



# INTERFAITH Family Shelter

# Summer Newsletter 2019

*Interfaith: Uniting in service to families,  
with children, experiencing homelessness*

August 2019

## From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

As our fiscal year 2018 ends we have some great achievements to share with you. Many more residents have come through the Interfaith Family Shelter this year. Last year we served 47 families made up of 189 individuals of whom 116 were children. This year we served 67 families made up of 258 individuals of whom 149 were children. This measure is up 35% over last year.



In this same time we found *Rapid Rehousing* for 32 families. These are market rate apartments that include some subsidy and case management for up to one year.

78% of our clients successfully moved out of the Interfaith Family Shelter into more stable housing. 94% of our *Rapid Rehousing* clients were still in their apartment after one year.

All this happened because devoted staff worked to reduce the average number of days a family stays in the shelter from 92 days in 2017 to 68 days in 2018.

These successes only occur with the dedication of the great staff at Interfaith Family Shelter and in our *Rapid Rehousing Program*. Their tireless work to reduce barriers and find housing for our clients is truly remarkable.

We welcome this quarter Ty Curley (Cars to Housing Case Manager), Melisa Sims (Rapid Rehousing Case Manager) both new positions. We also welcome Cheri Malena who fills our open Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Case Manager position.

Sincerely,

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Become a part of the solution. Join our mailing list to learn how you can get involved.

[www.interfaithwa.org](http://www.interfaithwa.org)

@TheFamilyShelter

@FamilyShelterWA

thefamilyshester



What does caring look like? On May 4, 2019 it looked like 230 people taking their Saturday to fix, repair, paint, sort, dress and make the Interfaith Family Shelter a better place for residents. A huge shout out to the employees of Comcast Everett for choosing us for their Day of Caring. Their time and support is so invaluable. Thank You!



## SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, October 24, 2019 is the date to save for our annual fundraising event *Families Together Dinner*. It will again be at Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo. Watch for your invitation.

# Resident Spotlight

Our Resident Spotlight story this month is a bit different. It is transcripts of actual intake calls.

## **The Shelter Intake Line:**

On Wednesday, July 10, 2019 we received 12 call (no repeats) on our Shelter Intake Line. We had 321 unduplicated calls on that number in the last 3 months. They are difficult to read and listen to. Here is an example of these calls.

Hi, my name is \*\*\*\*\*I am currently homeless and living in my car. I have a family size of four and no one in my home is pregnant a good contact number for me is \*\*\*\*\*a good email addresses is\*\*\*\*\*. I'm homeless and living in my car. I thank you and have a good day

Hello, my name is\*\*\*\*\*. And my phone number is\*\*\*\*\*. And my family size is me and I am five months pregnant and I have a five-year-old daughter as well. And I've been staying in my car. I have called 211, and I have a housing Navigator, but that was pretty much pointless. So I'm just doing my weekly call in. Just give me a call back if you can. Thank you.

Yes, hi. My name is\*\*\*\* and I'm calling for a homeless family. Their English is somewhat broken. Therefore, I am calling for them. My phone number is \*\*\*\*. The gentleman's name is \*\*\*\*. His girlfriend's name is\*\*\*\*. She is five months pregnant they have two little boys four and one. They are homeless sleeping in their car, and they really need to get a place to stay. I know that they do have an appointment with the housing coordinator through 211, but they said they do not know how long it can be and how they can get them housed. Can you please call me back if you get any space for them? Can you please call me back? My name is\*\*\*\*. Thank you.

These are real families with hopes and dreams!



## **CARS TO HOUSING**

A single car was parked in the far corner of a church parking lot. Inside was a Mother and her one year old son. Like most evenings in the past year, this mother was preparing her son for bed so she could settle down for the night. The big difference was that this was the first time that she was parking in a spot where she had permission and was safe from being roused in the middle of the night and asked to leave.

Interfaith Family Shelter, in partnership with Cascade View Presbyterian Church, Everett Faith In Action and supported by the City of Everett Human Needs Fund, opened our Cars to Housing (C2H) program on July 30, 2019 with one mother and child. Within a week she was joined by four other families in the C2H lot.

Each family was screened by our C2H Case Manager, Ty Curley, and was assigned a unique parking spot at Cascade View Presbyterian Church. Ty will work with the families over the next 90 days to find room in a shelter or move directly into stable housing.

With this partnership we are able to help up to 20 more families find a way out of homelessness and into homes.

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