

Where Were You in '84?

When a group of volunteers in Puyallup came together to form Helping Hand House 25 years ago, they never dreamed that homelessness would become endemic in their community and all across America. Can you remember when you first noticed that there were families with no place to live in your town? What did you think? How did you respond?

Helping Hand House founders believed that after a few years, all the families would be housed and the problem would be solved. Instead, the numbers kept increasing and the complexity and challenge of helping families restore their lives, become financially fit, and thrive inspired Helping Hand House leadership, board, and staff to develop new and innovative solutions. The following are a few of the ways we have grown over the last 25 years:

- We added 54 housing units in Puyallup, Orting, Buckley, Sumner, Eatonville, Bonney Lake, and Tacoma.
- The number of families served went from 26 to 250 a year.
- We added three programs to build a full continuum of care. For details about programs, please visit our website at www.helpinghandhouse.org
- Staff size increased from 1.5 to 16 professionals.
- Budget grew from \$165,000 to \$1.9 million provided by our generous donors, foundations, government, and corporations.

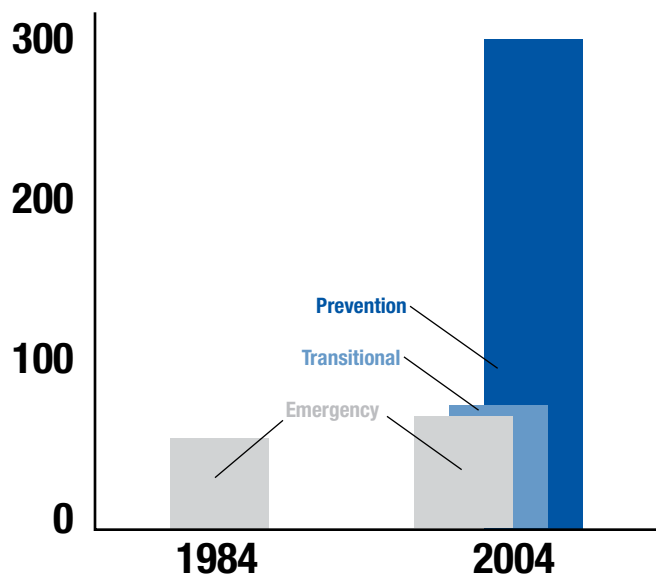
- Volunteers now provide over 1,800 hours of time and talent a year.
- We stock our own food bank and provide school supplies to all children in the programs.
- Community partnerships include civic and social organizations, churches, food and clothing banks, businesses, and other service providers.

Even though homelessness persists across America, we are proud to have helped 4,618 families (12,554 individuals) in our community rebuild their lives. And we will continue to seek solutions until all families in Pierce County have safe, decent housing that they can afford.

So, what will the future bring for families at Helping Hand House? We are developing new plans to address three of the toughest and most persistent barriers that financially fragile families face: earning a living wage, owning reliable transportation, and finding 24/7 childcare. Our programs will keep evolving and improving.

As we continue our mission, we hope that you will consider sharing your time, talent, or treasure to prevent and end family homelessness in Pierce County.

Number of Families



CONTACT US

P. 253-848-6096

F. 253-770-1548

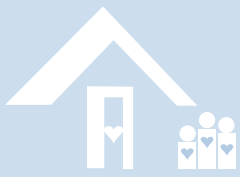
E. info@helpinghandhouse.org

M. PO Box 710, Puyallup, WA 98371

Bonney Lake Buckley Eatonville Orting Puyallup Sumner Tacoma

www.helpinghandhouse.org





Helping Hand House

MISSION

Helping Hand House is dedicated to preventing and ending family homelessness in Pierce County.

VISION

Helping Hand House is committed to ending family homelessness in Pierce County by providing caring support through innovative programs, designed to empower families to achieve self-sufficiency. Helping Hand House develops and implements model programs in partnership with community resources to strengthen families with children, while contributing to a healthier community.

VALUES

Helping Hand House provides an environment based on compassion, honesty, respect, good stewardship, and professionalism through positive and caring relationships.



Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Helping Hand House I am reminded of the many individuals whose support over the years has brought us to where we are today. Helping Hand House started out as a call to minister to homeless families in our community. Thinking that the problem was quickly solvable several volunteers joined Margie Addington in the ministry that would become Helping Hand House. These individuals are heroes who took money from their own pockets and time from their families to begin addressing the issue of homelessness in our community.

Margie worked tirelessly for 13 years at Helping Hand House, until she resigned in 1997. She left the agency with 11 housing units in Sumner and Puyallup and 2 staff. In April of 1997, I was fortunate to be hired as the new Executive Director of Helping Hand House. The warm embrace I received from the community and the board of directors was amazing. With my own personal history of homelessness it was not only an amazing opportunity to impact an issue that I hold enormous passion about, but an opportunity to daily witness the amazing endurance and life changing steps made by the families we serve. Insuring that children are recognized on their birthday with personalized birthday cakes and gifts, that they have all needed school supplies throughout the year as well as new clothing to start the school year; and witnessing parents complete vocational and educational programs, become employed, save money and successfully graduate from our programs all have left me in awe.

