



INTERFAITH
Family
Shelter

June 2025

Summer 2025 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,
with children, experiencing homelessness

From Our Executive Director:

Greetings,

A lot can happen in a year. I have been reflecting on that as I wrap up my first year at Interfaith.

Change and transitions are constant. We've tackled much-needed improvements

to family units, consolidated our staff offices, and are navigating the massively uncertain government funding landscape... to name a few recent updates. These are certainly difficult times for all of us.

Yet the families we serve navigate uncertainty and more urgent concerns on a daily basis. Imagine having to think about where you and your kids are going to sleep tonight or tomorrow? Or if your vehicle has enough gas to get to school or work? Imagine waiting until your next payday to purchase wipes for your baby.

Reality hits us hard with each new family we welcome into our shelters. Learning about what they have navigated prior to coming through our doors tells us a lot about where they've been and what they've been through... but it doesn't tell us everything.

This is where Interfaith makes a difference – we remind families that hope isn't lost. A lot of challenging and terrible things can happen in a year. But the reverse is also true, and a lot can happen that takes you in new and better directions: a baby can take her first steps, a parent can advance at work, and a family can move into an affordable home. Hope can be just around the corner, and Interfaith is helping families find theirs again.

Lynsey Gagnon
Executive Director



DOUBLE your gift through Employer Matching!

Did you know that many employers match their employees' monetary gifts and donations? It's true!



This may even be possible for retired employees and spouses, depending on the company.

Some employers also offer volunteer grants, paid volunteer time off, and other incentives for their employees to support nonprofits. It's an easy way to double your gift and its impact—and it makes a world of difference to us!

Over 26 million individuals across the country work for companies with gift-matching programs, according to Double the Donation.

We have everything prepared for you—all you need to do is take a couple of minutes to set up the employer match. And then let Double the Donation handle the rest of the process!

Visit interfaithwa.org/employer-matching to get started.

Learn more and support us with a one-time or recurring gift:

www.interfaithwa.org



SCAN ME

InterfaithFamilyShelter

interfaith.familyshelter

Since 2008*, we have served:



911 families



4,516 individuals



2,557 children

*from Snohomish County homeless database

We are celebrating 40 years of serving families with children in Snohomish County – it’s an amazing moment for celebration and reflection. And few things are more amazing than uplifting supporters who have been with us from the very beginning – like **Chuck and Libby Atkinson**. The Atkinsons first got involved as volunteers through the United Church of Christ (Everett), along with other pioneer supporters: Betty and Randy Fisher, and Don and Debbie Whitfield.

“We were the first *family* shelter in Snohomish County,” remembers Chuck. “It was always all about families with children, since there are already other places solely for men and women.”

At the time, the shelter was able to house up to five families overnight, and operated out of the basement of the former Bethany Home on Broadway. There was also a kitchen, a shower, and a room for an overnight volunteer host from participating churches. “Volunteers would provide food and arrive by 6 pm to start letting families in,” says Chuck. “Families had to be sober to enter – they could grab a shower, a meal, and spend the night. But then they had to be out by 7 am the next morning, which was often heartbreaking. Many of them would head to the library to spend the day.”



INTERFAITH
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Serving families
with children

Over the decades, the Atkinsons have watched Interfaith grow, hire full-time staffers, move into the current flagship location, and expand into scattered site, safe parking, and tiny-home programs. Perhaps their favorite development has been the Children’s Program. “I really like that you now have programs to help the kids and take them to school,” observes Libby. “That didn’t exist back in those early days, and it makes a world of difference.”

A testament to their passion for our mission, the Atkinsons have remained closely involved for 40 years: Chuck served on the Board for a decade, and also serves on our Finance Committee, and Libby served on the Development Committee for several years. Their commitment to preserving Interfaith’s legacy into the future prompted them to set up the **Libby & Chuck Atkinson Fund for Interfaith** – a designated fund that makes an annual disbursement to support all our programs. “I have always been very proud of being involved,” smiles Libby. “Interfaith does such amazing work, and I can’t imagine this community without it.”

New Faces around the Interfaith Family Shelter

Board of Directors: We’re excited to welcome two new Board members! **Martha Baldwin** (CPA) and **Joy Barrow** (Substance Use Dependency Counselor) joined Interfaith’s Board in May, 2025. Our Board represents varied sectors that impact our mission. They provide strategic leadership, oversight, and guidance for all our programs.

Would you like to volunteer and serve on our Board? Let us know & submit an interest form: interfaithwa.org/our-board

Staff: Our staff has grown in recent months, and we are thrilled to welcome our newest additions:



Bakari Shabazz
Evening Shelter Monitor



Trinity Magee
Child & Family Advocate (Madison Family Shelter program)



Lacrisha Brown
Rapid Rehousing Case Manager



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