

Companis

professionals
serving the
nonprofit
community

Our Mission

Companis creates healthy communities by fostering skilled volunteer service. We bridge the gaps that exclude many of us from healthy community by placing dedicated professionals with nonprofit agencies that need staffing assistance.



Companis Worker Nekya Young-Johnson

Twenty-five and thriving!

As we enter our 25th year, Companis is stronger than ever, thanks to you!

In these times of political and social turmoil, with threats to federal assistance for those most in need, we hold fast to our values of inclusiveness, community, service, relationships and reflection. And the result?

The past year is one of unprecedented accomplishments: from October 2017 through September 2018, we made 84 placements of 63 Companis Workers who served with 42 nonprofit agencies in the greater Seattle/King County region.

Our volunteer and stipend-supported placements are people of heart and great skills, compassionately assisting our most vulnerable neighbors: those living without homes, those seeking access to health care and mental health services, programs supporting and advocating for immigrants and refugees, and our LGBTQ community.

Turn the page and you'll find six Companis Worker stories illustrating how our work of nurturing an inspiration to serve others can lead to breakthrough success for them AND our nonprofit

partners and their clients. That's what we call "Companis Magic." Their stories highlight our strategic focus on serving those nonprofits working directly with our most vulnerable communities, from Byrd Barr Place's focus on basic human services in Seattle's Central District, to underserved LGBTQ seniors who seek advocacy and services from Generations Aging with Pride, to the important role of Real Change, a vital voice and force for our neighbors living without homes.

For the Northwest African American Museum, quality matchmaking brought welcome assistance to the Director LaNesha DeBardalaben's professional staff. "Companis listened closely to our needs, and brought us professionals ready to share their talents to help NAAM meet and even exceed our goals."

Companis is an extremely effective investment for our donors: 94% of our budget in 2017 went directly to our program that matches skilled professionals with service opportunities while offering Companis Workers a dynamic array of personal reflection and professional development opportunities.

Companis Worker Martha Hopley is in her second placement, with the Shared Breakfast program at Seattle's First United Methodist Church, which feeds more than 300 of our neighbors without homes each Sunday morning on Lower Queen Anne. Martha is the program's social worker, and she takes full advantage of the Companis Worker Support offerings to bolster her service to others.

"Companis is all about relationships, and sets the table for a mutually supportive community that in turn creates a stronger bond than when volunteerism is done in isolation. With Companis, I don't have to take care of the world, I take care of me. When I take care of me, the world is taken care of," she adds, underscoring the beauty of action done through reflection.

Companis is grateful for so much: our neighbors willing to serve their community, our nonprofit agency collaborators that deliver life-saving services to those who would otherwise be excluded from healthy community, and our financial partners, whose generosity makes it all possible. Join us today.

– *Gary Davis*, Executive Director

Who are Companis Workers?

Companis Workers are doctors, nurses, teachers, journalists, bookkeepers, lawyers, social workers, therapists, job coaches, business mentors, chefs, human resource officers, technology experts, students, and more.

Are you a Companis worker?

JOIN US
www.companis.org

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Kevin O'Brien

Companis Worker Kevin O'Brien finds joy in supporting people in the homeless community craft current events into ideas for newspaper stories.

As a volunteer with **Real Change**, Kevin serves as the Editorial Committee Assistant, working weekly with people to identify what makes a good and relevant story for the Real Change newspaper. Kevin lives and works with the belief that everyone should be treated with dignity and given an opportunity to have their voice heard.



Nekya Young-Johnson

Companis Worker Nekya Young-Johnson, along with her family, were sudden transplants to Seattle after Hurricane Harvey destroyed their home in Texas. Nekya was in the middle of working on her PhD and needed time to finish – but also wanted to contribute to the family income, along with having an opportunity to network.

Through social connections, she was steered towards Companis. Her placement as Executive Assistant at the **Northwest African American Museum** has allowed her to have all of that. Companis is honored to have Nekya, her joy, her faithfulness and her professionalism, as part of our community.



Steven Knipp & Brian Lauver

Companis Workers Steven Knipp and Brian Lauver are grateful for an opportunity to be in service to their community.

Steven and Brian came to Companis (separately) at a time when they were in employment transition. And through their placements with **Generations Aging With Pride (GenPride)** they are offering a solid foundation to this agency which supports the aging LGBTQ community through advocacy, programming and future housing. Steven, serving as the Executive Director, and Brian, serving as Administrator Coordinator, appreciate that as they care for the GenPride constituency, they are also cared for and supported by Companis.

Companis by the numbers 2017-2018

COMPANIS HAS MADE **84** PLACEMENTS OF SKILLED PROFESSIONALS IN **42** PARTNER AGENCIES PROVIDING **VITAL SERVICES** TO MORE THAN **14,424** OF OUR **NEIGHBORS**

COMPANIS VOLUNTEERS ARE BRIDGING THE GAPS THAT EXCLUDE OUR NEIGHBORS FROM HEALTHY COMMUNITY

27 serving our **NEIGHBORS** FACING HOMELESSNESS

16 placed in agencies ASSISTING IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

24 helping secure **ACCESS TO** medical & mental HEALTH CARE

12 advocating for AND SERVING OUR LGBTQ NEIGHBORS



Sumeet Pamma

Companis Worker Sumeet Pamma laughs as he shares that the area in the building where he is volunteering for **Byrd Barr Place** used to be a disco. Now it serves as a food bank and Sumeet serves as an Administrative Coordinator, whose work includes overseeing the food bank.

