



INTERFAITH
Family
Shelter

September 2024

Fall 2024 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,
with children, facing homelessness

From Our Executive Director:

Greetings, Friends of Interfaith,

It's been an honor coming into an organization that has done so much over the last several years to shelter families with children in homelessness, and walk with them to find housing. In just over a month of starting my work at Interfaith, I have seen incredible work done by this staff.



Interfaith has made great strides in recent years. As you are well aware, our efforts before and through the COVID-19 pandemic under Jim Dean's leadership was nothing short of remarkable. However, our work is just getting started.

The sober facts are that our intake lines field about 50-60 calls per month from families seeking shelter. Yet our ability to house families within our 90-day program timeframe continues to get tougher each day. There simply is not enough affordable housing developed at the rate to meet the need. I realize these words are not new to many of you and therefore I say: There is much more work to be done.

Until our phone lines stop ringing every day, and we know for sure that all children have a place to lay their heads at night, we will not stop. To all our supporters - you've been with us through thick and thin and we are so grateful. Every little bit counts and goes towards supporting the most vulnerable families in Snohomish County. We wholeheartedly thank you for your trust in what we do.

The beat goes on and so do we.

Executive Director

Save the Date:

Families Together 2024 is on Thurs, Oct 24

Our annual fundraising event **Families Together 2024** is on **Thursday, October 24, 2024 (6-7 p.m.)**. And you're invited!

Following the success of last year's format, we will be hosting both **in-person** (small-group) and **online** attendance options. Whatever your preference, we would love to have you there.

Stay tuned for important updates on how to RSVP, register for an online spot, or connect with your preferred small-group host. And if you would like to host a small group gathering, please reach out and let us know! It has been another amazing year at the Interfaith Family Shelter, and we look forward to celebrating with you.

This year, Families Together falls within our ongoing **2024 Annual Fund Campaign**. All gifts will support the annual campaign and make a difference in families' lives.

Keep reading to learn more and also how you can support families in our community!

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

Visit: www.interfaithwa.org

: InterfaithFamilyShelter

: Interfaith.Family.Shelter



FAITH FAMILY VILLAGE celebrates six months of operation:



Since Feb 2024



10 families



12 children

Passion meets Vision: Meet Lynsey Gagnon!

Lynsey Gagnon knew what she wanted from a very young age. "Service has been my calling since I was 8 years old," she says. "I used to volunteer with my grandfather at a food bank – he was always doing something for others. I've always wanted to be in social services since then." So joining the Interfaith Family Shelter was a logical career move for her. "Working with families and their children has always been my passion," she shares, "and I'm absolutely honored to be working here. I don't take our work lightly – we're literally saving families from further trauma and making an impact on intergenerational poverty."

Lynsey is both excited and honored to join Interfaith. "We grew five new programs under Jim Dean's tenure," she notes. "We now operate 29 family shelter units and support 40-45 families a year through rental assistance." But she recognizes the ongoing need around this daunting social issue. "We see homelessness on our streets every day—but families with children are rarely seen, they're hidden," she observes. "Our staff see the reality, and that it's harder than ever for families to meet their basic needs."



Lynsey Gagnon is Interfaith's new Executive Director.

As she takes the reins as the Interfaith Family Shelter's **new Executive Director**, Lynsey's vision is twofold: "My hope is that we can develop more emergency shelter units, and more opportunities to keep families in their homes through our Prevention program." She goes on, "A big priority for me is to also be a place where staff love to work. I am inspired by my staff: from walking beside families through countless housing applications, access to food and meals, helping them pay rent to stay housed and find jobs, and ensuring their kiddos are supported in school and overall development... This skims the surface of what this amazing organization does day-in and day-out. I want to support our amazing team so that they can provide the best support for families in our care."

In her spare time, Lynsey prioritizes enjoying time with her own family, taking short trips or relaxing at home. "We're eagerly awaiting our baby girl, due later this year, and growing our family!" she smiles.

The 2024 Annual Fund Campaign: Help us raise **\$140,000**

The Interfaith Family Shelter launched the **2024 Annual Fund Campaign** on September 03, 2024. This fundraising drive plays a vital role in supporting operating expenses—everything from maintenance, to shelter supplies, to emergency needs for our programs, and much more.

We need to raise **\$140,000** by the end of this year... and you can help!

You may receive a letter in the mail about this, an email from our staff, or even a phonecall from our campaign volunteers. Please help support this important need—and also spread the word among your own networks.



2024 Annual Fund Campaign
Goal: \$140,000

Our annual fundraising event **Families Together** also falls within this Annual Fund drive, and all proceeds will count toward the overall campaign goal.

We encourage you to support this event by attending either in person or online—and to invite others to join you!

This is a great opportunity to introduce your friends and family to the important work that the Interfaith Family Shelter does for so many families and children in our local communities. Thanks for all your support!



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

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