



## South Hill Rotary Club

Remember the days when “Forrest Gump” and “The Lion King” were the newest movies in the theaters? We do - it was 1994, and an innovative new partnership was beginning on South Hill that would influence homeless families for decades.

South Hill Rotary Club has provided a duplex for our Emergency Housing program for over 16 years as an in-kind donation, allowing us to serve more than 100 families who would have otherwise been without a home and assistance getting back on their feet. Emergency Housing is a 90 day program with intensive case management and fully equipped homes for families with children - an amazing, ongoing Rotary fingerprint on the life and community on Puyallup’s South Hill.

This year, the Club has worked diligently to raise funds and move forward to purchase a 2nd duplex for this program. Projects varied

from the annual South Hill Rotary Auction and twice monthly hot-dog cart at Top Foods, to a massive volunteer-driven parking effort across from the Puyallup Fairgrounds. Business and community leaders all, the Club has proven their ability to mobilize resources and support for the most needy and vulnerable in ways we have not seen in our 26 year history.

South Hill Rotary has been meeting together and serving the community since 1983. Rotary’s long-standing motto is “Service above Self,” which sets the standard by which Rotarians reach out to help the less fortunate of the world - those who live in sickness, hunger and illiteracy. They support a wide variety of projects, school programs and organizations in the community.

We look forward to many more years of creative partnership with our friends in the South Hill Rotary.

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# Christmas Stories

**F**or one generous friend of Helping Hand House, it meant not being a landlord.

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Family circumstances required her to move from the home she had made payments on for years, and yet her desire was to keep the home. She never wanted to be a landlord, and had enough rough experiences with renting her property to decide that something needed to change. Could the community use the home to impact the lives of families in need?

She was aware of Helping Hand House through volunteer work at her church, and soon approached Nola Renz, Helping Hand House's Execu-

tive Director, to talk about the needs and whether or not her situation could help them both. Indeed, there was a great need for housing in east Pierce County for homeless families, and if she was willing, Helping Hand House would be grateful to use her home to place families. The organization would handle case management and reasonable care of the property, and she would be freed from being a landlord!

She did her homework and discovered that the IRS had made provision for people in her situation to write off the actual expenses of donated use of a home, as an in-kind donation to a qualifying 501c3 nonprofit organization.

"I don't know why more people don't do this kind of thing - with

so many houses sitting vacant, and the need so great, it seems like it's a win-win... I'm not a rich person, and I don't own the house outright, but it's a way I can give back to the community and make a difference."

And a difference it is. New stories are being written in the home with each new family - hearts mended after escaping years of domestic abuse. Young eyes shining on Christmas morning at the discovery of gift after gift, each contributed by caring friends in the community. New jobs, new lives - new beginnings. Eleanor Roosevelt once famously said, "The giving of love is an education in itself." Communities can experience this same education, loving daily the most vulnerable among us. Hats off to a generous friend who has made it a reality.



**I**t began with a painting of a dog. Gary had a surprise gift in mind for his wife, Vicki - a painting of their beloved family pets. He commissioned a local artist, Frances Buckmaster, to do the work, and in the midst of their conversations, shared about the desire that they had as a family to make a significant impact in the community, something that was going to make a true and tangible difference. Circumstances had aligned in such a way they had the capacity to invest in something significant, and rapidly.

Frances is an amazing friend of the homeless and a former Board member at Helping Hand House. She told Gary about the mission and work with families, and invited Gary to breakfast with Nola Renz.

This is where the mystery is. Nola described Gary as, "a listener. You could see him listening - hearing and measuring what he was hearing." Our hunch is that this is part of what makes him a savvy businessman - but again, back to the story.

Four days after the New Year, Nola got a call from Gary, asking if she could spare one hour to spend with him. He took her on a tour of several houses. "Which one is your favorite, Nola?" he asked. "I felt so strange answering the question, I didn't know how to answer!" she laughs as she tells us the story. "There was one that was more beautiful than the rest, an incredible model home, nicer than any home I or any of my staff have ever lived in - I wasn't sure exactly what was going to happen, but I had my hunches and wanted the decision to be theirs".

