



INTERFAITH
Family
Shelter

September 2023

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,
with children, facing homelessness

From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

One indicator that you are on the right path is when everything works out smoothly and without a hitch. And this past summer was a perfect example.

In mid-July, the **Grove Church** (Marysville) brought a group to work on a service project at the Family Shelter. This included providing volunteers to help replace the roof on the front third of the Shelter building, which we just bought in October, 2022. The only hitch was how to afford the necessary materials?



One option was to use some capital campaign funds from the recent successful campaign that allowed us to purchase this building. However, one of our super volunteers—who also serves on our Board's Facilities Committee—had other ideas! **Rich Menzel** took it on himself to encourage our building supply community to donate nearly all of the roofing supplies needed for this project. **Malarkey Roofing Materials** donated all the shingles, and **North Puget Sound Building Supply** got them to us from the manufacturer. **Beacon Construction Supplies** provided all the underlayment flashing and fasteners that we needed. Essentially, we only had to actually cover the cost of disposing of the old damaged roof.

And now we can look forward to 30+ years of a safe dry shelter. We cannot thank **Grove Church** members and **Rich Menzel** enough for dedicating their time and skills to this project.

Jim Dean

Executive Director

Annual Fund Campaign & Families Together 2023

Coming up in September, the Interfaith Family Shelter launches the **2023 Annual Fund Campaign**. Our goal is to raise a total of **\$100,000** through the end of the year, that will go toward supporting our many impactful shelter program operations.

Over the next few months, you may receive more information via mail or email, and you may even be contacted by one of our many volunteers. Please support us!

Our annual fall **Families Together 2023** fundraiser will also be during this Annual Fund campaign. Save the date and join us either virtually or in person, depending on your preference!



Save the Date!

October 26, 2023

5:30—7 p.m.

In-person & virtual

Learn more about all our shelter programs and support Interfaith with a gift or in-kind donation.

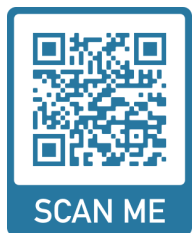
Visit: www.interfaithwa.org

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: InterfaithFamilyShelter

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: Interfaith.Family.Shelter



Program Impact: Total Number of Individuals we Served in 2022—23

200 people
The Family Shelter



75 people
Scattered site shelters



260 people
Rapid Rehousing

Supporter Spotlight: County Councilmember Megan Dunn

Megan Dunn remembers a volunteer outreach event on the hottest day of 2022. “We met an un-housed pregnant woman who didn’t want to leave her boyfriend. It was heart-breaking not having health and preventive services to offer, that we couldn’t do more than give her a popsicle and water.”

Dunn, who has been the **Snohomish County Council District 2 Representative** since 2020, adds that homeless shelters for families are rare because most shelters either only accept single men or women with children. Over the past two years, she has championed sustainable housing solutions, including spearheading the council’s passage of an Ordinance, allowed by the State Legislature’s *House Bill 1590*, that established an ongoing revenue stream to fund affordable housing and behavioral health facilities. “So far, we’ve largely allowed nonprofits and the faith community to be the safety net for our unhoused neighbors,” she says. “But the need is great, we need to take a more active role in addressing this issue.”



Family homelessness is deeply personal for Dunn. “My grandpa’s family of eight was homeless in Ohio during the Depression, and lived in a church basement. But they later found an apartment and he joined the military. This support allowed us to rebuild ourselves, get housing for the next couple of generations,” she pauses and adds, “and be in the position to help others.”

She says honest conversations about the economics of homelessness are crucial, like “doing more on prevention, rent relief, tenant protection, and landlord dispute resolution.” So is challenging social myths about homelessness. “We don’t often see families because they sleep on couches or in their cars,” she says. “You can’t tell they’re your kid’s friends at school. People need to hear these stories.” Although aware of Interfaith, Dunn became more involved as multiple agencies coordinated human services for the homeless during the pandemic. “Interfaith’s involvement is really important, providing the perspective and value of families’ needs, now and into the future through transformational and sustainable change,” she observes. “Interfaith really meets the need... and we need to protect that.”

Sheltering Families: Roof Repair Volunteers

Rich Menzel is no stranger to the Interfaith Family Shelter. More than 20 years ago, a small nonprofit needed a building to run a shelter for homeless families. “I was on the board at Housing Hope,” he says. “I heard that Interfaith was looking for a home. I knew my parish (Perpetual Help) was not using the convent building, so I mentioned it... and the rest is history.”

This July, Menzel volunteered his skills as a lifelong roofer to recruiting all the materials to replace 1,800 sq. feet of the roof, while also coordinating with volunteers, and himself put in over 40 hours of work installing the new roof!

iHeart is a four-day community impact event organized by the **Grove Church** in Marysville. “We mobilize hundreds of volunteers to find and complete nonprofit and community projects,” says Teresa Kerr, one of the iHeart leads. “This July, we had 17 projects but ultimately completed 29, and had over 600 volunteers sign up.”

Kerr met our ED Jim Dean last year to explore how the Grove Church could support Interfaith’s mission.

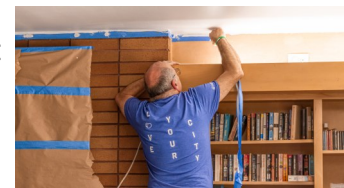
The team committed to the roof repair and worked with local roofing company **Endurant** to make sure that everything was done correctly and up to code.

“We want to support nonprofits that feed community needs and love them,” she says. “Interfaith isn’t just providing temporary shelter. You are helping families make life-style changes, while still staying together during a time of hardship. That’s amazing!”



Photos courtesy
Grove Church

Grove Church



*Would you like
to volunteer
at Interfaith?
Contact us.*



SCAN ME

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