



Newsletter

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

Spring 2019

From Our Executive Director:



Dear Friends of Interfaith Family Shelter,

We debuted our new logo earlier this month, which you can view on our website or Facebook page. We hope you agree that it helps to convey what Interfaith Family Shelter has come to stand for since its inception more than 30 years ago: sheltering families and strengthening community. This new look also marks a new phase of growth and enrichment for Interfaith Family Shelter. In fact, this is just the first of many exciting updates underway. Did you know that the number of families coming through the shelter and transitioning to a stable home is growing?

Among our exciting new updates is the transition to a new donor and volunteer database for Interfaith. Rest assured, your privacy is of utmost importance to us, and we are making this decision with great care. Our new database will allow us to better communicate with our amazing supporters, such as yourself.

Interfaith invites you to join a number of upcoming events, which are listed on the back side of this page. When you choose to support Interfaith, you are making the choice to change someone's life.



Thank you,
Jim Dean



Resident Spotlight



The Learning Hour teaches children more than just homework skills

While staying at the Family Shelter, two young boys, Al and Bob*, got into a heated physical argument. The argument started with someone accidentally bumping into another person. The boys both swung at each other until the Child & Family Advocate was able to separate them. This staff member placed the two boys into separate rooms for ten minutes in an attempt to let them cool down from the altercation. There was a history of conflict between Al and Bob, as well as between their families. The boys were very angry with each other. After their ten-minute break from Learning Hour, the boys returned. Al apologized to the staff, and then Al apologized to Bob. Then, Al extended his hand to Bob for a hand shake. Bob apologized to Al.

Al and Bob are in second grade and fourth grade. Even at such young ages, children at the Family Shelter are learning and building lifelong skills. As parents work with case managers to develop permanent housing plans, children work together with the Child & Family Advocate to develop learning and social skills for their future success at school and in life.



"I was so proud of them that it gave me chills," says Julie, Child & Family Advocate at Interfaith Family Shelter. Julie operates the Learning Hour for school-aged children living at the Shelter.

*Child names have been changed to protect the identities of minors



Cars to Housing

A partnership project between Interfaith Family Shelter & Everett Faith in Action

Everett Faith in Action and Interfaith Family Shelter have partnered to launch the safe family parking pilot program, "Cars to Housing." The city of Everett will award an initial grant for site enhancements and case management services.

In Snohomish County, it is estimated that a third of unsheltered people live in their vehicles. With no vacancies in the current emergency shelter units, an increasing number of families opt to live together inside their vehicles. Cars to Housing seeks to address this gap in services by providing safe parking to these families. Cars to Housing is a 90-day transitional program that places these families into permanent housing or other shelter units.

A local church will be designated to host the physical parking lot for Cars to Housing. Interfaith Family Shelter will provide all case management services, which includes screening and intake, parking resident affairs, and rehousing plans.

Interfaith has worked hard to address key points of this project with the City of Everett, Everett Police Department, Everett School District, Everett Neighborhood Associations, and Congressman Rick Larsen.

For questions or "How to Help" regarding Cars to Housing, please contact Jim Dean at Interfaith Family Shelter.

Sheltering Families Fund



May 8, 2019
Save-the-Date

Help us beat our goal!

Sheltering Families, Strengthening Community

You can become a part of the solution. Did you know Interfaith has the highest success rate of rehousing families in the County? 82% of our clients successfully complete their housing plans by obtaining permanent housing. When you choose to partner with Interfaith, you are choosing a better future for families, and a better future for Everett.

The Sheltering Families Fund creates the possibility for our programs to thrive. You can provide our families and clients with the opportunity to achieve permanent housing. This fund directly supports Shelter operations, children's programs, and case management services.

The Family Shelter served 189 individuals last year, and we are on track to serve more this year. 116 of those individuals were children. The Learning Hour, the after-school homework tutoring program at the Shelter, had an increase in attendance above 500% over the last several months, thanks to donors like you!

May 8, Give Here:

<https://www.givebig2019.org/interfaith-family-shelter>

Donate Your Car!

The Interfaith Family Shelter has teamed up with Volunteers of America!

Did you know you can donate your car to charity? VOA will pick up your vehicle from most of Western WA. VOA takes cars, trucks, and off-road vehicles.

Then, VOA donates the proceeds to Interfaith! Visit car4voa.org for full details.

Congratulations!

Interfaith extends our congratulations to our friends at Cocoon House on their brand new facility opening!

Follow us on Facebook for faster news updates!



InterfaithFamilyShelter

Upcoming Events

- May 4 - Comcast Cares Day
 - 8:00am @ Family Shelter | Check our website for registration details
- May 8 - GiveBig 2019 Fundraiser
 - Online giving day in WA | see above for details
- May 21 - Shawn O'Donnell's Pub Trivia
 - 5:30pm @ Everett location | Celebrate with Interfaith staff & raise money for our Children's Programs!
- TBD - Interfaith Volunteer Appreciation Day
 - Check back for date! Ice cream social at the Family Shelter to celebrate our many amazing volunteers!