Gary and Vicki had their eye on the same house to purchase as an investment. An investment in the future of a little girl who was preparing for another day in her 4th grade class in the rearview mirror of a 1992 Chrysler minivan, her "bedroom". An investment in a mother who was pining for freedom and safety in the loneliness of her thoughts after another drunken rage from her abusive husband.





## Happy Holidays

My heart is filled to the brim with gratitude for the many opportunities we have experienced this year at Helping Hand House. It is a blessing to do work where you see the results of what you are doing daily. Some examples that stand out for me this year include:

A father of two children, who came to us living in his pick up, became employed and is now graduating from our program at the end of November into his own home where he will

meet all of his family's needs through his new job that pays over \$18.00 per hour.

Another incredible event occurred when a wonderful couple were connected to us, learned about our work, and went out and purchased a brand new, fully furnished model home to be used in one of our transitional housing programs at the beginning of 2010. The family who moved in the home, a single mom with four children, now live close to the schools the children attend, and mom is involved in an educational program to equip her for living wage employment.

As I write this we are preparing to move a single grandmother parenting her three granddaughters into Emergency Housing. Here they can regain their footing with the children attending school, and the grandmother can become engaged in an educational program so she can successfully take care of her family.

These are just a tiny example of the incredible experiences we witness daily. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for each of your significant ways in caring for families who find themselves homeless in our communities. Together we will make a difference in the lives of nearly 300 families this year. Thank you!

Blessings,  
Nola

*Nola B. Long*



An investment in families, families who needed help, but first and foremost needed a place to call home.

At the dedication ceremony, Gary shared passionately about his desire to see lives changed within those four walls, as well as being grateful for the means and the opportunity to share this experience with his daughters. They are joyfully supportive, and have embraced the heart of the mission as much as their dad and mom have.

Ok. We know that the story didn't really begin with a painting of a dog. The indescribably intangible tangibility of desiring to be a part of another's life changing forever was birthed in a heart long before person A met person B. But as stories go, one building upon another, this story is ongoing. The parade of faces, joys, and successes made possible by this caring family will now and always be a part of the Helping Hand House story.



# Helping Hand House

## MISSION

Helping Hand House is dedicated to preventing and ending family homelessness.

## VISION

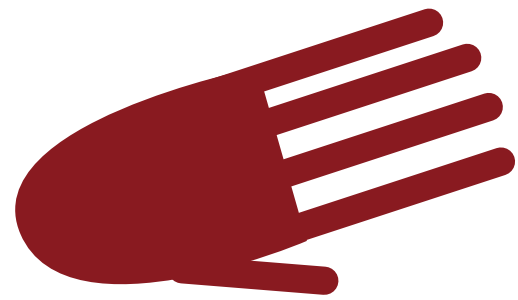
Helping Hand House is dedicated to ending family homelessness by providing caring support, education, and innovative programs designed to empower families to achieve self-sufficiency. Helping Hand House develops and implements model programs in partnership with community resources to strengthen families with children while contributing to healthier communities.

## VALUES

Helping Hand House provides an environment based on integrity, compassion, honesty, respect, integrity, good stewardship, and professionalism through positive and caring relationships.

“AND THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR THEM AT THE INN...”

With the economic crisis across the country and the high unemployment rate here in Pierce County, we are finding ourselves apologizing for being full more than ever before. In 2010, though we have added 20 units of housing, the need continues to far exceed the availability of housing in the programs we offer. Despite this reality, we are proud to report that most of the families we serve make a successful transition to permanent housing, return to the workforce and are now making it on their own.



“FOR EVERYONE WHO ASKS WILL RECEIVE...”

Oh, how we wish this were our reality. That everyone seeking housing services, or rent and utility assistance could be provided with the help that they need. Although we typically work with 60 families each month, we are still unable to assist the 419 families monthly (average) who are seeking our help. This reality continues to grow as we experience the economic downturn over the last years and unemployment continues to rise- putting more families in need of our services.

