



Housing and Hope

Winter 2012-2013

Stepping Up and Stepping Down

In the book of Ecclesiastes, the writer suggests there is an appropriate time for all things. While it does not specifically mention “retirement,” I think it applies to me in that I feel it is my time to step down as director of St. Stephen Housing Association. Looking back, I accepted this position on a “temporary” basis when we formed SSHA in 1989. Somehow it has extended more than two decades. Every day has been different and I’m still learning.

In the early days of our program, all the work was done by volunteers. We leased eight three-bedroom homes in Kent from King County Housing Authority and contracted the services of a social worker who worked with tenant families and helped them set realistic goals they could work toward during their two-year stay with SSHA. In 2000, with the help of grants from the state, county and local municipalities, we purchased a complex of twelve townhouses in Auburn. This necessitated acquiring additional professional staff—a housing coordinator, office manager and another social worker—all on a part-time basis.

It has been a wonderful experience for me, full of challenges. I’ve truly enjoyed working with the staff, our dedicated Board of Directors, and of course, our incredible volunteers. I’m proud of the fact that SSHA has earned the respect of other King County social service agencies. We have the reputation of working hard to place families with special challenges. This speaks to our mission of serving families in crisis situations.

Now is the time for new leadership for our organization. We need fresh ideas and approaches. Ann Allen, with whom I’ve worked with for many years, has great dedication to our mission, is a good problem-solver and has a positive outlook on life. We will work together to assure a smooth transition. She will do a great job of continuing our vision in her role as the new director of SSHA.

~ Joan Mladineo



Executive Director
Joan Mladineo

From Our New Director:

I am honored to be taking the helm here at St. Stephen Housing Association. I am very grateful to the Board for putting their faith in me and I am thankful to Joan for being my mentor. I will strive to rise to the challenge as I take on this new role.

Having worked in the field of family homelessness since 1994, I am privileged to continue the



Ann Allen

meaningful work of SSHA. This is an exciting time for us. On the national level, there is a new approach to assisting homeless families through housing stabilization. This includes a greater focus on helping families increase their income and reduce their permanent housing barriers, thereby reducing the amount of time that families are homeless. As director, I will continue to build on SSHA’s strong foundation and envision SSHA in the forefront of this new move to reduce family homelessness in the future.

~ Ann Allen

Our Mission

To address the needs of homeless families with children by providing housing with support services to enable families to move toward economic stability and self-sufficiency.

Special thanks to Marshall Denby

Marshall Denby, the driving force behind the founding of SSHA, will retire December 31, 2012. He has been primarily responsible for the fiscal affairs of our organization. Marshall has been a large part of how we have maintained our healthy financial status, even in these difficult times for non-profits. We appreciate his dedication through the years and wish him the best with his new-found leisure time.



Marshall Denby

Remembering Elva: 1923–2012

Elva Deacy was a long-time SSHA volunteer, who passed away on May 3, 2012. She was the Administrative Assistant for Father Lynch when the Parish's main office was located in the Outreach Annex.

Elva always kept us on our toes, correcting our grammar when typing a letter. She was also known for her love of square dancing. At age 89, she was still attending weekly dances until two months prior to her death. Our lasting memory is watching her eat her cheese sandwich on raisin bread (her favorite) while playing solitaire on the computer. Elva will be greatly missed by our staff.

The “Afghan Lady” has magic fingers

How many people does it take to crochet 200 full-size afghans? 50? 30? 20? No. How about one lady, who has magic fingers, great creativity and has worked many hours making beautiful and practical works of art? Our families greatly appreciate her gifts.

Many thanks to our “Afghan Lady,” Lori Ewing, and her most supportive husband Don, for their generosity to SSHA.



Showing off one of Lori's warm and beautiful creations

Big thanks to our amazing volunteers!

Volunteers worked on new projects at SSHA's City Park complex. They painted the outdoor fence, put together an inventory of donated items in storage, organized the storage units, sanded and painted door



Volunteers at SSHA's City Park apartment complex.

jamb, sewed curtains, and installed closet shelves. A City Park tenant also volunteered to paint the playground bench, stained the playground equipment, and pressure-washed the building.

SSHA is extremely grateful to all the volunteers, especially the maintenance crew, who work hard year-round to take care of the repairs and grounds at City Park and at Nike Manor. Our volunteers donated over 1,000 hours this year. A big THANK YOU to: Pat Bader; Butch Spieker; Dennis Marek; Buzz Chromy; Dan Pratare; Jim Selis; Steven Garberding; Carol, Greg & Stephen Carras; Sheila & Bailie Shultz; Katarina Schilling; Jim, Conor & Kenny Proulx; Peter & Ysabeau Tapang; and Blair, Ian & Sarah Renshaw.

