



INTERFAITH
Family
Shelter

March 2020

Spring 2020 Newsletter

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

From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

How can we keep everyone in our shelters healthy and safe? So much of our recent attention has been on this subject. When large numbers of people live close together in a family homeless shelter, it becomes apparent that it is the details that keep people healthy and safe.



For many years, we have trained residents and staff on how to keep the shelter clean and virus-free. Flu and norovirus can cause serious problems at the shelter if we are not careful. The *Novel Corona Virus* that now threatens communities has prompted us to review and retrain staff and residents on the most effective ways to avoid the transmission of communicable diseases.

It all starts with hand washing. Making sure that all sinks have sufficient soap and paper towels at all times is the first step. The regular sanitation of all cooking and food surfaces is second. Cleaning and sanitizing all hard surfaces—like door knobs, bannisters, light switches, and bathroom fixtures—is also essential. Then watching out for each other as well as any problematic symptoms, like a fever or persistent cough is also important. Finally, having everyone use hand sanitizer when they enter the shelter is yet another way to minimize unwanted viral visitors.

When you think about it, these are the same behaviors that we should also be doing in our own homes to be safe and healthy. I hope that you and your loved ones stay healthy and safe in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Miracle House opens its doors

Our new extension, **Miracle House**, in partnership with Marysville United Methodist Church, officially opened its doors on February 09, 2020.

Board President, **Frank Busichio**, and MUMC Lead Pastor **Jenny Smith** cut the ribbon, inaugurating Miracle House.



Clients at this Marysville location have access to the same programs and services available at the Family Shelter in Everett, including: rapid rehousing case management; mental health and substance-use disorder case management; the children's Learning Hour program; and resources for effective financial planning, parenting, and healthy living.

Miracle House will enable us to reach at least 8 more families experiencing homelessness each year.

Stay updated on our:

Website: www.interfaithwa.org/



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Interfaith.Family.Shelter

Helping families overcome homelessness!



Last year, 68 families
received shelter



80% moved into permanent housing



94% of them were still
housed a year later

Donor Spotlight

Although many donors are content to give through cash, checks, and online donations, some innovative and flexible options offer potentially greater tax benefits.

Think of a Donor Advised Fund (DAF) as “investing money in the community where you live, while supporting nonprofits that you care about,” like the Interfaith Family Shelter. That’s how one of our supporters who donates through DAFs describes it. **Angelique Leone**, Vice President at the Community Foundation of Snohomish County (CFSC) says that DAFs are a flexible and inexpensive way to organize charitable giving: “After setting up a DAF, each year you decide which nonprofits to support, with optional advising from our experts.”

Innovative giving through DAFs

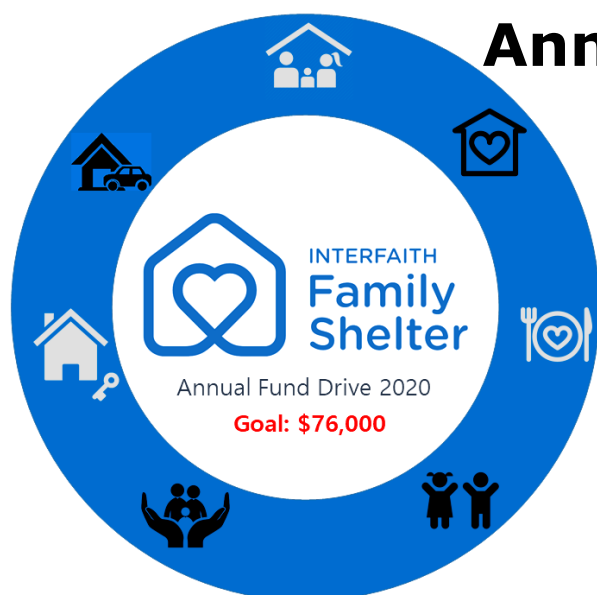
And that’s not all. The annual earnings accrued on the DAF also get donated directly by the CFSC to your favorite nonprofits. As our supporter notes, “So I’m giving to you, and they are as well. It’s a win-win!” Rather than write a check, she just emails the CFSC about how much she wants to donate to the nonprofits of her choice.

But DAFs are more than just a convenient way to manage your charitable gifts. They can offer significant tax benefits to donors, especially in the case of “large-scale assets, like selling a private business or appreciated stock,” adds a donor who allocated privately held stock to a DAF, did not have to pay tax on it, and got a deduction for the full amount. “By donating a portion of the sale proceeds to a DAF, I didn’t have to pay the capital gains on the appreciated value,” he says. He recommends DAFs to anyone who expects to have a large sum for charitable giving. “If you’re charitably minded, it’s an easy way to make a financial gift while making a difference in your local community.”



DAFs are thus a flexible and expedient way to financially support organizations and issues that are important to donors. The DAF manager provides regular reports and updates on giving opportunities that may be of interest. So there is also the potential to learn about new ways in which your gift can make a meaningful community impact. “You don’t have to be rich to have a DAF,” says our supporter. “It’s an easy process, it benefits the community, and my favorite nonprofits get money from me and the CFSC.” She concludes, “I feel good about the mission.”

Would you like to know more about **DAFs** and other giving options? Talk to a financial advisor or contact the **Community Foundation of Snohomish County** (www.cf-sc.org/)



Annual Fundraising Drive 2020

Our Annual Fundraising Drive ran through the month of February, 2020. This year, the theme was **Overcoming Homelessness: One Family at a Time**. We rely on your generosity to bring us closer to our guiding vision: that no child in Snohomish County sleeps unhoused tonight.

You may have received a letter from us explaining the importance of this campaign in allowing us to provide services and programs to families in need.

You may also have chatted with a member of our Board or staff during our Phonathon between Feb 24—28!

Through your support, we raised **\$6,360!**

Thank you very much to everyone who contributed to the Annual Fundraising Campaign!

Interfaith Association of NW Washington

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