## House Warming TOURS

Helping Hand House invites you to one of our upcoming “House Warming” tours. They are on the third Saturday of every month (except November and December) from 9:30-10:30 am. We encourage you to come learn more about what we do to serve the community. Our goal is to create an awareness of the growing needs of the homeless families in our communities as well as give you an opportunity to learn how you can make a difference in your community. If you would like to join us please RSVP on our website or call us at (253) 848-6096 Ext. 15 and speak to Jamie Anderson.

Upcoming dates are: January 15th, February 19th, and March 19th

## WISHLIST

The following are items that are consistently needed by the families in our housing programs.

Helping Hand House is always accepting donations of the following items:

- non-perishable food (canned soups, fruit, etc.)
- shampoo & conditioner
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- new pillows
- new or very gently used pots & pans
- new twin and full/queen bed sheets
- new cookie sheets
- new toys for children and teenagers
- household cleaning supplies
- twin/full/queen mattress & box-spring sets
- bed frames
- bunk beds
- new reading books for all ages
- bath towels
- cookware accessories

Tax deduction receipts are provided for all donations.

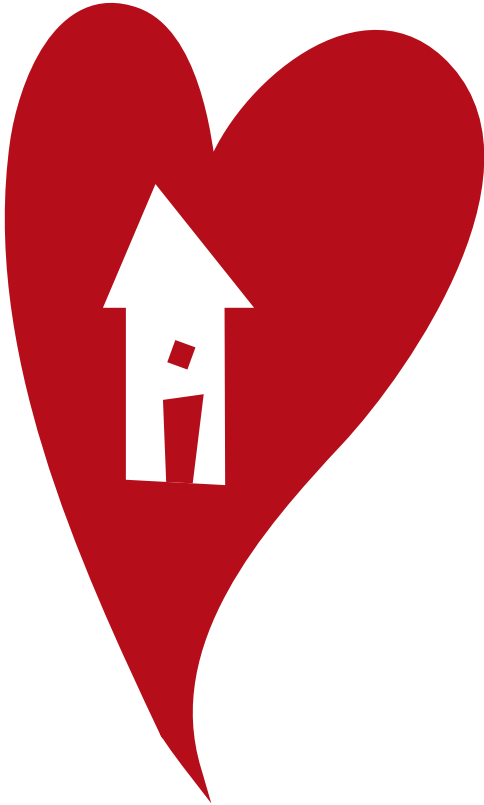
Thank you for your continued support!

# “FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT...”



Not only do we stock the refrigerators and pantries moving a family into one of our homes, we also teach nutrition, food preparation, and food preservation classes. Each of these classes is exciting and well-received by our families. We are always amazed and impressed with the enthusiasm of the families to get involved in these hands-on classes and learn these valuable skills- skills which will impact their children for years to come. They discover the satisfaction and joy of preparing a holiday turkey and making their own pie!

# “I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU TOOK ME IN...”



Working at Helping Hand House opens us up to experience all sorts of daily miracles and transformations. An incredible miracle happened this year: Whenever there has been a need, throughout the entire year, we have been able to call upon many businesses, groups, and individuals for their help – and every time they have come through above and beyond what the need was.