Over the years we have grown, we evolved the existing programs and added new programs that reach out and have a greater impact throughout the county. We have homes in Eatonville, Orting, Buckley, Bonney Lake, Sumner, Puyallup and Tacoma and in these 25 years we have assisted 4,618 families which breaks down to be 12,554 individuals served. Our programs have been evaluated and compared and are known of as "best practices" models. And while making the business strong, we have also added very human touches like; being a birth coach for a single mom, teaching families how to make their own jam, attended graduation ceremonies for children and adults, helped families reconnect after being separated due to their homelessness, helped seniors attend prom and have their gown for graduation.

This is exciting work, this is work about people - individuals and families like you and me. People who have struggled and overcome and are now giving back in ways that work for them and their families. Some of these people have purchased homes, some have started their own business. Their successes are as unique as each of them are.

Thank you for being part of their success, of our success and helping us continue making the future brighter and hope more prominent in the lives of homeless families in Pierce County.

Best Wishes,
Nola

BASKETS FOR A BOUNTIFUL EASTER

This past Easter morning the children were greeted by toys such as balls, dolls, kites, games, and candy! Their parents discovered some fun and useful items to enjoy! Our families and their children were happy to have all the things that make this holiday special.

Helping Hand House thanks everyone involved for putting together such delightful Easter baskets and for providing all the goodies in the baskets and the groceries for Easter dinner.



We are deeply grateful for your enthusiastic support for the families!

Christina Allen, Tamara Annas, Jackee Bechtold, Chris & Sara Devine, Jeanine Eshpeter, Lisa Eshpeter, Kelly Mainelli, Deanna Maschner, Lisa Ostergren, Barbara Skinner, Leah Stroud, Rose Webster, Boy Scout Troop DXVI, Cub Scout Pack 557, Frontier Bank- Sumner, Girl Scout Troops, Emerald Ridge High School Interact Club, Holy Disciples Catholic Church, Lutheran Church of St. Paul, Meridian Riding Club, Rogers High School SADD Club, Russell Investments, Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary', Sumner Rotary Club, and Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company.

We cannot do our work without your

NO PLACE LIKE HOME Fundraising Breakfast

October 6th

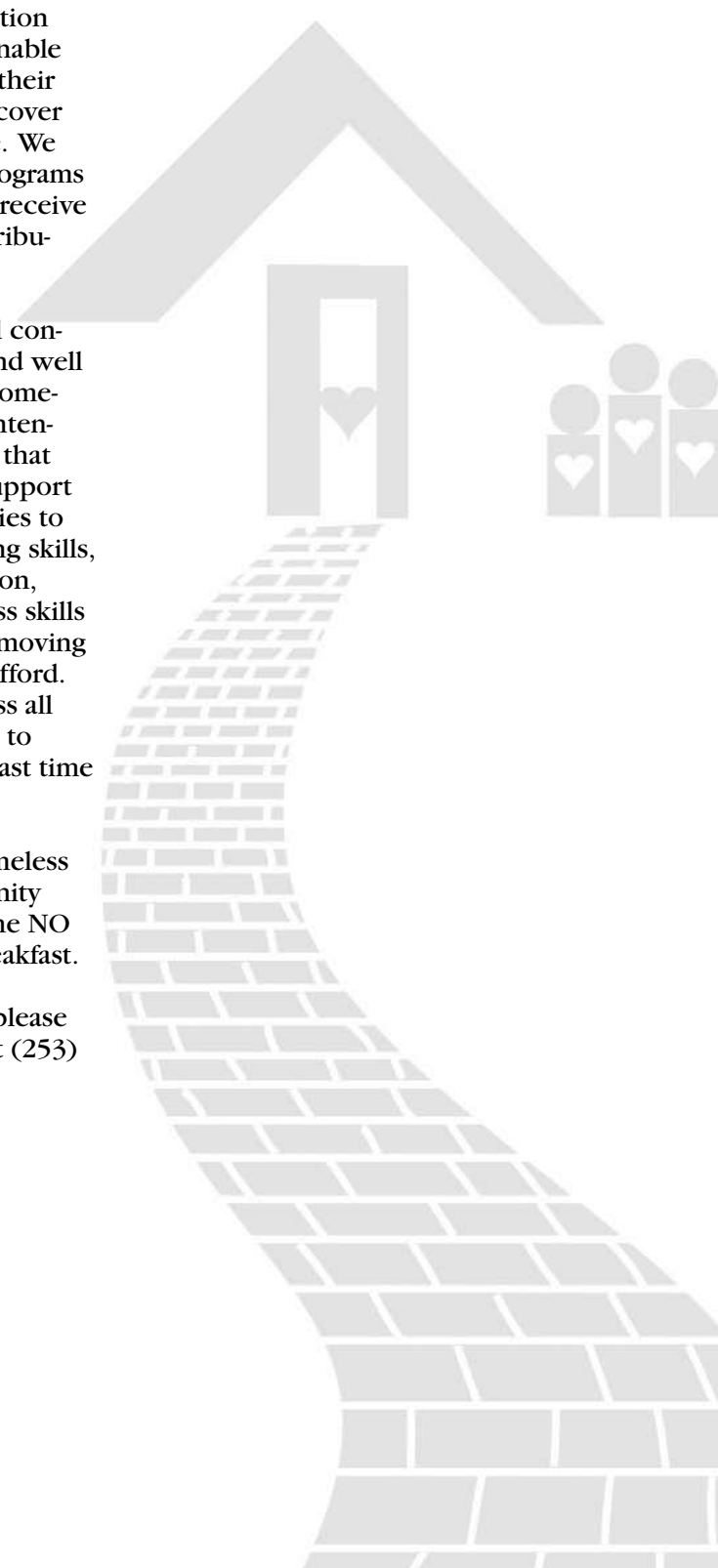
Mark your calendar for Helping Hand House's annual fundraising breakfast this fall!! Please plan to join us at the Puyallup Pioneer Park Pavilion on Tuesday, October 6th from 7:30am to 8:30am.

