

KC HELP (Knights Community Hospital Equipment Lend Program,

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KC HELP is a local volunteer organization that loans hospital equipment to those in need in our community, and it's completely free of charge. They carry everything from walkers to hospital beds, from lift chairs to portable bathroom items—if it's hospital equipment likely to be needed during convalescence or rehabilitation, it's probably available for loan.

The group was established locally in 2017 when Larry Devlin drove an 18-ft trailer full of used hospital equipment from Tri-Cities to his home on Bainbridge Island. He and his wife, Kathy, had hearts full with a desire to serve and a mission to help those in need of the medical equipment, but not much more. The KC HELP organization in Tri-Cities had shown it could be done, now Larry would see what he could do for the Kitsap community.

Three years into the venture they were pleased beyond their hopes to have helped almost 400 people in 2020 with needed equipment, and by last year, 2023, it had rapidly grown to about 1800 people helped—over a four-fold increase in only 3 years! Incredibly, they found over the course of the year they had loaned out 3,600 pieces of equipment from their two facilities on Bainbridge Island and in Bremerton—thousands of items put to good use rather than contributing to a land-fill. The economic benefit to KC HELP recipients was estimated to be over \$1,000,000 for 2023! Throughout our area, from Gig Harbor to Hansville to Seabeck, KC HELP is now routinely helping those in need of medical equipment. Without a doubt, things have changed since Larry was first called to this vocation.

Given this remarkable story, it's reasonable to be skeptical how all this could have come about, but it is only through the help and

remarkable support of the community that they are able to serve others as they have. People hear of KC HELP and they readily donate no longer needed equipment. It is cleaned up, maintenance done, and quickly made available for loan. Many clients do make donations, and their gratitude often spills over to others who also make donations. They have also received grants and donations from local organizations to help with expenses, but all the labor is volunteered. Whether it's cash, used medical equipment, or volunteer hours, KC HELP is deeply appreciative of all the help they receive. It is clearly an inspiring story of accomplishment free of any profit motive, but everyone involved will willingly confide the heartfelt gratitude of those helped is more than enough reward.

Considering the rapid growth in so short a timeframe, you might reasonably predict "the sky's the limit" for KC HELP, but it can't happen without further help from the community and 2024 is looking to be particularly crucial for the organization. **Their main challenge is a critical need of new warehousing space for their equipment as both their current locations need to be vacated in coming months. Anyone with ideas relative to this need, please feel free to contact them.**

For further information, or if you'd like to help in any way, please call KC HELP: 360-329-2461, or email: kchelp.kofc@gmail.com.

KC HELP is a tax-exempt public charity under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Although it was founded by the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal service order, and most the volunteers are members of the Knights, they are a standalone, separate nonprofit organization from the Knights of Columbus.

Hello fellow KCMS members,

Happy 2024! As a KCMS Business Supporting Member, I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I'm your local Senior Business Relationship Manager at Wells Fargo Bank and a member of our Healthcare Banking Team. We provide **specialized healthcare programs** and **financing** for DOCTORS that could potentially help free up cash and grow your practice. If we can help you, a friend or colleague **grow, expand, or start a practice** or even just consult in those topics we are happy to do so and be a great resource!

A little bit about me - I have been at Wells Fargo for 11 years now. ...time flies! I started my career here as a business banker in the Silverdale Branch where some of you may know me from. My husband and I live in Port Orchard and have a blended family with

5 children, all teenagers. Next year we will have one in each grade at South Kitsap High School. GO WOLVES! We love this community and are so grateful for the relationship we've built here.

I look forward to meeting other members at upcoming Membership Mixers and Events!

Cassandra McKay



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