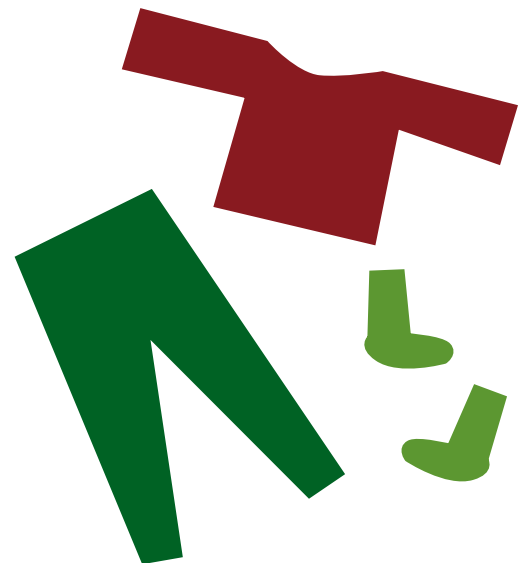
Milgard Windows was no stranger in helping out the families and children that we serve. They shared their compassion and generosity by adopting 50+ children for their birthdays and provided very nice and brand new birthday gifts for each child. They were more than excited to adopt the children – and often at the last minute if a family came into a sudden opening. Without the help of Milgard and other groups throughout the community help in providing birthday gifts, our children would have gone without a present on their birthdays.

This is just one example of the ways friends in the community have used the resources, daily at their fingertips, to lend a hand to neighbors in need.

# “I WAS NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME...”

Thanks to the generous support of donors, 109 children were clothed and prepared for school this year. The case managers take the children school shopping to purchase 2 outfits of clothing, new socks, underwear, shoes, and athletic clothes. We also provide the kids with backpacks full of the school supplies they need and refill those supplies throughout the year as needed. The children are energized to return to school and feel like they fit in with the other kids.

Often parents need work clothes, so we have money set aside to help with that, too. It make be something specific, such as steel toed shoes or nursing scrubs. We work to insure that these needs can be met, removing the obstacles they face in returning to work.



## What does your donation do?

- \$25 - Household cleaning supplies for two units for one month.
- \$35 - Gas for a family to seek employment or drive to work for a week.
- \$65 - School or work clothes for one person.
- \$75 - Birthday presents for five children.
- \$100 - Move-in groceries for one family.
- \$150 - Utilities for one of our houses for one month.
- \$200 - Counseling, tutoring for one family for one month.
- \$500 - Water and sewer costs for four units for one month.
- \$1,000 - Rental assistance for two families facing evictions.
- \$1,200 - Supportive services for one family for one month.
- \$2,500 - Utility assistance for 12 families for one month.
- \$5,000 - Housing and services for 90 days for one family in emergency housing.
- \$10,000 - Rental and utility assistance for 20 families facing evictions and utility disconnections.

## Facts:

As of November 1, we provided the following help in 2010:

- Homeless Prevention- We assisted 203 families, including 283 adults and 466 children.
- Emergency Housing- We assisted 19 families, including 50 adults and 68 children.
- Transitional Housing- We assisted 37 families, including 50 adults and 80 children.
- Front Door Program- We assisted 23 families, including 28 adults and 53 children.
- Rapid Re-Housing Program- We assisted 18 families, including 18 adults and 43 children.
- Almost ¼ of homeless children have been separated from their families to live in foster care or with relatives.
- Families with children are among the fastest growing segments of the homeless population.
- The average age of a homeless person in the U.S. is 9 years old.

*Helping Hand House thanks all of our loyal supporters who have given their time, talent and money during these last months. THANK YOU SO MUCH!*