The theme this year is NO PLACE LIKE HOME. At Helping Hand House, we serve to build a foundation that will support vulnerable families as they regain their self-sufficiency and discover a future full of promise. We are able to fund our programs through the grants we receive and the generous contributions of our donors.

With your help we will continue to provide safe and well furnished housing to homeless families with the intensive case management, that provides a variety of support services enabling families to build independent living skills, complete their education, and obtain job readiness skills before graduating and moving into a home they can afford. Our services encompass all the needs of the family to ensure that this is the last time they will be homeless.

Please support the homeless families in our community by saving the date of the NO PLACE LIKE HOME breakfast.

For more information please contact Lisa or Jamie at (253) 848-6096.



House Warming TOURS

Helping Hand House invites you to one of our upcoming "House Warming" tours. They are held on the third Saturday of every month (except November and December) from 9:30 am to 10:30 am. We encourage you to come learn more about what we do to serve the community. Our goal is to create an awareness of the growing needs of the homeless families in our communities. If you would like to join us, please let us know you are coming or call us at (253) 848-6096 ext. 15 and speak to Jamie Anderson.

COME JOIN US!

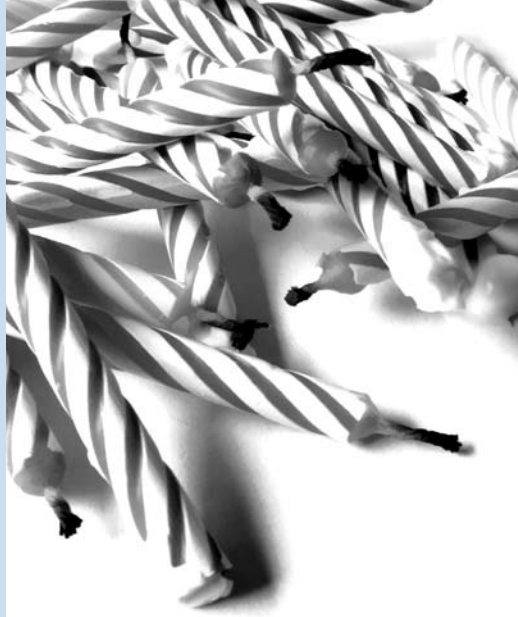
TIS THE SEASON!!!

It's that time of year when we start to think about the holidays. The smells that make your Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas a truly special and meaningful time of year, we too are gearing up for the holidays- but we need your help!

Helping Hand House serves 60 families with 150 children. We need to make sure that every family and child is able to enjoy the holidays just like we do! With your help, we can achieve this goal!

Please consider adopting a family for both Thanksgiving and Christmas; a process which includes providing groceries and a turkey or ham to complete the meal, purchasing gifts for the entire family to unwrap and enjoy, or by purchasing grocery store gift cards for perishable foods for the families to use to help assist them while their children are home on school breaks.

If you are interested in adopting a family for the holidays- please call Lisa at 848-6096 ext. 17. We can match individuals, groups, clubs, businesses and churches up with our families. With your generous donation we all can celebrate the holidays with love and spirit!



Do you remember how magical it was to blow out candles on your birthday cake and how excited you were to open a birthday gift? Well, we create that same happiness and magical feeling for every child that we serve. We go above and beyond to help make every birthday an extra special day!

