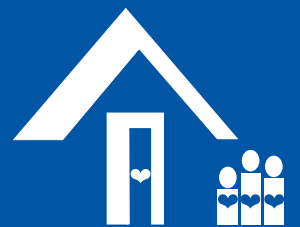


Helping Hand House

2 0 0 8 A N N U A L R E P O R T





Dear Friends,

First I want to thank each and every one of you for your friendship, partnership and support over this past year. These are very interesting times to have the mission of “ending family homelessness in Pierce County,” as our communities top the lists of foreclosures and job losses. It was a full year- but a great year, and we are proud of what our families accomplished in the last 12 months.

We were right along with you as we all tightened our belts to get through the tough economic situation we continue to experience. The families we served were more challenged than ever in locating lasting jobs, the costs of living, and raising children. We were inundated with calls from parents asking for help, and faced the tragic situation of turning away a record number of families simply because we didn't have the funding or units to provide the assistance. Calls to the help line quadrupled before our eyes- and many of these were families who had suddenly lost their homes after years of stability. We are on the frontlines of the economic crisis, and the uncertainty has been tangible.

You can be certain though that the severe economic challenges did not stop us! In 2008 we had many successes:

- We saved nearly \$100,000 in expenses and labor due to the generosity of our volunteers.
- We served dozens of new families through our Permanent Supportive Housing program, partnering with local schools, the State, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- We had the second most successful fundraising breakfast since 2004.
- We provided homemade birthday cakes for 141 children' birthdays.
- 50 children participated in our summer reading program.
- 140 families received both rent and utility assistance.
- We hired an excellent new finance director and development director.
- We received a generous financial gift to replace our office carpet, flooring and paint.

These are just a few of our accomplishments in 2008. The most important stories, of course, can never be told, but only experienced. The relief of a mom who has worried night after night where her children will sleep, and how to make ends meet and the hope in the eyes of a dad who has found a great job and can break free from public assistance. We haven't stopped looking for new opportunities and dreaming of improvements we want to make in 2009.

I hope you can also feel a sense of pride for our accomplishments. We are a community organization that you are all a part of, and with your involvement, we will continue working to provide programs that promote justice, inclusion, and peace in our communities.

All the best to each of you,

Nola B. Renz
Executive Director



Hello Friends!

Every year I look forward to three events. Two of them celebrate the families of Helping Hand House- the Annual Family Banquet and the Family Picnic. The third event is the Annual Board/

Staff Retreat. These are the times when I can see firsthand the great works of Helping Hand House.

At the Annual Family Banquet every February, family successes are celebrated. When I first started attending the banquet, each board member would serve the families their dinner. Now volunteers do the serving and board members get more time to sit with the families to chat. We are all there for one reason- to celebrate them. It is a time when the adult members of the family can feel proud of their successes; a time to be reminded of how far they have come. It is also a time when the children can be proud of their parent's hard work to overcome their homelessness.

The summer Family Picnic is a time of joy, laughter, and releasing the inner child in all of us. It is a time of water balloon tosses, three-legged races, and grilling hamburgers and hotdogs. It is a time when Helping Hand House's families, staff, and supporters all come together just to have an afternoon barbeque and to enjoy a day in the park.

The third event is an annual retreat for the board members and staff to discuss the future of Helping Hand House. There is always a wonderful exchange of ideas and an opportunity for the board members to hear from staff about possibilities they see for the agency's future.

I encourage all supporters of Helping Hand House to join us for the Family Banquet and the Family Picnic to celebrate along with us the successes of the families.

Thank you for a successful 2008 to Nola Renz and her dedicated hard working staff, the board of directors, volunteers, donors, grantors, and everyone who is committed to ending family homelessness.

Best wishes!

Kathy Duarte-Wilson
Board President

How We Assist FAMILIES

Homeless Prevention

We help families who have an eviction or utility shut-off notice by paying their rent or utilities. As soon as adults in the family complete a budgeting class at our office, payment is sent directly to the utility company or the landlord.

Results: In 2008, we helped to prevent 140 families (523 people) from becoming homeless. Follow-up indicates that most families are in the same homes 3 months later. We assisted 72 families with rent and 68 families with utility assistance.

Emergency Housing

We provide emergency shelter for up to 90 days in seven fully-furnished single family homes and apartments in Puyallup and Sumner. Homeless families work closely with a case manager to develop goals and strategies to gain housing stability. Adults in the program work and develop budgets and savings plans. When their stay in Emergency Housing is over, families have the savings they need for their move to an apartment or home.