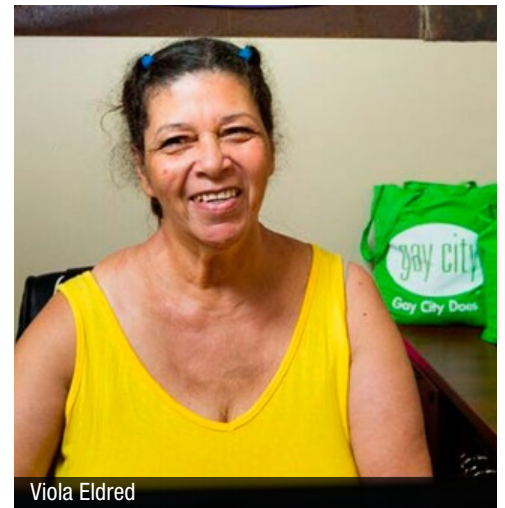
In this changing Central District neighborhood, Byrd Barr not only supports people in need, but they have offered Sumeet a place to apply his learning. Sumeet is a student in the Non-Profit Leadership program at SU and wanted the opportunity to not just understand theory, but to see it applied. He also shares: "Companis is my gateway to having an opportunity to serve and care for the community, which is a trait instilled in me by my grandparents."



Vince Sauber

Companis Worker Vince Sauber's financial expertise assisted **Equal Rights Washington** (ERW) in a way that gave employees opportunity for more "boots on the ground" work that they otherwise would not have had time for.

Worried about LGBTQ rights on a national level, Vince made a decision to act locally. Through his connection with Companis, he worked with ERW to accomplish equality gains. Vince shares that he was inspired by the energy he drew from Companis staff and volunteers, as well as from his work with ERW.



Viola Eldred

Companis Worker Viola Eldred greets everyone with a bright smile that makes anyone feel like they have "come home."

After retiring from a long career in human services, working with the most vulnerable populations in Seattle, Viola wanted to be part of the solution for agencies doing this important work that could not hire full time staff. In her role as Office Assistant, welcoming people as they arrive at **Gay City Health Project**, and helping to keep everything running smoothly, Viola feels as if she has "come back home."

Companis honors Marjorie Edwards with 2018 Newell Award



Marjorie Edwards

There are those whose quiet leadership moves mountains.

Marjorie Edwards exemplifies that type of leadership, and it is why the Companis Board of Directors is honored to present our 'quiet champion' with the 2018 Janet G. Newell Award for Community Service.

The 2008 recession was a watershed moment in Companis history. Our nonprofit partner agencies providing basic human services saw many of their funding sources vanish, while the demand for their work skyrocketed. These agencies turned to Companis for critical staff.

We responded. Very quickly, Companis placements more than doubled, from 19 in 2008, to 43 in 2010. This past year, 2017-18, Companis made 84 placements. With our rapid growth, our funding had to grow, too. In

that critical time, Marjorie, a supporter since our founding by Seattle First Baptist Church in 1994, boldly stepped forward in the role of community philanthropist.

"I'm inspired by the heart and soul of the professionals who want to serve our community," says Marjorie. Her desire was to ensure Companis could meet our growth demands and build a larger base of annual donor supporters.

At the past four Companis Biennial Celebration fundraising events, Marjorie's personal appeal to match individual donations made it possible to meet the increasing demand for our services, and reach thousands more of our neighbors.

"The Companis community includes all of us – not just the Companis Workers, staff or board. Companis is a community of mutuality where the agencies served, our neighbors whose lives are being changed, and donors like me are all seen as equally vital to the core mission of Companis. I love Companis!"

Thanks, Marjorie, for leading with grace.



Like Companis Seattle on Facebook and stay up to date on our work in the community!

Financial Highlights

COMPANIS REVENUE SOURCES	2018
Individual & Major Donors	39%
Agency Donations	34%
Foundations	20%
Seattle First Baptist Church	7%
2018 budget is \$560,000	100%

Your individual donations change lives and are the largest source of support for Companis

Companis is deeply grateful to these foundations for their support:

The Stuart & Benjamin Abelson Foundation Trust
The Stuart & Jesse Abelson Foundation Trust
The John C. and Karyl Kay Hughes Foundation
Moccasin Lake Foundation

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Swedish
The Norcliffe Foundation
The Tulalip Foundation

94% of our budget is spent directly on our program

To donate, please visit www.companis.org/donate
or call **206-328-6155** for more information on legacy gifts.

Why We Donate

"We invest in Companis because it takes a holistic and loving approach to help our local nonprofit agencies solve some of their toughest challenges."

– Angie Buysse, former Companis Worker, and wife Cynthia Per-Lee



Angie Buysse

Cynthia Per-Lee

*Your Investment =
Companis Impact*

This year, Companis Workers have provided more than **\$1.1 million** in vital community services, extending a helping hand to thousands of our neighbors. **Companis does what would otherwise go undone.**

Companis Staff & Board

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companis.org **206-328-6155** Contact us at info@companis.org
Our address is **1111 Harvard Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98122**