

Compass Health completes Permanent Supportive Housing phase of Broadway Campus redevelopment project



photo courtesy Compass Health

Called a “topping off” ceremony, the last construction beam is placed on Sept. 24 to mark completing the first phase of Compass Health’s future five-story building on Broadway.

EVERETT — On Sept. 24, Compass Health announced the topping out of the first phase of its Broadway Campus Redevelopment project, marking an important milestone on the way to bringing 82 new units of permanent supportive housing to the community. Leaders and crews ceremonially placed the final structural beam in the facility designed to help relieve the critical need for housing that has been exacerbated by health and economic challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Part of a state-of-the-art

regional center in downtown Everett, the facility is ahead of schedule and slated to open in April 2021. It will include permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness or chronic behavioral health challenges, including units available to military veterans and individuals returning to the community from Western State Hospital. The project will double Compass Health’s housing capacity in Snohomish County and demonstrates the impact of critical housing protections for at-risk groups. “We knew prior to the

COVID-19 outbreak that community members experiencing mental health challenges were in need of stable housing, and we’re extremely grateful to our development and construction teams which helped us to drive forward with this project, recognizing that these needs will be heightened by the pandemic in the coming months,” said Compass Health CEO and president Tom Sebastian. Crews began work in March on the five-story, 47,000-square-foot building designed to operate under the Housing First model for

supportive housing.

The project’s 10,000-square-foot ground floor will host mental health treatment, peer support, homeless outreach, housing stabilization and other programs designed to support both residents and others across the community.

Funding for the \$26 million phase one supportive housing facility comes from a combination of public, private and philanthropic sources, including significant support from Snohomish County Housing and Community Services, Housing Author-

ity of Snohomish County, Washington State Housing Trust Fund, Washington State Housing Finance Commission, National Equity Fund, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, Coastal Community Bank, Impact Capital, Premera Social Impact, KeyBank N.A. and the Washington Community Reinvestment Association.

Individual, corporate and foundation donors also provided generous philanthropic support. A list of funding partners can be found at the Compass Health Broadway Redevelopment page.

The Broadway Campus Redevelopment project is a three-phase project that will also include an advanced facility for a range of adaptable services to replace its 70-year-old Bailey Center building on Broadway Avenue in phase two.

Phase three of the campus redevelopment, still in the early design stages, is projected to focus on integrating behavioral health services with a primary healthcare clinic and pharmacy, in addition to supporting other services. — *Material provided by Compass Health*

National Adopt-A-Dog Month

Adopting the perfect pooch

Before COVID-19 struck, Morgan Saunders wasn’t in the market for a dog. But when the shutdowns started in March, Saunders found herself alone with a lot of time on her hands.

“I knew there were a great deal of dogs who were without a home,” she said. “I was ready to provide a good home with lots of love to a dog in need.”

Enter Sugar, a chunky 4-year-old Chihuahua mix with endearingly large ears. Sugar was in a foster home, so adoption specialists connected Sanders with the foster via video chat. Sanders was quickly smitten.

“She was adorable, of course, but I really loved her personality. Sugar is a little sassy, but also super sweet,” Saunders said. “She has brought me so much joy, I can’t imagine my life without Sugar in it now.”

As October is Adopt a Dog Month, Best Friends Animal Society is encouraging anyone who has been thinking about getting a dog to take the plunge and find themselves a new best friend at a local shelter or rescue.

Adoption will not only save a dog’s life, it will also benefit the new owner in a myriad of ways, according to Julie Castle, Chief Executive Officer at Best Friends Animal Society.

“The companionship of pets has been shown to reduce stress and lower anxiety, helping people with social isolation, so it’s no wonder so many people have acquired a dog during this pandemic,” Castle said. “And if you need a walking or hiking buddy, dogs make fantastic personal trainers. You’ll get some fresh air, too.” To help with your search, Best Friends offers the fol-



Photo courtesy: Best Friends Animal Society

Morgan Saunders with Sugar

lowing tips:

1. Consider your lifestyle. If your dream day is binge-watching TV and you prefer quiet nights at home on the couch, a senior dog or one who prefers being an only pet could be your ideal match.

If you’re the athletic type, why not adopt a high-energy dog who can go on long runs with you?

2. Let the shelter team play matchmaker. Tell the staff and volunteers at the shelter all about who you live or share space with, including any and all pets, as well as animals you come in contact with on a regular basis. This will help them find a great match for you.

3. How much affection do you need? How much (or how little) affection you want from your pet is an important factor in deciding which one to adopt.

4. Consider the kids. It’s important to take your kids with you to meet all prospective pets so you can observe how they interact.

5. Keep an open mind. Don’t fixate on age, size, or breed. Instead, focus on the dog that will fit best into your lifestyle and who you find a connection with.

6. Don’t be afraid to have

deal-breakers. It’s OK if you’re not willing to potty train a puppy or can’t handle a strong, young dog. Sometimes knowing what you don’t want is as important as knowing what you do want. Keep searching until you find the right fit.

7. Ask about a foster to adopt program. If you’re concerned about committing with adoption on the spot, ask your shelter or rescue if you can foster a dog for a few weeks. There’s no better way to get to know a dog than to care for them in your home and the experience can give you the confidence to make the situation permanent.

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