Results: In 2008, we assisted 30 families (117 people) through our Emergency Housing program.

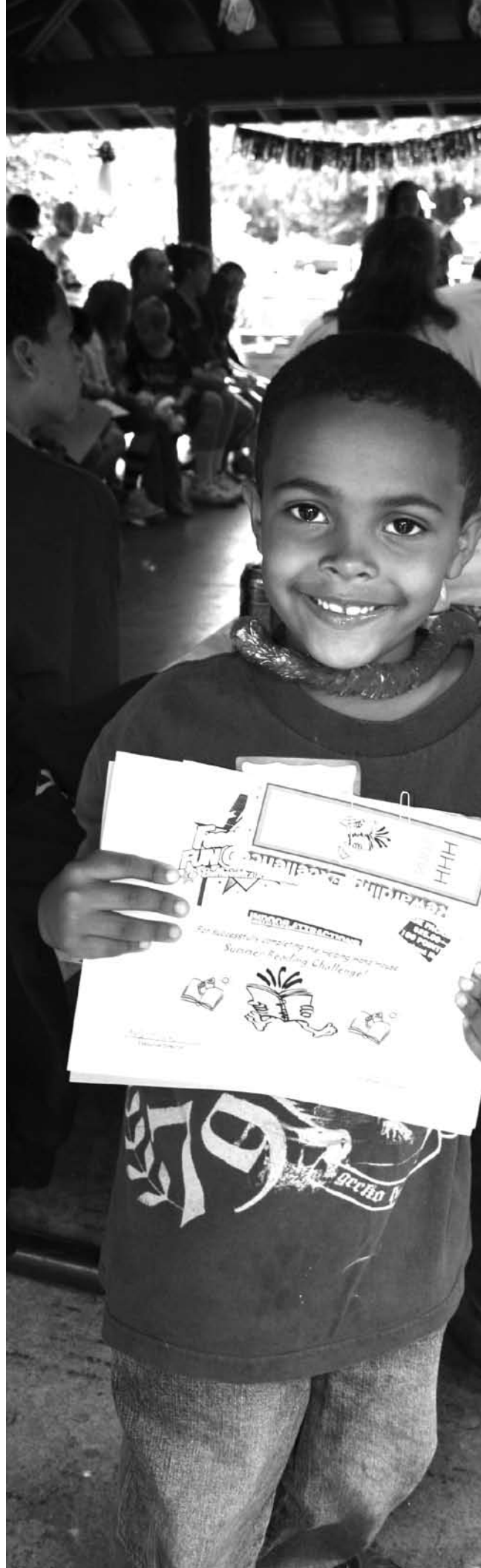
Transitional Housing

We provide housing for up to 24 months in 23 fully-furnished single-family homes in Bonney Lake, Buckley, Eatonville, Orting, Puyallup, and Sumner. Families work closely with their case manager to address the causes of their homelessness and make long-term changes to rebuild their lives and become self-sufficient. Families are connected with community resources, attend monthly life-skill classes, finish their education, and learn new trades.

Results: In 2008, we assisted 48 families (170 people) through our Transitional Housing programs.

Permanent Supportive Housing

We provide long-term rental subsidies and supportive case management for 30 families in Sumner and Tacoma. Families are referred to our program through the homeless liaison in two elementary schools. We collaborate with the schools to chart the effect of long-term stability on children's attendance, behavior, and academic performance. For the adults, the focus is on improving family financial resources through education, training, and employment progression support. Working with numerous community partners such as Washington Women's Education and Employment, Bates Technical College, Tacoma Housing Authority, and both Sumner and Tacoma Public Schools, these families find the support they need.





How You Can PARTNER

Partner with Time

Volunteer

In 2008, 210 people volunteered with Helping Hand House individually, with a service club, church, or their place of work.



Volunteers Assisted With:

Yard Work, Painting, Cleaning, Baking children's birthday cakes, Making Easter Baskets, Back To School, Thanksgiving, and Christmas special with food and gifts.

Partner with Goods

Donate Items: Paper products, household cleaning supplies, gently used furniture, and non-perishable food items.



Partner with Funds

Join us for a House Warming, a free one-hour session with our staff, to get an in-depth picture of the amazing work Helping Hand House provides in Pierce County.

Add Your Name To Our List of Supporters. Financial support from individuals, businesses, and congregations is essential to our work in helping families become self-sufficient.

