



INTERFAITH
Family
Shelter

December 2021

Winter 2021 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,
with children, facing homelessness

From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

We have a vision at the Interfaith Family Shelter — **that no child sleeps unsheltered outdoors tonight.**

Over the past several years, we have made some wonderful additions toward this goal. **Cars to Housing** opened in 2019 to help create a safer place for families to park and sleep until we can get them into housing. **Miracle House** opened in early 2020, and increased our total capacity to 13 shelter units. And **Cars to Housing 2** opened in July, 2021.



Between now and the end of the year, we will also open a second house to shelter families in south Everett. This will provide three more shelter units in our county for families, allowing us to help over 60 families each year find safe, stable housing.

All of these amazing efforts could not have happened without partnerships with **Cascade View Presbyterian Church, Hope Church Everett** and **Marysville United Methodist Church.**

To further secure the Interfaith Family Shelter's future, we are raising funds to buy our current shelter in the **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Convent.** Through a combination of grants, government funding, and donations from businesses, foundations, and donors, we will finally have an enduring future—this was beyond our reach when we leased this site from year to year. Thanks to YOU, our Board of Directors and our community partners, we can confidently approach a time when truly no child sleeps outdoors tonight.

Sincerely,

John Dean

Executive Director

Our Family Shelter

We have big news about our main location, the Family Shelter, in downtown Everett! We have leased this former convent for the past 22 years through a generous arrangement with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church (Archdiocese of Seattle).

Now, with major changes looming in the parish, the Interfaith Family Shelter plans to purchase this building from the Archdiocese of Seattle. When successful, this new arrangement will ensure that the Family Shelter continues to exist at this location.


Ideally, we hope to secure a long-term 45-year forgivable loan from the Washington State Housing Trust Fund—with no-interest or payment—as long as we keep using the building for the same purpose that it was purchased.


This ambitious plan also requires funding from other grant sources. And we also welcome your support and guidance to make this possible.

More details to come soon!



Visit our website: www.interfaithwa.org/

 : @InterfaithFamilyShelter

 : @FamilyShelterWA

 : Interfaith.Family.Shelter

Number of Children Served by our Programs each Year

2016—17
114



2017—18
116



2018—19
147



2019—20
135



2020—21
113

Donor Spotlight: Meet the Atkinsons

"The highest compliment a donor can give a nonprofit – to trust and believe in its mission so much that they ensure sustainability in perpetuity." And so we learned about longtime donors Libby and Chuck Atkinson's recent generous gift: a brand-new designated fund through the Community Foundation of Snohomish County (CFSC) that will solely benefit the Interfaith Family Shelter!

Libby and Chuck first got involved with Interfaith as volunteers through the United Church of Christ more than 28 years ago. "At that time, it was the Interfaith Association of Snohomish County, a small organization run by a few local churches," says Chuck. Church members provided dinner, an overnight stay, and early breakfast to a handful of families in the basement of the Bethany Building on Broadway. As Interfaith grew to encompass diverse local faith and community groups, the Atkinsons eventually took on leadership roles. Chuck has been a Board member since 2011, and also serves as Treasurer. Libby volunteers on our Development and Event committees.



Photo: Nani Chavez

"We're both big believers in keeping families together as much as possible," says Libby. "We've always loved that about Interfaith's mission." She pauses and adds, "Interfaith helps families get housing and build relationships, but preserves their dignity and pride along the way." The Atkinsons appreciate how Interfaith has expanded in recent years. "Every program is an improvement," notes Libby, "a step forward to meet a complex and changing social need." They launched the **Libby and Chuck Atkinson Fund for Interfaith** with the CFSC in June, 2021. "We both wanted to do something in perpetuity to support Interfaith," says Chuck. "It will be a steady source of revenue that supports Interfaith's evolving mission, beyond ourselves," agrees Libby. This legacy fund will disburse a consistent percentage of annual earned income to Interfaith. And anyone can give to the Atkinsons' fund to support Interfaith's programs. [Would you like to learn more about Legacy Giving](#) or [how to donate to the Atkinsons' fund?](#) Contact www.cf-sc.org to learn more.

Thank you!

A BIG thank you to everyone who made our annual Families Together fundraiser a huge success!

Through your generosity, we raised **\$28,311**—almost the same amount as last year. We could not have done it without you—thank you!

And that's not all: We had **111** attendees, which was 25% more than last year.

Your support makes all the difference to families in our community!



Families Together 2021

Staff Spotlight: Lynn Barashkoff

Lynn Barashkoff has been Interfaith's Child & Family Advocate since July 2021. A former educator, she enjoys working with families and helping them navigate all things related to school. She's a cheerleader for attending school consistently, working with school staff, and helping kids at the shelter with homework during daily Learning Hour. Fridays are game days, and include everything from fun activities to competitive UNO card games!

Lynn describes children at the shelter as intuitive and resilient. She cherishes being able to build supportive relationships and celebrate the little moments with them. "I try to emphasize positivity and humor in all interactions with the kids and their parents," she says. "It's so important to foster positive family relationships."



Lynn Barashkoff and a student playing UNO

Lynn relies on support from staff and volunteers, and even her own family. "I love introducing the shelter to my family, so we can all help enrich the lives of these awesome children," she says with a smile.

Interfaith Association of NW Washington

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