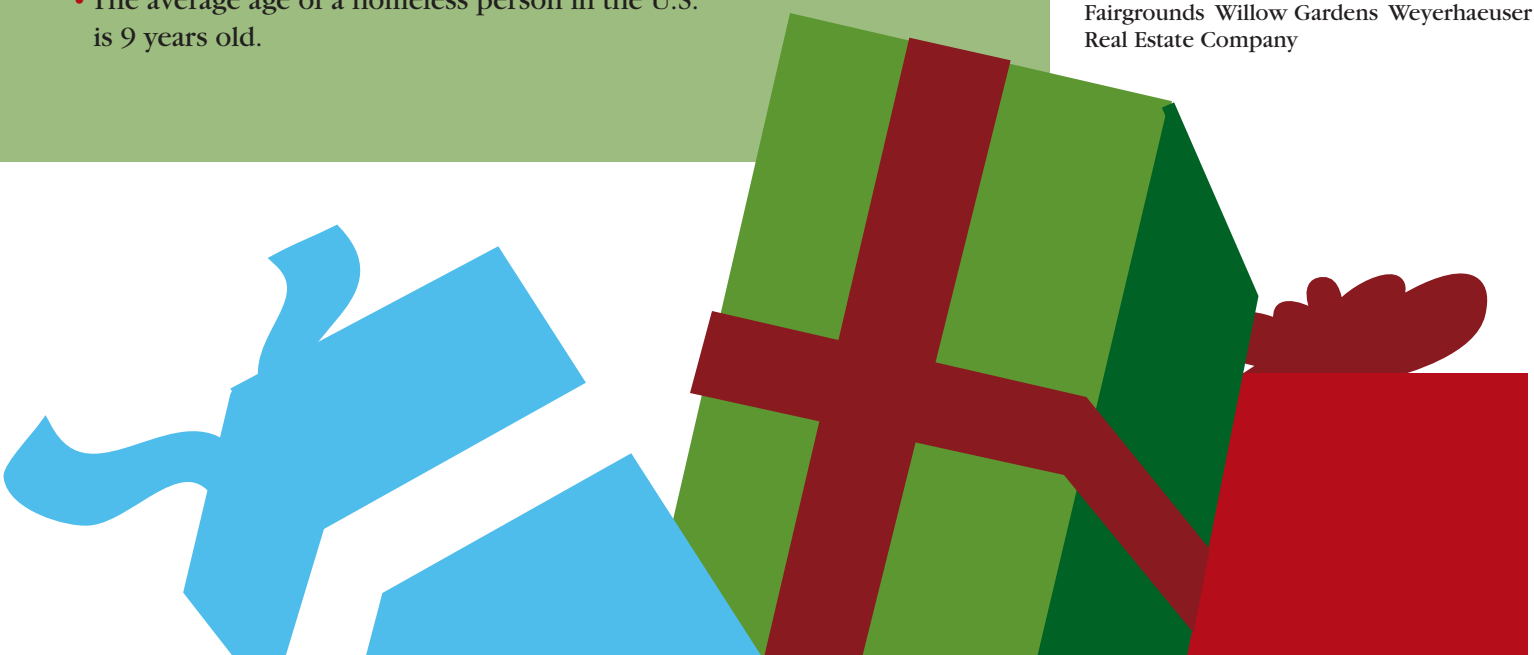
**September 2010 thru November 2010**

### **LIFESAVER SOCIETY**

John & Valorie Backus Eli Berniker & Frances Buckmaster Stephen & Ann Dorsey Kathy Duarte-Wilson Bob & Kathryn Dalton Peter Farnum & Christine Dean Kathryn Hobbs Marion Hogan Robert & Joan Linden Holly Millington Dennis & Kit Modahl Nola Renz Lisa Richardson Terry & Pamela Ruggles Bruce & Jane Sisco Dan Smith Gwen Smith Michele Springsteen Linda Tevis Michael & Karen Thomas Pat Williams

### **BUSINESSES**

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## CHURCHES

Bethany Baptist Church Bonney Lake Community Church Evergreen Presbyterian Church First Presbyterian Church Immanuel Lutheran Church Joy of Life Church Living Word Lutheran Church Mountain View Lutheran Church Our Savior Lutheran Church Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church SOMA Community Church Sumner Presbyterian Church United Methodist Church Unity Center of Tacoma

## GOVERNMENT

ESAP, 2060, 2163 City of Puyallup City of Tacoma-CE ESG Pierce County- ESG, Rapid Re-Housing HGAP HUD Washington Families Fund

## CLUBS/GROUPS

Boy Scouts Cub Scouts Free Cakes for the South Sound Girl Scouts GFWC Valley Volunteers Last Ladies Bunco Club Laureate Alpha Delta Meridian Riding Club Puyallup Valley Quilters South Hill Rotary Club Sumner Rotary Club

