



**St. Stephen Housing Association**  
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*Helping Families with Children in Crisis*

*Celebrating 20 years of helping families in need: 1989-2009*



**NEW WEBSITE**

SSHA is pleased to announce the launch of our new website! Log onto [www.ststephenhousing.org](http://www.ststephenhousing.org) to learn more about our program or to make a donation online. Many thanks to Board Member, Guy Rudolph, for working tirelessly to make the website a reality!

**Take Action!**

There are a lot of things kids can do to help end homelessness. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Youth Groups, schools or individuals... below are fundraising ideas for all ages!

**Groups/Schools:**

- Conduct a supply drive for our most needed items- cleaning supplies, gently used/new sheets and towels, toiletries, etc.
- Hold a "Give Change to Make a Change" penny drive and donate proceeds to SSHA.
- Host a walk-a-thon, fun run, dog-trot, bowl-a-thon and collect pledges from friends and family.
- Organize a car wash with proceeds going to SSHA.
- Adopt a family over the holidays to supply a meal and/or gifts.

**Individuals:**

- Ask friends and family to donate to SSHA in lieu of birthday gifts.
- Do extra chores, offer to wash the car or walk the dog and donate your earnings to SSHA.
- Supply needed items for our office- used computers, printer paper, printing services, and ink cartridges.
- Become an advocate by asking your state legislators to support funding for homelessness and affordable housing programs.
- Write your local government and ask what they are doing about affordable housing.

*It's your generosity that turns our housing into homes for the families we serve!*



**Housing and Hope**

*Celebrating 20 years of helping families in need: 1989-2009*

St. Stephen Housing Association ■ Winter 2010

**Celebrating Our Volunteers!**



Our volunteers help make Christmas possible for the 20 homeless families we serve. A compassionate volunteer is Board member, Barb Brownlow. For the past several years, she has matched SSHA families with individuals or groups committed to making their Christmas special. This may include: presents for each family member and Christmas dinner or extra food. Gift cards for gas and groceries are another holiday project. These are given to our transitional families as the need arises.

St. Stephen's M.O.M.S. group recently completed their community service project by making up Christmas gift bags for each adult SSHA resident. These bags included personal items such as toiletries, fuzzy socks, mini tool kits and a gift card to Starbucks!



It's a challenge to keep twenty houses & apartments furnished and family ready. Without our volunteer help, we would not be able to accomplish such a feat. We have over thirty people in our core group of volunteers whom we rely upon for everything from maintenance, furniture delivery, plumbing, and extra office support. We dearly thank this group especially Pat Bader, Butch Speiker and the Monday Crew, Dennis Marek; Lori Ewing, who keeps our families supplied with hand-crocheted afghans; front desk & administrative support of Elva Deacy, Dar Raftis, Dorothy Meek and Barb Brownlow; and our Board of Directors for all their on-going efforts.

*If you have never volunteered before please join this wonderful group of people. As Jesus said, it is more blessed to give than to receive.*

**New Resident Manager**

Our Auburn site has a new Resident Manager! Dago Alejo, with his wife, Jackie and their 3 children- Alize, Abigail, & Angelina have moved into City Park townhouses. He assumed on-site responsibilities in November. Dago's enthusiasm is infectious and he is quickly becoming a vital member of the SSHA team.



Jackie & Dago

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

## Facts about homelessness

- ❖ The Seattle/King County Coalition for the Homeless' 2010 One Night Count shows that **8,937 people** – including more than **2,000 children** – are homeless in King County on any given night.
- ❖ Families with young children make up one of the fastest growing segments of the homeless population.
- ❖ **82%** of the families surveyed in emergency shelters and transitional housing fall into the extremely low/no annual income categories (0 to \$25,300 for a family of 4).
- ❖ With the job market tight, government benefits slashed due to budget cuts, and the economy still stagnant, homeless people face more hurdles than ever in regaining stability.

## From the President's Desk

During this time of the year it is important to pause and thank each of you for your support of St. Stephen Housing Association (SSHA) and to share with you the impact your support has made on a significant number of families this year. It is our mission to serve the homeless families of South King County, offering transitional housing, where families in crisis have the opportunity to stabilize and gain access to life resources.