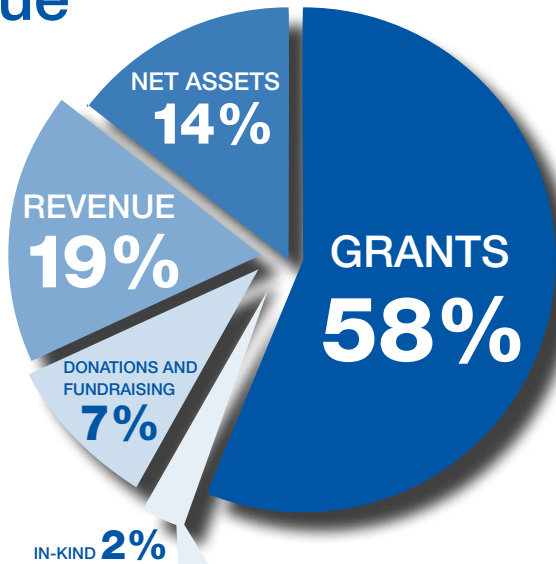


Leave A Legacy

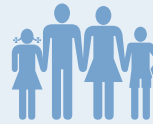
Consider naming Helping Hand House in your will.

To become a partner, call our Volunteer Coordinator at 253-848-6096 ext. 17 or visit our website at: www.helpinghandhouse.org

Revenue



210 volunteers totaling 1,987 hours



135 Quilts were made and given to HHH families



126 school backpacks/ school supplies were donated and given to the students



141 Birthday Cakes were made and given to the children on their birthdays



70 Thanksgiving meals were delivered to families

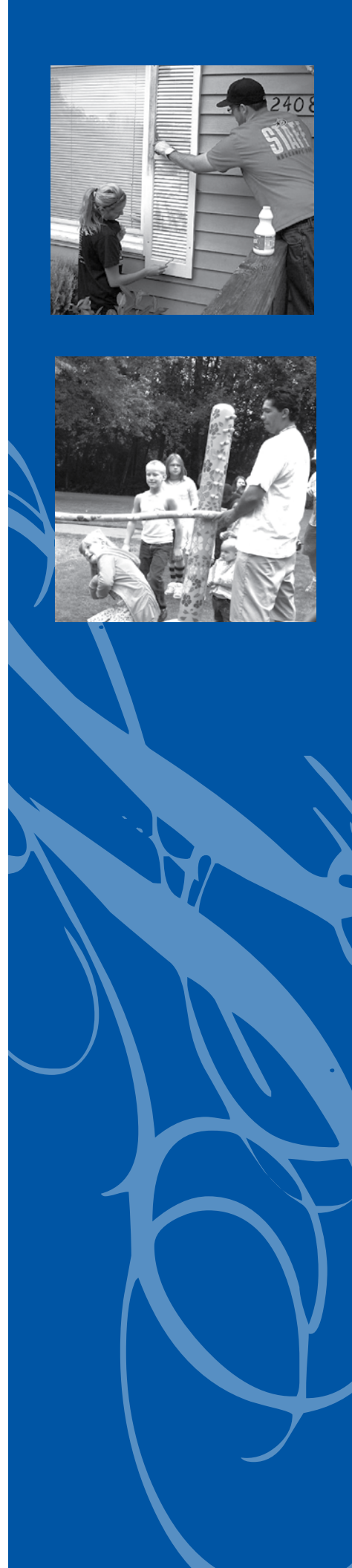
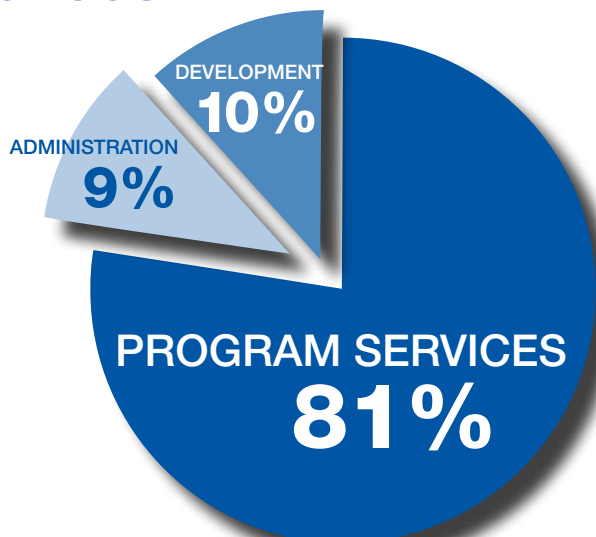


47 Easter baskets for every child and food for dinner were donated and given to families



72 Christmas "wish list" gifts for every member in the family and food for dinner were delivered to families

Expenses



THANK YOU!

