



INTERFAITH
Family
Shelter

September 2020

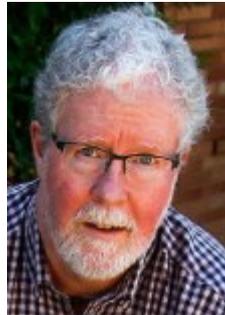
Fall 2020 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,
with children, facing homelessness

From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

It's mid-September and there are many things that we should be doing. Children should be waiting for school buses in front of the Interfaith Family Shelter. Instead, they are hunched over Chromebooks, working on online lessons. Clients should be visiting apartments and meeting property managers to obtain housing. Instead, they are on computers or cellphones, trying to convince landlords why they should be selected to occupy open apartments. Staff should be meeting clients in their offices to develop housing plans or family budgets. Instead, they now have to help families rebuild their lives remotely, scheduling frequent meetings by phone or Zoom. This is what overcoming homelessness looks like during a prolonged pandemic.



So much in life is different right now. I firmly believe that those of us who are able to embrace and accept change will prevail in these challenging times. It's not a new world—we just need to learn how to adapt to this changed situation.

This includes upcoming events. **Our important Fall Fundraising event (details adjacent) Families Together will be online at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21.**

Please RSVP on our website.

It is more important than ever for you to be there, to see how we are still enabling families to find a home and rebuild their lives. I hope you can attend and look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

Families Together 2020



Our annual **Families Together fundraiser** is moving online this year! On **October 21**, we have a special treat for you.

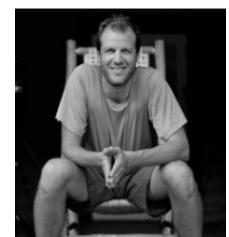
In March, **Soledad O'Brien Productions** filmed **Outbreak: Seattle** for the *Matter of Fact* investigative TV series. The crew followed one of our client families from homelessness to a home of their own during the pandemic.

Now join us for an exclusive and intimate Q&A with Director **Rose Arce** and Field Producer **Riley Morton** as they discuss the film, its impact, public health and homelessness in the region.

RSVP at www.interfaithwa.org



Rose Arce



Riley Morton

Follow us for updates!

Website: www.interfaithwa.org/

: @InterfaithFamilyShelter

: @FamilyShelterWA

: Interfaith.Family.Shelter

What overcoming homelessness looks like **during a pandemic:**



Number of families
served by Interfaith = **50**



Achieved
permanent housing = **19**

March—August, 2020

Play On!

"For children, play is serious learning. It's really the work of childhood."—Fred Rogers

It's been a long time coming, but the Family Shelter finally has a brand-new playground! The previous play structure was removed in May 2019, after it became rickety and unsafe for the children. Since then, the playground has sat empty while we worked hard to find funding for new equipment.

However, in May of this year, an **anonymous donor** reached out to Interfaith's Jim Dean with an astonishingly generous offer: "I want to pay for the shelter's new playground."

We soon received a check for **\$20,000**, and three months later, volunteers from the City of Everett devoted a summer Saturday to begin installing the gorgeous new structure.



The new Monkey Maze playground at the shelter.

Volunteers from the City of Everett install equipment on Aug 29.

Interfaith's Board President, **Frank Busichio**, is ecstatic: "The children have long needed a safe, healthy environment that allows them to have fun, play and grow. We are so grateful to the anonymous donor for their generous support."

By the time you read this, our eager young residents will no longer be confined to their rooms—instead, they will be 'monkeying' around on the brand-new Monkey Maze play structure.

A Miracle at Miracle House

Tamera and Dylan arrived at Interfaith's Miracle House on August 14. Four days later, their little baby **Atavia** arrived into the world. The entire family, including older daughters Makenna and Kiyannah, are all doing well.

"We are so excited that we are not homeless, that we have a safe place for our wonderful kids, and a plan to do what's needed to give them a better life," says Tamera. "Although we are worried about how long it might take to find housing, we absolutely love Miracle House. It feels like home."

The family became homeless in January and also briefly lived in their car. On those nights, the parents stayed awake to make sure that the kids slept safely.



Case Manager **Jackie Rasco** is all smiles, "It's truly a miracle at Miracle House."

Donor Spotlight

Soon after discovering Interfaith this summer, **Kathryn Bratcher** stopped by the shelter to drop off 13 boxes of children's clothing. Her generosity didn't end there! Two weeks later, she contacted us with another offer: "My birthday is next week. I want to host a **Facebook birthday fundraiser** for Interfaith."



Apart from helping families overcome homelessness, Kathryn explains that fundraising on Facebook is perfect for supporting Interfaith during the pandemic. "Because it's my birthday, Facebook isn't taking a fee!" Which means that the total amount that you raise directly benefits our clients and programs.

Kathryn knew right away where she wanted the money to go. "On our last visit, we learned there are currently about 30 children living at Interfaith, and I wanted to raise money to benefit the kids. The more I find out about their terrific program, the more I want to help."

Her efforts were a huge success. By noon on her birthday, she had exceeded her target of \$300: "I was astounded to see that my friends had donated **\$350**."

Thank you, Kathryn, for this innovative and social-distance-friendly solution to support Interfaith!

Want to share your birthday or anniversary with us?
Contact mantony@interfaithwa.org to learn more!

Interfaith Association of NW Washington

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