



INTERFAITH
Family
Shelter

November 2024

Winter 2024 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,
with children, facing homelessness

From Our Executive Director:

Greetings, Friends of Interfaith,

This year has just flown by! Around this time of year, many of us reflect on good and bad times, what went well, what could've gone better... and most importantly, give thanks.



At Interfaith, we share a gratitude at the end of every meeting: What are you grateful for? It's a time for staff to stop and reflect. This practice supports our commitment to a trauma-informed environment: if we're not supporting our staff, how does that trickle down to the families we serve? Our work is often challenging and difficult, and this perspective helps us refocus on the good.

There are many to thank at Interfaith: our amazing funders and donors who keep the doors open; our staff who work tirelessly to serve families and children; and the countless volunteers who help provide the best possible environment for families in our care.

I'm especially thankful to all our faith partners who support our mission by contributing space to house families. Without you, we simply wouldn't be able to operate our four shelter sites, the 24 shelter units, and 5 safe parking spots that we operate today.

I encourage you to pause and ponder a gratitude. For me, I am grateful for my family and the health that I have to chase after my kids. I'm also grateful to be able to work toward supporting our community's growth, one family at a time.

Thank you for being a valued supporter of the Interfaith Family Shelter. We are grateful for you!


Executive Director

Families Together 2024 was a success!

A big thank you to everyone who made our annual fundraiser event **Families Together 2024** a success! We had **75** supporters join us online and at in-person watch parties: and we raised **\$27,500!**

We are also thrilled to share that we met the **Donor Match Challenge** and raised **\$35,200** toward the Annual Fund! Thank you to everyone who has supported us—you are helping drive programs that make a difference in families' lives.



Your year-end giving makes a difference 

Our ongoing **2024 Annual Fund Campaign** drive now needs to raise just over **\$19,000** by **December 31** to meet the \$140,000 target!

As you plan your End-of-Year gifts and tax-deductible donations, consider supporting this important campaign.

Interfaith is committed to serving even more families—and your support can make that happen!

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



Visit: www.interfaithwa.org

 : InterfaithFamilyShelter

 : Interfaith.Family.Shelter

In 2024, by **Oct 31**, our shelter programs had served:



68 families



99 adults



133 children

Community Partner Spotlight: Coastal Community Bank

"Coastal Community Bank has always been believed that business should give back to communities it serves," says **Curt Queyrouze**, President at Coastal Community Bank (CCB). "We believe that being a good neighbor and giving back is critical to success." The Everett-based bank, founded in 1997, has 14 branches serving Snohomish, Island, and King Counties. While their *community bank* offers traditional full-service banking services for individuals and businesses, their *service division* provides banking infrastructure, compliance oversight, and FDIC coverage for clients.



L to R: Junior Khim (VP, Branch Manager, Everett), Curt Queyrouze (President) & Susan Green (SVP Business Banking) at the Family Shelter.

CCB has worked with the Interfaith Family Shelter for more than 11 years. "Our bankers and lenders have supported this valued relationship over time," shares Queyrouze, "including providing PPP (paycheck protection program) loans during the pandemic. We appreciate the services that Interfaith provides and want to support it in any way we can."



In recent years, CCB has also supported important fundraising needs, such as the 2023 Capital Campaign to purchase the Family Shelter and the Annual Fund campaign. "We are a local bank," says Queyrouze. "Our employees work and live here.

We see firsthand that there are not enough resources or housing options to tackle homelessness, especially for families with children." CCB supports financial stability through Access Checking Accounts: affordable and functional accounts to begin building a family's banking foundation. CCB also hosts a free online self-guided financial education platform that teach users budgeting and saving skills.

Interfaith's mission is personal for Queyrouze. "My own family was formed through foster care after our children experienced homelessness," he shares. "There are many ways families end up in need. We can all find ways to ensure that every child has an equal chance at a safe and stable childhood."

Client Perspective: Junice & Lewis

When they left Georgia for Washington in search of a better life for their family, Junice and Lewis had no idea that their plans to stay with family would fall through. Soon the family of four—with a baby on the way—found themselves living out of their van. Determined to succeed, both parents found jobs. But when their van unexpectedly broke down, the family reached out to Interfaith for shelter and a way out.

"Staff encouraged us to take a breather and adjust," Junice says, remembering early days at Interfaith. Both parents are hard workers. They traded work shifts and saved up, eventually getting another car.

"Interfaith staff were really there to help, they pointed us in the right direction," says Lewis. The family is now housed, while Junice is on paid family leave and they enjoy time with their new baby. "Interfaith helped us get off the streets and find housing. Thank you so much!" says Junice.

Volunteer of the Year: Kathy Pemberton

Kathy Pemberton has volunteered at Interfaith since 2018. A retired teacher, she wanted to do her part to help with family homelessness.

"I still enjoy working with the kids," she shares, "and working with Lynn is an absolute joy!" Besides the Children's Program, Kathy also frequently

lends a hand in the community garden at the Family Shelter. "I enjoy gardening and love being able to work there," she adds.

She hopes to continue supporting Interfaith into the future. "Interfaith is very well run and helps so many people in need. I pray it continues to get the support it needs," she says.

Thank you, Kathy!

**Volunteer at Interfaith, like Kathy!
Contact us**



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