



## City of Mercer Island, Washington

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, Hopelink began in Bothell, Washington, in April 1971, when a group of laid-off workers responded to a devastating economic downturn by banding together to help their neighbors find jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, in October of 1971, the group received a grant, took on the name "Northshore Multi Service Center," moved to Woodinville, opened a food bank, and began offering rides; and

**WHEREAS**, by 1984, the organization had expanded to cover most of east King County – opening centers in Kirkland, Snoqualmie Valley, Bellevue, and Redmond to provide food and other emergency assistance – while also opening the first emergency shelter in north and east King County; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1990, Hopelink became the first Medicaid Transportation Brokerage serving King County, and within three years had expanded to serve more than 25,000 people every year; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization officially took on the name "Hopelink" in 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, Hopelink expanded into north King County in 2006, opening its first emergency service center in Shoreline; and

**WHEREAS**, Hopelink's first transportation hub opened in Kent in 2010 and seven years later grew into a new and expanded facility in the same city; and

**WHEREAS**, Hopelink currently serves 65,000 people every year, providing a network of services through nine programs that help families, children, seniors, and people with disabilities gain stability, and when possible, exit poverty – as well as directs transportation services in King and Snohomish Counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Hopelink's vision of a community free of poverty includes a commitment to addressing systemic racism and the inequities and circumstances that drive poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, for 50 years, Hopelink has served as not only a vital resource in our community but a beacon of hope for our neighbors who are experiencing poverty and homelessness;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the mayors of Bellevue, Bothell, Carnation, Duvall, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kent, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Mercer Island, North Bend, Redmond, Renton, Sammamish, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, and Woodinville jointly proclaim April 21, 2021, as

## HOPELINK DAY

and invite the community to celebrate the organization we are proud to call our own, as it continues its essential mission of helping people and changing lives for the better in our community.

**APPROVED**, this 6th day of April 2021.

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Benson Wong, Mayor

hopelink

Proclamation No. 264