



# INTERFAITH Family Shelter

November 2022

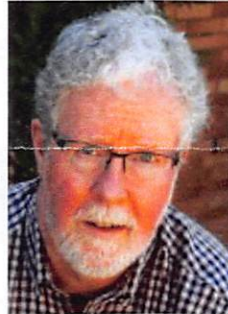
# Fall 2022 Newsletter

Uniting in service to families,  
with children, facing homelessness

## From Our Executive Director:

Dear Friends of Interfaith,

November is the season for thanks, and I have much to be thankful for this season. We thank all our many supporters who came together this year to make the purchase of the Family Shelter a reality: faith group partners, elected leaders, business and foundation partners, and longtime supporters all played an integral role in fortifying the futures of many families in the years ahead!



I am thankful for our generous agency staff. We are a small but mighty force dedicated to help families achieve safe, secure housing. Even when a family is faced with seemingly insurmountable barriers, our skilled and confident staff work miracles in helping them succeed and rebuild their lives.

I also give thanks for you, whether you are a one-time \$25 donor or the \$10,000 sustainer. All of you play a vital role in supporting our mission, and sharing your resources with us to change the trajectory of many families' futures.

Finally, I am thankful to the many volunteers who keep the shelter working: those who help out weekly with The Learning Hour for children, those who prepare weekly meals to share with our residents, and teams of colleagues who donate their time and talent to come in, spruce up, and refurbish the shelter.

Thank you, to every single one of you, and a very Happy Thanksgiving to you and your loved ones!

**Executive Director**



## November 29 is Giving Tuesday

An Interfaith Board Member recently analogized the successful conclusion of our Capital Campaign: "Now that we've bought the car, we need to put fuel in it."

We are thrilled to own the Family Shelter! And now we need to continue offering the programs that have helped so many families achieve sustainable stable housing.

Your **Giving Tuesday** gift will directly support these amazing programs & serve families in our community.



Help fill the fuel tank to fund programs that change lives by making your Giving Tuesday gift today!

**Every gift  
makes a difference!**



Visit: [www.interfaithwa.org](http://www.interfaithwa.org)

**And follow us on:**

: @InterfaithFamilyShelter

: @FamilyShelterWA

: Interfaith.Family.Shelter

## Family homelessness continues to grow in 2022:



**52% increase**  
In sheltered homeless  
families since 2020

**55**  
Family shelter units  
in Snohomish County



**25%**  
of these are operated  
by Interfaith

# Success: We now own the Family Shelter!

Upon learning that the Family Shelter was to be sold, a small but determined group of supporters banded together to make a bold idea a reality: to help Interfaith raise the funds to purchase the Family Shelter. Comprised of Board members, staff, and volunteers, they developed and executed a well-laid out strategy to approach local government, corporate entities, private foundations, and individual donors in order to raise \$1.6 million by November, 2022.

**FORTIFYING FAMILIES' FUTURES**  
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Two Board Members chaired this endeavor: **Don Whitfield** has an established track record in real estate, and **Jesse Deason** is an accomplished financial planner. "As I became an adult, I realized how lucky I was to have had a loving family, a place to live, food to eat, and warm clothes to wear in winter. My success is due in no small part to those advantages. As someone who has benefited from privilege, it is my responsibility to give back," says Deason.

"I serve on the board because I believe homeless families should not have to sleep on the streets," says Whitfield and adds, "I chose to co-chair the campaign because I believed we could do it."

Gradually, over nine months, the committee made meaningful strides toward their goal. "Every individual brought unique strengths and skills: prior capital campaign experience, stakeholder relations, project management, and marketing," says Deason. "We diligently strategized, celebrated

wins, and learned from losses. It was my honor to help lead the team to victory!"



Committee members gathered to toast the Capital Campaign's success in late October.

## Families Together 2022 was a big success!

Our annual fundraising event was on Thursday, October 26. And this year, attendees had options: they could choose to join us virtually or in-person at local small-group gatherings, depending on their preference.

The event was a success! We had 33 devices from across the country join us online, and six small-group gatherings facilitated by Table Captains at local venues.

Snohomish County Councilmember, **Megan Dunn**, delivered a compelling keynote address. And attendees also got to learn about how our amazing staff serve client families by helping them rebuild their lives.

And best of all: we raised over \$30,000! A big thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!



## Faith Partner Spotlight: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Faith partners play an integral role in helping the Interfaith Family Shelter accomplish its mission. We have a long-standing partnership with the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints** (Everett), and are especially grateful for their crucial support during the recently concluded Capital Campaign.

"We admire Interfaith's work, its focus on serving and building families into stronger units, and the measurement of sustained success over time," says **Jerry Davis** (1st Counselor, Everett Stake).

Local congregations have donated generous food commodities for many years. This year, the church also made a sizable donation toward our Capital Campaign. "We felt it was the right way to support your long-term plans to continue offering these needed services to families," says Davis. Thank you to all the congregations who made this possible!



**Interfaith Association of NW Washington**

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