Joan Mladineo

Grant funding has drastically diminished due to these recessionary times but SSHA proudly is holding its own in a large part thanks to your individual support; both financially and in-kind donations. Applications for housing are at an all time high.

We are grateful to our dedicated employees who do the job of an army juggling this demand. They are willing to go above and beyond to ensure the homeless needs are met. Laura Cordle, one of our Case Managers, recently received her Masters of Social Work from the University of Washington.

The success of our story is very easily tracked over the last 21 years that we have been faithful to our mission, to the families we have served and to our generous supporters. It is an honor to enter this next year knowing we are truly making an impact to this group of people and to King County.

I wish you a blessed Holiday Season and for Peace in the upcoming New Year.

Blessings,  
*Joan*

Joan Mladineo  
President, St. Stephen Housing Association

### Overview of families currently in our program

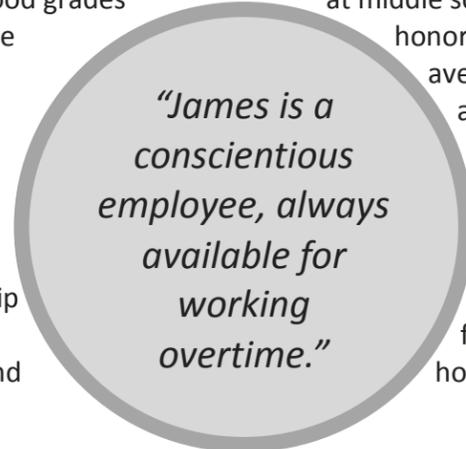
- **7** families have at least one adult who is employed
- **8** families have at least one adult attending school
- **3** adults are unemployed but diligently looking for work
- **1** family has an adult member who is employed and attending school
- **3** families are waiting for approval of SSI/disability benefits
- **1** family has an adult member who will have major surgery this month

### 2010 Year-to-date Program Statistics

- **31** families (**133** individuals) have been served
- **89** children have been housed
- **7 of 11** exiting families moved into permanent affordable housing

## SSHA Families Moving Forward

These are success stories about homeless families in our housing program. From living on the streets with an 11-year old son, James has worked his way into an above minimum wage job. Two years ago, he and his son Christian were out of options. Their time at an emergency shelter was used up; so they spend three months on the streets of Auburn. After finally securing another shelter bed, they were referred to SSHA. After a rocky start, James was able to obtain employment at Goodwill Industries. Next, he got hired on full time at an Auburn manufacturing plant. James is a conscientious employee, always available for working overtime. He is diligently working on his debts. Christian is making good grades at middle school, often making the honor roll. He has above average skills in math and attends advanced classes. Christian has already signed up for the Bound Scholarship for youth from low income and homeless families.



*“James is a conscientious employee, always available for working overtime.”*

As a single mom, Janie has worked to enroll her children, Latoya and Emiel in pre-school and to remain in college. Some challenges she has faced are: finding child care accessible by bus; maintaining her grades in college; and keeping her required hours at the college women’s center. Janie and other women in our housing program must leave as early as 6am to assure that their children are in day care and they can make it to class by 8am. Janie’s children are thriving in Head Start and are transitioning to the next class level. By completing another quarter towards her degree, it will lead to success for her and be a role model for her children.

**Kudos to Dawn Smith**, our Office Manager extraordinaire! She helps our families stay current with their bills. Dawn makes manageable payment plans for rent and utilities, guiding them to make paying the rent a priority. When winter brings higher heating bills, Dawn advises each tenant to seek energy assistance programs offered by the federal government and through Puget Sound Energy. She encourages SSHA families to use other community resources for additional support.

## Our Hard Working Board Members



Anne Danaher  
Secretary



Barb Brownlow



Darlene Raftis



Eric Miller



Guy Rudolph



Pat Flanigan



Marshall Denby,  
Vice President

Board Members Not Pictured

Louie Boitano

Rufo Bruan

### Administrative Staff

Ann Allen, Housing Case Manager  
Laura Cordle, Housing Case Manager  
Dawn Smith, Office Manager  
Stefanie Mottola, Housing Coordinator