



INTERFAITH
Family
Shelter

November 2019

Winter 2019 Newsletter

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

From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday of the year. Why? Well, it's not because of the turkey and all the fixings. It is because this is one holiday that all of us, regardless of our faith or our ethnicity, celebrate. It is also the one holiday (if you leave out Black Friday) that has not yet been commercialized out of recognition.



I also love Thanksgiving for what it calls us to do. We are called to express gratitude for what we have and who we are. It is a time to celebrate and give thanks for the gifts that we have been given. We do not stop often enough and give thanks for the important gifts of life and love.

I give thanks for a wonderful spouse and family. Yes, they try me sometimes, but overall they are a truly delightful gift. I give thanks for a dynamic and exciting job. In my time with the Interfaith Family Shelter, I have seen what we can be when we work together and focus on helping people. A tremendous staff collaborating makes this job a joy, and also leads to great outcomes for the residents of our shelters.

I give thanks for the leadership of an active and engaged board, who both lead me and help me lead. Finally, I am thankful for you, who supports the work that we do at the shelter in so many ways. I am very happy that we continue this beautiful relationship.

Sincerely,

Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Celebrated on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving—and after the craziness of Black Friday and Cyber Monday—**Giving Tuesday** kicks off the charitable season, prompting many to focus on holiday and end-of-year giving.

This year, we are showcasing the many ways in which people support the Interfaith Family Shelter, including through donations, gifts, funds, time, and expertise.

Every week, we will hear from a member of the Interfaith community (see the Donor Spotlight on p. 2). Your generosity helps us to serve families in need.

Share the journey on our:

Website: interfaithwa.org/gt-2019/

: @InterfaithFamilyShelter

: @FamilyShelterWA

#GIVINGTUESDAY

A Holiday Guide to Giving

Would you like to donate items or gifts to the Interfaith Family Shelter this holiday season?
Visit our website's [How to Help](#) page for a guide to holiday giving.

Donor Spotlight

This holiday season, we are exploring different ways in which your contribution helps families in need. Why do you support the Family Shelter? And how do you give? Here is one donor's story.

Helen Jolly first learned about the Family Shelter years ago through **Holy Rosary Parish** in Edmonds: "A lovely lady who used to work at the shelter, Janet Pope, knew we were doing a Giving Tree. She called the parish to ask if the shelter could become a part of it." Eventually, she and Janet met to discuss what the church could do. Later, a friend who delivered the gifts told her, "Whatever more you can give them next year, please do it. That place is wonderful! It's run phenomenally well on a shoestring budget." Since then, Holy Rosary Parish has given a little more to the shelter every year. For the past 15 years, she has arranged Christmas gifts for all our shelter clients, as an extension of the Giving Tree at Holy Rosary Parish. Giving is ingrained in Helen's nature: "I help with a quilting program with Monroe State Penitentiary, and I donate some of these quilts to the shelter. These are made by incarcerated men, it's so rewarding for them to know that they're giving back to the community." She is a firm supporter of the Family Shelter, "It supplies a huge service to the community. I've visited the shelter many times, and I've seen the good you do." She remembers meeting a young African refugee mother and her son at the shelter once, "She was fleeing a very abusive relationship. But she has since moved on and is now able to sustain herself and her boy. The staff really does great work!"



Holy Rosary Parish, Edmonds

Are you interested in donating to the shelter? Visit [How to Help on our website](#) to see what's most useful for our clients this holiday season.

Families Together: Our 2019 Benefit Fundraiser

The annual Interfaith Family Shelter benefit fundraiser was on October 24, 2019, at the Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo. We hosted a diverse audience, representing a range of faith and community organizations, all of whom had one thing in common: the desire to help Snohomish families transition from homelessness into permanent and stable homes. With your help, we raised more than \$21,000 in one night! Thank you very much!



Our keynote speaker, **Dr. Joyce Stewart**, stressed the power of compassionate and supportive intervention in changing the trajectory of people's lives—especially

for children and youth struggling to overcome homelessness.



Dr. Joyce Stewart & Jim Dean

Former shelter client, **Ricky Naffziger**, also shared his personal success story. He revealed how becoming a dad changed his perspective, and made him want to create a stable home for his little daughter. Ricky explained how the Interfaith Family Shelter helped him—a single dad—to overcome addiction and homelessness, and reunite with his little girl. They now share a happy home as they face a hopeful future!



Ricky Naffziger with Jim Dean

Interfaith Association of NW Washington

P.O. Box 12824

Everett, WA 98206 - 2824

www.interfaithwa.org | Ph: (425) 252-6672 | jdean@interfaithwa.org