



Housing and Hope

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.

Summer 2014

Have You Seen the Real Face of Homelessness?

Anyone who attended last year's fundraiser will remember the amazing talk given by one of our tenants, **Rosa Ralda**. She inspired so many of our supporters through her honest and heartfelt talk about her struggles and successes.



In Her Own Words

The stereotype of homeless people is that of using drugs or alcohol, or having a criminal record or something worse. But none of that was our circumstance. I never expected to be homeless, but when my husband had an accident at work, our lives changed completely. He lost all use of his right arm, and his employer fought against paying for the surgery he badly needed. We stayed with my sister for a time but we couldn't stay for long. When we were accepted into the program with St. Stephen Housing, I told my husband this is God showing us that we are not alone. Without St. Stephen's, I don't know where we would be right now. I knew I needed to go back to school because I didn't know if my husband Roberto would ever be able to work again. I enrolled in school and finished my GED. I'm now studying to be an ultrasound technician. Thankfully, Roberto was able to have the surgery for his arm, but will never fully recover. We recently moved into permanent housing, and while we are happy here, some day we want to move again because our real goal is to buy our own house.

St. Stephen Housing Association celebrates 25 years of serving homeless families --1989 to 2014--

It began with a small thought, that there must be something the parishioners of St. Stephen the Martyr could do to help the homeless families they were starting to see in the community. Without really knowing where to start, an enthusiastic group from the Social and Human Concerns Committee dove into the search for property that could house the homeless. In 1989, Deacon Marshall Denby and parishioner Joan Mladineo agreed to lead the effort and after much work, a long term agreement with King County Housing Authority was reached to lease 8 houses at an old Nike military site. Within a year, local support churches became involved. Passionate volunteers made the houses into homes for families needing refuge. In 2000, the Gates Foundation awarded SSHA a large grant, enabling our agency to purchase 12 townhouses in Auburn. Since the beginning, many dedicated volunteers have given their energy, enthusiasm and financial support to help over 300 families achieve greater independence. As we look back on those early days, we are indebted to those first volunteers who were called to serve the homeless and were not deterred by the challenges that came their way.



City Park Townhomes in Auburn circa 2001

***Winetasting and Silent Auction
Fundraiser 2013***

A Very Heartfelt THANK YOU to our Sponsors:

**Fischer Plumbing
Mike Scarff of Scarff Subaru
Dar and Don Raftis
Jim and Maryann Thorp
Steven Clark
An Anonymous Friend**

On November 9, 2013, SSHA celebrated its first ever fundraiser—a wine tasting and silent auction. It was a fantastic night of fun and friends, accompanied by the musical talent of Steve Olson. We had a wonderful turn out of close to 200 who enjoyed 29 different wines from around the world plus fantastic food. There was a great selection of auction items, including autographed Seahawks, UW Husky and WSU Cougar footballs! The highlight of the night was the speech made by our former tenant, Rosa Ralda. Speaking of her experience of homelessness and of finding direction after coming into our housing program, she inspired many to open their hearts to our mission.

**Don't miss this year's event on
November 8, 2014!!**



We believe every family deserves a second chance.

We recently received a letter from a tenant that reminds us why we do this work:

*Dear St. Stephen Housing,
Just a small note to let you all know that you are very much appreciated. You have allowed my family to grow in measures unmentionable. The continued help from your organization is not going unrecognized. Our sincerest gratitude for everything you do, not only for my family, but for all the families at City Park. Thank you very much!
The Derricks/Archies*



"Thank you for your belief in us".

Saying Goodbye to Two of our Favorite Volunteers

Pat Bader and Butch Spieker have put many long hours into keeping things running at our City Park property in Auburn. These long time volunteers, the handiest men we know, retired from regular service in January. Pat has been helping maintain the property since 2001, and Butch since 2009. They have kept the City Park property in tip top shape, taking care of every maintenance need, big and small. In addition to being “fix it gurus”, Pat and Butch are looked upon by some of the residents as a couple of uncles whose sage advice on life was often sought. These two helpful guys are far from keeping to themselves. Pat stays busy by volunteering at the NW Detention Center in Tacoma, teaching English to Spanish speaking families, and continuing to work at our site on special projects. Butch works on his large property, which includes a hermitage. And of course they both have “Honey-Do” lists from their wives that keep them busy all year round. We will miss these hardworking men and all they have done for us!



Butch and Pat with their certificates of appreciation.

The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have little.
--Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Thank you to all who GaveBIG 2014!

SSHA participated in The Seattle Foundation's GiveBIG event on May 6. All donations made through the Foundation's website on that day were s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d by The Seattle Foundation and other donors. A HUGE thank you to the following donors who gaveBIG to SSHA:

*Linda Fix
Jeannine and Mark Kuolt
Rosemary Forte
Robert and Patti Pitt
Vicki Kennerud
Steven and Heather Scheer
Joann McConnell
Mike and Nancy Ligon
Jim and Sue Selis
Tom and Kathleen Shirk*

Project Cool is for Back to School!



Do you have a hard time resisting the amazing deals on school supplies advertised by stores in July? Every year the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness distributes school supplies to kids in homeless housing programs, including SSHA. Help out a great cause by looking for these items on your next shopping trip and dropping them off at our office.

Crayola crayons—box of 24
Blue and black pens

Glue sticks
Pink erasers

Where does our funding come from?

Fundraising: 6%
Private donors and Foundations: 23%
Government grants: 15%
Rental income: 25%
Section 8 contract: 31%

**St. Stephen Housing Association
13055 SE 192nd St
Renton, WA 98058**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Easy ways to support us!

-Payroll deduction: Many companies offer payroll deduction for charitable donations. Some even match your gift!

-Donate online: find options to give through our website at Ststephenhousing.org under "Ways to help".

-Fred Meyer rewards: enroll online at fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link your rewards card to St. Stephen Housing Association. Our account number 83120.

SAVE THE DATE!

**THIS YEAR'S WINETASTING FUNDRAISER
WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8**



This year's event is sure to be even livelier than the last! Please join us for fine wine, delectable hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and the musical talents of Steve Olson. All proceeds will benefit families moving from homelessness to stability.

Can we add you to our email list?

We are trying to catch up to the digital age! We are creating an email list to keep in touch with friends, donors and supporters. Please opt in to receive our email on our website by entering your email and clicking on "subscribe". You can also include your email address on your donation envelope. Also, we'd love for you to **LIKE** us on facebook.com/ststephenhousing.