Thank you BeCOME/MOMS Group

We would like to thank the St. Stephen Parish MOMS group, now known as BeCOME, for providing Christmas stockings to each parent in our program *again* this year. These women have come together and opened their hearts and wallets to our low income adults. Our parents will be excited when they look in their stockings to find personal items such as stationary, stamps, chapstick, small tools and toiletries. We deeply appreciate the generosity of the MOMS group!

What we would like to do is change the world—make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do.

~ Dorothy Day

SSHA family demonstrates the power of perseverance

Rosa and Roberto have been in our housing program for one year now. This family has faced some barriers this past year, including the loss of job, health issues, and a child with developmental problems. But they have also proven that perseverance pays off.

In February, Roberto had a major surgery to repair a previously broken arm. Because the surgery was in Seattle, he needed to return there for many physical therapy sessions. To cope with the rising cost of gas, Roberto learned the King County bus system so he could commute to Seattle for treatment.

This family values education. Rosa completed her GED in July, started the GED-plus program in September, and is currently enrolled in three five-credit classes at Green River Community College. Her educational goal is to become an ultrasound technician. Roberto is also enrolled at GRCC in an ESOL class (English for speakers of other languages), GED preparation classes, and a writing class. The family continues to make progress on their goals and values the services that SSHA offers. Their enthusiasm and tenacity are most rewarding to SSHA staff.



Pictured with their two children, Rosa and Roberto have been a true inspiration to all at SSHA.

26,000 students in Washington state are homeless

One in Every 40 Pupils—Without a Stable Home

In March, 2012, Columbia Legal Services, who analyzed data for their Homeless Education Project in the 2010–2011 school year, reported that 26,000 children were without stable and adequate housing at some point during the year. There was a 19% increase in the number of homeless youth in school, from every county, from rural and urban districts.

Project Cool supports children's education: You can help!

In September, SSHA again partnered with Project Cool's program which supplied 1,792 backpacks to children living in shelters and transitional housing within King County. SSHA contributes funds and school supplies to support this yearly back-to-school event. SSHA received 40 backpacks and pre-school goodie bags. Our families so appreciate the support of education that we offer them.

Volunteers are needed for next year's project to fill up backpacks with school supplies. See www.homelessinfo.org/project_cool or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/ProjectCoolforBacktoSchool.

SSHA adds new staff member



*Housing coordinator
Vicky Renshaw*

SSHA welcomed its newest employee, Vicky Renshaw, in mid-May when she joined the SSHA staff as our housing coordinator. Vicky formerly worked for the federal government for 13 years in the area of contracts management and extramural budget. She is a parishioner of St. Anthony Church in Renton and volunteers at the school and parish there. In her spare time, Vicky enjoys reading and watching movies with her husband of 14 years. Their children are ages 11 and 13.

Celebrating Birthdays

Birthday Dreams is a non-profit organization which provides birthday parties for homeless children around Puget Sound. Birthday Dreams celebrated over 1,000 parties, including those for children in SSHA's tenant homes. It's a joy to see these children happily celebrating their birthdays, made possible by Birthday Dreams' generous staff and donors. SSHA adds to the excitement by sending each child a card with a gift certificate inside just for them.



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Helping Families with Children in Crisis

Your donation makes a real difference

Your dollars provide a vital link between homelessness and a new beginning. Consider making a contribution in honor of a person in lieu of a birthday or graduation present, or as a memorial for a loved one who has passed away. Does your employer offer a gift-matching program? If so your donation can stretch even further. Donations may be made by check or online at www.ststephenhousing.org (click on "Ways to Help" and choose the "Contribute Funds" page). All donations are tax-deductible.

Here's what your donation does:

In 2012 SSHA provided housing for 27 families, helping a total of 105 people. These included 26 female adults, 12 male adults, 21 children over the age of 12, and 41 children under age 12.

This year our program spent over \$11,000 to provide utility assistance, gift cards for food, gas cards, bus tickets, a new pair of shoes for each child at the start of the school year, back packs, school supplies, testing fees for GED certificates, budget and credit counseling, and fees for lessons. YOUR generous donations made all this possible.

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St. Stephen Housing Association

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