## SCHOOLS

Curtis Junior High School Emerald Ridge High School- Interact & Key Clubs Pacific Lutheran University Pierce College Rogers High School - Honor Society & Key Club

## INDIVIDUALS

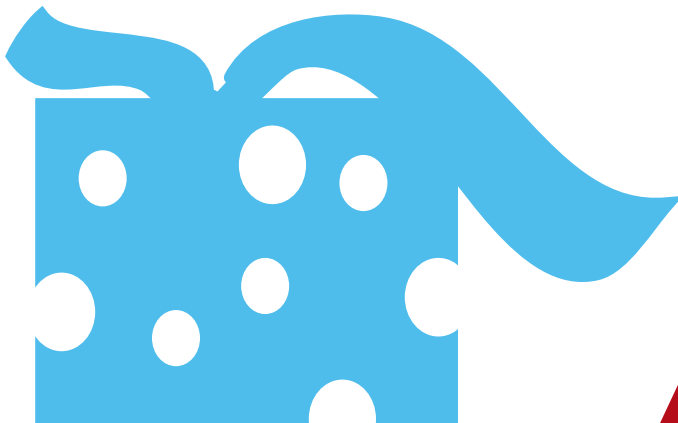
Anonymous June Abbey Annette Anderson Gordon & Margaret Anderson Alice Aumoeuologo Ted & Carole Axtell Chris Backman Kayla Baker Dave Beaucage Jackee Bechtold Chris Bivins Brian Boice Tram Bowen Doug Bowers Raymond Brassard Marge Brouillet Audrey Brown Matt Brown Connie Brown Derek Brown Bill & Anna Burris William & Susan Butenko Edward & Stephanie Caldwell Cara Cateneo Jean Carlson Larry & Patricia Carney Ron & Marianne Cech Troy Christensen Frank Coombs Beth Crossen Richard & Sally Crowe Bob & Kathryn Dalton Karen Davey A.J. Davis James & Marcie Davis Richard Dejean John Denzler Chris & Sara Devine Joan Devine Norma Dompier Stephen & Nancy Dorsey Donetta Drake David & Mary Dula Steve Duncan Bob Duffett

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## GRANTS

Bank of America Building Changes Burlington Northern Railway Foundation Forest Foundation Fuchs Foundation Harvest Foundation Key Bank Foundation Korum for Kids Foundation Milgard Family Foundation Nelson Family Foundation Nisqually Indian Tribe Northwest Children's Fund Safeco Foundation Simpson Charitable Foundation State Farm Mutual The Lucky Seven Foundation United Way of King County United Way of Pierce County United Way of Thurston County U.S. Bank Windermere Foundation

Helping Hand House makes every effort to accurately list the names of our valued donors. If we have inadvertently omitted a name or misspelled a name, please accept our apology. We appreciate your corrections- please call Helping Hand House at (253) 848-6096 ext. 17.



## HHH STAFF

Executive Director: Nola Renz  
Deputy Director: Linda Tevis  
Finance Director: Anna Burris  
Development Director: Jamie Anderson  
Deputy Development Director: Marion Hogan  
Executive Assistant: Becca Damm  
Volunteer Coordinator: Lisa Heintz  
Receptionist/Homeless Prevention Specialist: Melanie Zdunski  
Maintenance Manager: Bill Jones  
Program Manager: Martha Myers  
Rural Bright Futures Specialist: Pat Williams  
Emergency Housing Specialist: Rodney Robinson  
Bright Futures Specialist: Ralph Preston  
Front Door Sumner Program: A.J. Davis  
Rapid Re-Housing Specialist: Trish Mozo



**United Way  
of Pierce County**

## Sign of The Times

In an effort to help the environment and to reduce costs, we offer a paperless copy of our newsletter to our supporters. If you would like to receive a paperless copy rather than the paper copy, please call us at 253-848-6096 ext. 17 and provide your email address or you can email directly to: [lisah@helpinghandhouse.org](mailto:lisah@helpinghandhouse.org)

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