A special thank you to our 2008 partners and volunteers!

BUSINESSES

AAA- Puyallup
Absher Construction
Allenmore Pharmacy
Ambrosia Builders
Architectural Sheet Metal
Bank of Tacoma
BECU- Sumner
Benton's Florist
Bullwinkle's Family Fun Center
Chardonnay Day Spa
Enco Environmental Corporation
First American Title
Fox Hollow Coffee
Frontier Bank
Gig Harbor Pharmacy

Goodwill Services
Harborstone Credit Union
Harkness Furniture
IKEA Distribution Center
KBR Credit Union
Kern's Complete Automotive Care
Key Bank
Macy's
Maersk Distribution Services
Mortgage by Design
Multicare
Northwest Trek
Old Cannery Furniture
Old Republic Title Holding Company Inc.
Pac-West Brokers
Pacific Continental Bank

Purple Geranium
Prudential Realtors
Regal Cinemas
Roma, LLC.
Russell Investments
Saturn of Puyallup
State Farm Insurance/Mark Mullins
Sterling Savings Bank
Stewart Title
Target
The Boeing Company
Ticor Title Company
Tom Taylor Insurance Brokers
Valley Furnace
Western Washington Fairgrounds
Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company

CHURCHES

Bethany Baptist Church
Celebration Center
Curves
First Christian Church
First Presbyterian Church- Puyallup
Immanuel Lutheran Church

Joy of Life Church
Light of the Hill United Methodist Church
Lutheran Church of St. Paul
Milton United Methodist Church
Mt. View Lutheran Church
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Peace Lutheran Church

Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church
Sumner Presbyterian Church
Sumner Presbyterian Quilters
Unitarian Association of Tacoma
United Methodist Church of Puyallup
Unity Center of Tacoma

FOUNDATIONS

Baker Foundation
Building Changes
Cooper/Levy Trust
Florence Kilworth Foundation
Forest Foundation
Fuchs Foundation
Gates Foundation
Greater Tacoma Community Foundation
Harvest Foundation

Impact Capital
Kelly Foundation
Korum for Kids Foundation
Medina Foundation
LIHI Sunset Meadows LLC
Luke 1248 Foundation
Northwest Children's Fund
Puget Sound Energy
Puyallup Tribe of Indians
Rainier Pacific Foundation

Russell Investment Group
Sequoia Foundation
Stewardship Foundation
The Lucky Seven Foundation
United Way Pierce County
US Bank National Association
Wal-Mart
Washington Mutual, Inc.
Wilkins Charitable Foundation

GOVERNMENT

State of Washington
City of Puyallup

City of Tacoma- CDBG, ESG
City of Tacoma- Community Services
FEMA
HUD (CDBG & ESG)

Pierce County
Washington Families Fund

ORGANIZATIONS

Boy Scout Troop 518
Boy Scouts Troop DXVI- Soaring Eagles
Chapter 16 PEO
Cub Scout Pack 557
Communities In Schools- Orting
Destiny Riders Chapter 433
Eagles RV Club
Family Renewal Shelter

Fraternal Order of Eagles
Girl Scout Troops: 931, 40055, 40059,
40120, 40106, 40211, 40253, 40259,
40382, 41100, 40315, 40355, 40393,
40643, 40395, 40511, 40609, 40694,
40887, 41029, 41521, 41523, 40347,
Daisies, 40814, 40817
Hands All Around
Laureate Alpha Delta Sorority
Manley McKay DBA Eagle Seven

Meridian Riding Club
Pacific NW Chapter-Collectors Club
Pajama Program
Peace Lutheran Quilters
Puyallup Valley Quilters
South Hill Rotary Club
Sumner Presbyterian Quilters
Sumner Rotary Club
United Way Pierce County
WSU/4-H Club

SCHOOLS

Aylen Junior High School Honor Society
Emerald Ridge High School

Maplewood Elementary School
Pacific Lutheran University/School of
Business

Rogers High School: Key Club & SADD
Club

INDIVIDUALS

Talis Abolins
Jan Adams
Christina Allen
Sean Allen
Valerie Allen
Cathy Althide
Andrew Ames
Don Ames
Nathan Ames
Audrey Anderson
Debbie Anderson
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Anderson
Mark Anderson
Myrna Anderson
Tamara Annas
Deborah Austen
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