



INTERFAITH  
Family  
Shelter

# Winter 2019 Newsletter

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

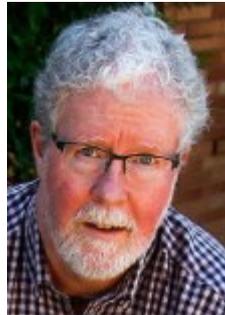
December 2019

## From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

As we approach the longest night of the year and some of the coldest weather, I often think of the families in Snohomish County that we are not able to help and wonder why?

Is it because our country and community do not have enough resources to help them? Is it because we do not have the capacity to house all the families—and especially the children—in our community?



The truth may be somewhere between these two questions. We do have the capacity to build the non-market housing that is necessary to house all of the homeless children in our community. But we do not have the funds to pay for homes for our most disadvantaged families.

We also do not have the collective will to ensure that *no child sleeps outside in our community tonight*. At Interfaith, we are working in our own small way to move a few more children and families into safe shelter. With the addition of Miracle House, we hope to be able to help 15% more families in 2020. Your support and your prayers will go a long way to help our community take care of all of our families.

Our fondest hope that this holiday season brings peace and joy to you and your family. Let us work together to help all families be safe and housed. My best wishes to you for a happy New Year.

Sincerely,

**Executive Director**

## Our new extension: Miracle House



Many years ago, around this time of year, another family was in need of shelter. The Christmas story resonates particularly strongly with our mission to serve families in need.

This holiday season, we have wonderful news: the Interfaith Family Shelter is growing! Our brand-new extension, **Miracle House**, in partnership with Marysville United Methodist Church, will open in January, 2020. This cozy residence can accommodate two families, and will follow our proven successful shelter-and-rehousing model.

We hope that we can continue to count on your generosity and support, as we grow. Please help us bring holiday cheer to families in need by supporting Miracle House.

**Share the journey on our:**

**Website:** [interfaithwa.org/miracle-house/](http://interfaithwa.org/miracle-house/)

: @InterfaithFamilyShelter

: @FamilyShelterWA

: Interfaith Family Shelter

Since 2009, with your support we have:



Served 466 families



Served 1,042 children



Provided 31,389 meals



Provided 93,126  
nights of shelter



80% of families  
now in permanent housing

# Donor Spotlight

This holiday season, we are exploring different ways in which your contribution helps families in need. Why do you support the Family Shelter? And how do you give? Here is one donor's story.

**Helen Jolly** first learned about the Family Shelter years ago through **Holy Rosary Parish** in Edmonds: "A lovely lady who used to work at the shelter, Janet Pope, knew we were doing a Giving Tree. She called the parish to ask if the shelter could become a part of it." Eventually, she and Janet met to discuss what the church could do. Later, a friend who delivered the gifts told her, "Whatever more you can give them next year, please do it. That place is wonderful! It's run phenomenally well on a shoestring budget." Since then, Holy Rosary Parish has given a little more to the shelter every year.



For the past 15 years, she has arranged Christmas gifts for all our shelter clients, as an extension of the Giving Tree at Holy Rosary Parish. Giving is ingrained in Helen's nature: "I help with a quilting program with Monroe State Penitentiary, and I donate some of these quilts to the shelter.



Holy Rosary Parish, Edmonds

These are made by incarcerated men, it's so rewarding for them to know that they're giving back to the community." She is a firm supporter of the Family Shelter, "It supplies a huge service to the community. I've visited the shelter many times, and I've seen the good you do." She remembers meeting a young refugee mother from Africa with her son at the shelter once, "She was fleeing a very abusive relationship. But she has since moved on and is now able to sustain herself and her boy. The staff really does great work!"

[Are you interested in donating to the shelter? Visit How to Help on our website to see a seasonal list of what's most useful for our clients.](#)

## Families Together: Our 2019 Benefit Fundraiser

The annual Interfaith Family Shelter benefit fundraiser was on October 24, 2019, at the Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo. We hosted a diverse audience, representing a range of faith and community organizations, all of whom had one thing in common: the desire to help Snohomish families transition from homelessness into permanent and stable homes. With your help, we raised more than \$21,000 in one night! Thank you very much!



Our keynote speaker, **Dr. Joyce Stewart**, stressed the power of compassionate and supportive intervention in changing the trajectory of people's lives—especially for children and youth struggling to overcome homelessness.



Dr. Joyce Stewart & Jim Dean

Former shelter client, **Ricky Naffziger**, also shared his personal success story. He revealed how becoming a dad changed his perspective, and made him want to create a stable home for his little daughter. Ricky explained how the Interfaith Family Shelter helped him—a single dad—to overcome addiction and homelessness, and reunite with his little girl. "I have changed my whole life for my daughter," he said. "Thanks to everyone who made this dream come true." They now share a happy home as they face a hopeful future!



Ricky Naffziger with Jim Dean

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