



# Housing and Hope

Helping families experiencing homelessness find housing and stability

SPRING 2023

Want to join or plan a volunteer work party?

Contact us at 253-638-9798 or [office@ststephenhousing.org](mailto:office@ststephenhousing.org) to learn more!



Find us online at

[ststephenhousing.org](http://ststephenhousing.org)

Like or follow us on

Facebook at [facebook.com/ststephenhousing](https://www.facebook.com/ststephenhousing)

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253-638-9798

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Branches of

## Gratitude!



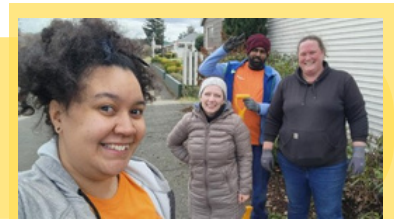
Local Amazon team members from SWA2 pooled together to donate \$1500 to support our programming.

Knights of Columbus organized their 2nd annual coat drive this winter to provide our families with new winter coats.



KidVantage recently partnered with us to help supply our families with diapers and other baby gear.

Volunteers from the community and the Amazon SWA2 team worked to cleanup and prepare our community garden for spring planting.



## SUMMER FUN FUND



Summer is approaching and we're preparing to support families to keep their kids healthy, active and engaged this summer. **Support our Summer Fun Fund!** Most of our families don't have the extra money it takes to pay for summer activities. Funds received ensure kids have the opportunity to participate in swim lessons, classes and day camps through the local parks and recreation department and YMCA memberships. Any remaining funds will replenish our snack pantry with fresh fruit, granola bars, fruit cups, and trail mix. Use the enclosed envelope or make a donation on our website at [www.ststephenhousing.org](http://www.ststephenhousing.org). Thank you for helping our kids stay active and healthy this summer!

Thank you to everyone who supported St. Stephen Housing Association's 2022 Support a Family Campaign. Your generosity brought in over \$11,000 to help families stay housed, fed and able to work toward stability. Thank you for being a part of this crucial work!



## *Everything is Up from Here*

*by Iona Jones*

My name is Iona. I'm 27 years old and a mother of 4 kids, all under 10. When I first came to St. Stephen Housing, my newest baby was only 2 weeks old and I was still having trouble moving after giving birth via C-section. Those first couple months were so hard; I struggled with postpartum depression and was having difficulty healing properly from the birth. However, I kept working with my Housing Case Manager, Marissa. She encouraged me to keep going, keep trying; she brought me job applications and helped me find a doctor who could help

me. With all the support, I kicked postpartum in the teeth. She also helped me to stay on top of all the medical appointments for my oldest, who has a brain injury. I interviewed for a couple of jobs and didn't get them. My depression started settling in again but I told myself to keep going. Marissa would come by while I cried and tell me to hang in there and keep going. She even was there for a second interview for a job and held my screaming and upset baby while I did the interview over zoom. When I was finally

hired for a job, SSHA helped pay for the documents I needed to obtain and for gas to get there the first week. I feel like I'm finally coming out of this depression and finding myself. It feels like everything is up from here and I don't plan nor will I fail. I'm doing this for me and my children, so we don't have to depend on anyone else ever again. I'm thankful for everything you all have done for me. It wouldn't have been possible without the help of St. Stephen Housing.

## Meet our staff!



Ann



Gina



Marissa



Gabby



Rodney



Carolina



Collette

## Mark your calendar for the 2023 Hope for Housing fundraiser!

After a 3 year hiatus, the Hope for Housing Fundraiser is back on for 2023! Mark your calendar now for Saturday, **November 4, 2023**. As always, you can expect a fun-filled night of wine, appetizers, music and a fantastic silent auction. A former transitional housing participant will honor us with a story of perseverance and hard work. Every dollar raised goes back into our program to help these families achieve housing and stability. Bring your friends and join us for a joyful night raising money to help continue our mission of helping families with children experiencing homelessness find their footing again.

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING PUT ON OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER?

We could use your help:

~Procuring items for the  
silent auction

~Putting together auction  
baskets from donated items

~Sponsoring a table

~Set up/tear down on the  
event day

~Be a wine-tasting pourer

Whatever your talent, we  
can put it to use!

**Contact our office for more  
details!**

Our new Housing Stability Program launched in 2023. This program enables us to assist families to maintain housing stability through rental or utility assistance. We have a small amount of funds to serve families living in the following cities: Des Moines, Seatac, Renton and Covington.

Our primary focus is to serve households that:

- May not have access to or knowledge of other resources
- Demonstrate a specific hardship causing a need for assistance
- Have income below 60% AMI
- Owe no more than \$1000 in rent, if needing rental assistance
- Have a past due utility bill

If you are in touch with a family that could benefit from our services, please direct them to our website at [ststephenhousing.org](http://ststephenhousing.org) and click "Get Help".

St. Stephen Housing continues to partner with King County and United Way of King County to provide rental assistance to thousands of households facing eviction due to economic struggles caused by the pandemic. Since 2021 we have distributed **over \$17 million in rental assistance to keep over 1600 households in their housing.**





13055 SE 192nd St  
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## **Get that GIVING feeling: When you give, good things happen.**

As a supporter of St. Stephen Housing, we know you care about families in our community who are experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis. We rely on people like you to help give those families a chance to find their footing again. Please consider making a donation to SSHA during the GiveBIG event on May 2 and 3. This year we have a matching fund that will double your gift! Make your donation at [www.wagives.org/organization/ststephenhousing](http://www.wagives.org/organization/ststephenhousing). Thank you!

