



INTERFAITH  
Family  
Shelter

March 2024

# Spring 2024 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,  
with children, facing homelessness

## From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

Anyone who has a Human Service need in Snohomish County is supposed to contact 211, which directs people to services that meet their needs. Last year, 32% of all 211 calls were for Housing or Homelessness needs — and 38% of that subset specifically asked about rental assistance. This is the single largest need among the hundreds of 211 call requests.



The Interfaith Family Shelter meets this very need through our Homeless Prevention Program, which started just before the COVID pandemic, and has since supported hundreds of families. This program has made remarkable inroads in the effort to keep people in our community from becoming homeless.

Although the program's operational costs are funded by the Whitehorse and EverTrust Foundations, we need your help with the Client Assistance funds. It currently takes about \$1,700 to help a family stay housed when there is a crisis. Our goal is to serve at least 40 families per year, and we need more funding designated to rental assistance. We're exploring other avenues to build Client Assistance funds—and we would love your support!

On a related note, it is wonderful to see kids and parents at our new Faith Family Village Pallet shelter, which is now almost at its total capacity of eight families. Whatever the need, we're here to help families rebuild their lives and get stable permanent housing.

**Executive Director**

## Just \$1,700 can keep a family off the streets

What's the best way to tackle family homelessness in our community?

How about keeping them housed, so that they avoid the financial and emotional upheaval created by homelessness?

Our **Homeless Prevention Program** turns four this spring. In that short time, it has saved thousands of dollars by helping families keep their homes.

Sometimes, a little financial help is all it takes to overcome a rough patch.



**Your gift of \$1,700 is all it takes  
to keep a family housed.**

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

**Visit:** [www.interfaithwa.org](http://www.interfaithwa.org)

**And follow us on:**

: InterfaithFamilyShelter

: @FamilyShelterWA

: Interfaith.Family.Shelter



SCAN ME

## The **HOMELESS PREVENTION PROGRAM** turns four!

2021

14 clients; 35% still housed  
after 6 months



2022

38 clients; 79% still housed  
after 6 months



2023

44 clients; 50% still housed  
after 6 months

## Client Spotlight: Barry Labin

Barry Labin and his family are doing a lot better right now than they were a few weeks ago. Previously, they lived in Auburn where Labin worked as a forklift operator. They had a home of their own and a daily routine.

All that changed quite suddenly, as the family unexpectedly became unhoused, and Labin found himself simultaneously job hunting and struggling to put a roof over his young children's heads. Labin has three school-aged children, "two boys and a girl," he says proudly.

Shortly thereafter, the family moved to Everett. "It was a struggle before we came to Interfaith," Labin shares. "We stayed in the car for two months. Eventually, I asked my father to take the children for a while." The staff at his kids' school first told him about the Interfaith Family Shelter. "I didn't have much hope," he says, "because other shelters in Everett and Seattle had said there was no room for us. But I called Interfaith and they said come on in."

The family is currently staying in one of the Faith Family Village pallet shelter units. "It's better than living in the car," says Labin. "A lot better. Our bodies are warm. We have a heater, air conditioning, bunk beds, and a shared kitchen. The kids like it here: they say it's a new place, a new house. So it's good for them. Eventually, I would like to get an apartment."

The emergency family shelter unit has allowed Labin to start getting his life back on track. "I'm waiting on my license renewal," he says. "And then I will start applying for jobs." He hopes to get back into the type of job he had before, as a forklift operator. But for now, he's grateful to have a roof over his family's heads. "Thank you to Interfaith's supporters and donors," he voices. "I appreciate everything you did for me and my family."



*Barry Labin and his three young children are among the first family clients at the Faith Family Village pallet shelter.*

## Donor Spotlight: Deception Pass State Park Retreat Center

Last month, the Interfaith Family Shelter received a wonderful surprise donation of 32 twin-sized camp mattresses from Deception Pass State Park Retreat Center.

"Deception Pass State Park has a history of supporting Washington Communities in any way we can," says Treasurer, Carol Bromel. When a long-lived nature camp program for kids ended recently, the Center searched for shelters that might be able to use the surplus mattresses. "That's when we came across the Interfaith Family Shelter," she concludes.



*Deception Pass State Park Retreat Center*

Several groups came together to collect, store, clean, and eventually deliver this gift to the Family Shelter. "Our park maintenance department, the rangers, and also volunteers from the Deception Pass Park Foundation," notes Bromel.

The Center has a history of supporting social issues that impact local communities, including homelessness. "We are happy that we can be of assistance in a tiny way," she smiles.

***Make a gift or volunteer at Interfaith!  
Contact us to get started.***



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