

In attendance: Monique, Kelly Lane, Mike Dunbar, Ann Voves, Carolyn Weyrick, Pamela Transue, Evelyn Ryberg, John Schneider, Michelle Roberts, Jim Whitacre

1. **What are the greatest needs in our community?** Homelessness, mental health, food security, Early childhood education, health care
2. **In what ways can Rotary best serve our community?** Use our members who represent many different agencies to determine where we can have the most impact. But we need to focus on something well defined and doable to have success. Our grants support organizations that are serving our community. Our auction helps organizations like Habitat for Humanity, which is this year's beneficiary. We need better information about our community. Too many people are not counted during the census. The leadership of all the Rotary groups in Pierce County should meet and develop a unified approach. There are also many coalitions who can advise us on community needs. We need to try to think differently – not just projects – but a broader vision.

January 30, 2018 Fireside - Carol Webster

Excellent gathering . . . friendly atmosphere, constant chatting and laughing during social hour.

Lovely salmon dinner with baked baby reds, asparagus, salad, tiramisu, sorbet - wine and ginger ale

In attendance: Carol Webster, Marty Lough, Chris Serface, Alex Trettin, Don Doman, Donna Haynes, Greg Rolsma, Don Hansen, Robin Echte, Gordon Neu

### **What are the greatest needs in our community?**

#### **In what ways can our Rotary club best serve our community?**

Greatest problems/needs and perhaps how we can help

Twelve problem were identified, but additional comments were only made on seven.

Results:

Illiteracy - Keep up with the little libraries

Mental Illness - Cascade Park was asked by the state to convert one room to handle mental illness patients

Veterans Assistance - PTS problems growing with 17 years of war, part of the homelessness problem, Marty knows of an organization on Shaw Road in Puyallup to help female veterans

Homelessness - Help out Pierce County Homeless Connect (Health Department and South Sound Outreach), possibly adopt a family, provide individual (a person) grants, work with Goodwill Industries to help with jobs

Healthcare Costs - Defensive Medicine to fight the cost of medicine

Affordable Housing - Work with Connie Brown

Trafficking - Perhaps work with other organization already involved

Lack of a sense of community

Financial education for students

Liveable wages

Emergency Room overuse

Opioids

Fireside at Jim Merritt's home Co-host Maria Harlow  
Diane Kelleher, Cynthia Darland, Mark Anderson, Mark Lindquist, Mary Lynn Pannen, Barry Benson  
Corey Hjalseth, Missy Zenczak

### **What is our communities greatest needs that need to be addressed**

Opioid Crisis and other addictions  
Homelessness  
Youth Homelessness  
Human Trafficking  
Affordable Housing  
Education, Skills and higher wage jobs  
Sexual Harassment Awareness, Training and Changing the culture in our companies, organizations and even in our own club.  
Mental Health

### **How can Rotary engage and make a difference?**

Bring visibility  
Advocacy  
Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Training.  
Bias awareness and how to avoid them

There was lots of discussion, but these were the topics.

Ideas include having programs to help people with awareness of the issues and opportunities of how they can volunteer, donate or help.

Rotary club 8 and others could champion a cause and work together with the community to move the solutions forward. Invite non-Rotarians and other Rotarians to join us.