



INTERFAITH  
Family  
Shelter

# Winter 2025 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,  
with children, experiencing homelessness

December 2025

## From Our Executive Director:

Happy Winter, friends!

As we gear up for another holiday season, people begin thinking about gift-giving and the joy that comes from expressing love through the thoughtfulness of a gift. For parents, the joys of the holiday season can often bring



hardships and stress – at times especially like now, where families are simply struggling to put food on the table.

It's not lost on me how it's a privilege to even have a budget for gift-giving, and for families staying in our shelters, most don't have that privilege. That's why we ensure each family has access to local programs that provide gifts for children and their families, in addition to every child in our shelters receiving a holiday stocking to open all their own.

But we know it's not about the gifts, is it? It's about being together to share in the joy of the holiday season. Our staff have a tradition of hosting a holiday party for all residents that brings in Santa for photos with the children, ample snacks and treats, and a warm room decorated from head-to-toe. Families can create a special moment with their children, during one of the most difficult times of their lives.

I'm thankful for our supporters like you that help us create these moments for families we serve while navigating life in a shelter. We believe every family should experience the joy of the holiday season, and your support helps us make that possible!

**Lynsey Gagnon**  
Executive Director

## We're so close to our \$150,000 target for the 2025 Annual Fund

Thank you to everyone who has given to support the 2025 Annual Fund Campaign! We're so close to our goal!



This campaign supports ongoing operations at all our shelter programs, and we need to raise **\$150,000**.

The Families Together gala was on October 16. We were back in person once again, for the first time in five years... and this event brought in almost \$55,000! A big thank you to everyone who attended and helped support us!

With end-of-year giving just around the corner, please consider making your tax-deductible gift toward this important campaign. With your help, we can make sure that Interfaith continues to help even more families overcome homelessness!

Visit [interfaithwa.org](http://interfaithwa.org) to learn more and make your gift.

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



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

InterfaithFamilyShelter

interfaith.familyshelter

## The Children's Program is expanding its impact:



**112**  
families served  
each year



**234**  
children served  
each year



**548**  
Learning Hour participants  
(since Jan 2025)

Hospitality House is almost three years old - our second scattered site shelter is located in Everett on the premises of Cascade View Presbyterian Church. This cozy house accommodates up to three families with children at a time, and typically serves about 12 families each year.

As with all our shelter programs, volunteers play a huge role in helping our staff support these families: volunteers like **Karen Mirante**, who has been involved with Hospitality House from the very beginning. "I am a long-time member of Cascade View Presbyterian Church," says Mirante, "and I was on the church task force to connect with the Interfaith Family Shelter back in 2022 to get Hospitality House up and running!"

Nonprofit organizations and serving others are familiar terrain for her. "I used to work for the Multicare Foundations many years ago," she shares. My claim to fame was working as Gift Processor and managing the donor database. Since I had a solid background in technology, I ended up in Development work."

At Hospitality House, Mirante does much more than serve on the supporting committee. She also volunteers for Learning Hour at this location - which is our after-school program to help children keep up with schoolwork, as well as other educational and recreational activities. This is a natural fit with Mirante's background.

"I had an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Development and had been working toward my Bachelor's in Early Childhood Education (ECE) at Oregon State University before I dropped out," she says. "Later, I worked for 15 years in ECE in different positions, before transitioning to work in technology."

After she retired, Mirante decided that she wanted to work with children again. She was hired by Housing Hope to work with children while their parents took classes through the College of Hope, and then later worked at Tomorrow's Hope with different age groups. An injury forced her to quit until, much later, she learned that Hospitality House needed volunteers. "So I stepped up to offer my services," she smiles. The rest is history. Thank you, Karen, for all your support!



*Karen Mirante has supported the Hospitality House program for about three years.*

## Supporter Spotlight: 100+ Women Who Care



*100+ Women Who Care members stopped by to drop off the donations that they raised for Interfaith.*

The **100+ Women Who Care about Snohomish County** organize quarterly giving circles to make a tangible difference in their own backyard. By combining their resources with local nonprofits, their collective power impacts local communities.

In October, this group of changemakers voted to support the Interfaith Family Shelter. Co-founder, Susan Rieke, was all smiles as she presented us with a check for \$35,690. "We're very honored to present you with this check," she stated, adding that "This is our 20th Giving Circle, and it brings us close to almost half a million dollars that our group has raised to support local nonprofits." Thank you so much!



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