hammond were overwhelmed by the thoughtful and personal touches when they entered their space that first night.

Thanks to these wonderful volunteers, Hammond House is looking very spiffy indeed! We are so grateful for their support and interest in this program.