BIRTHDAY

Every child receives a homemade birthday cake, a birthday gift, and a new book.

So we can continue to make birthdays special, we need help with the following:

- Gifts for children (Boy or Girl): New books and toys for children ages 1 -19 which are age appropriate. If a gift requires batteries, please consider including the appropriate type with your gift.
- Gift Cards: Please consider donating store gift cards to Old Navy, The Gap, Target, Wal-Mart, Zumiez, Hollywood Video, Subway, and McDonald's are very much appreciated for our teen's.



The following are items that are consistently needed by the families in our housing programs.

Helping Hand House is always accepting donations of the following items:

- non-perishable food (canned soups, fruit, etc.)
- shampoo & conditioner
- paper towels
- toilet paper
- new pillows
- new or very gently used pots & pans
- new twin and full/queen bed sheets
- new cookie sheets
- new toys for children and teenagers
- household cleaning supplies
- twin/full/queen mattress & box-spring sets
- bed frames
- bunk beds
- new reading books for all ages
- bath towels
- cookware accessories

Tax deduction receipts are provided for all donations.

Thank you for your continued support!

WISH LIST

- **Handmade Birthday Cards:** Make an age appropriate homemade birthday card for a child. Involve your family, neighborhood, church, or civic group in helping to make the cards
- **Party Supplies:** Donate birthday themed gift wrap, gift bags, paper plates & napkins, party hats, noise-makers and indoor decorations
- **Host a Birthday Party:** Have children who have asked their party guests to donate toys to Helping Hand House children instead of bringing gifts

If you want to donate to our Happy Birthday Program, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 253-848-6096 ext. 17. **THANK YOU!**



Helping Hand House is EVERYWHERE

To help commemorate our 25th anniversary, the media has helped to spread the word about the good work at Helping Hand House.

To read the articles published in both the Tacoma News Tribune and the Puyallup Herald, please visit the HHH web site for links at: www.helpinghandhouse.org
To check us out on TV Tacoma's City Line program follow the link: www.cityoftacoma.org and click on the TV Tacoma/City Line tabs. Helping Hand House's air date was on June 4th.

We are excited to be able to spread the good news of our agency!

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

Summer vacation is just starting and we are already thinking about school supplies. Believe it or not, the school year is just around the corner and it's important for us to begin planning how we are going to fill 100 plus backpacks for the school age children in our programs.

This coming year in particular we will need additional help with donations of reams of: copy paper, scientific calculators, Zip Loc freezer bags, protractors, compasses, and lunch bags and boxes.

We are also appealing to you for donations of funds to purchase the following for every incoming student:

- Two new and complete clothing outfits
- A warm jacket
- Underwear
- Socks
- New pair of shoes

If you wish to donate funds, school supplies, backpacks or adopt one of our school age children and purchase the supplies they will need on the first day of school, please call Lisa at (253) 848-6096 x17.





WE N

Given how rough the economy is for everyone, you can imagine how much harder it is for the families who come to us for help. Items that we take for granted are missing in many of their lives and we like to make sure that doesn't happen as they are working so hard to save and budget their money.

We are so deeply grateful for all support, as we cannot do our work without you at all. If you are able to contribute in the following ways or if you have an idea to share, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 848-6096 ext. 17

Helping Hand House thanks all of our loyal supporters who have given their time, talent and money during these last months. THANK YOU SO MUCH

February 2009 thru May 2009

LIFESAVER SOCIETY

John & Valerie Backus * Judy Brockhoff * Frances Buckmaster & Eli Berniker * George Capestany * Stephen & Nancy Dorsey * Kathy Duarte-Wilson * Marion Hogan * Randall & Deborah Johnson * Robert & Joan Linden * Hans & Ann Lindstrom * Diane Mettler * Beret Mott Marty & Martha Myers * David & Ellie Ottey * Edward & Kay Pullen * Nola Renz * Suzan Robertson * Dan & Gwen Smith * Michelle Springsteen * Bruce & Jan Sisco * Sumner Presbyterian Church * Linda Tevis * Karen & Michael Thomas Teri Hochstein * Danny & Karen Williams * Pat Williams * Mike & Theresa Vega

BUSINESSES

Bullwinkle Family Fun Center * Children's Museum of Tacoma * Continental Mills * Daffodil Entertainment Center * Frontier Bank * L & L Printing * Northwest Trek * Merrill Lynch & Company Foundation, Inc. * Pac-West Brokers

* Party City (Puyallup) * Pierce Transit * Russell Investment Group * Tom Taylor Insurance Group * Tacoma Housing Authority * Tacoma Rainiers Baseball Club * The Boeing Company * Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Company *

CHURCHES

Celebration Center * Church of Jesus Christ LDS * First Presbyterian Church * Holy Disciples Catholic Church * Immanuel Lutheran Church * Joy of Life Church * Lutheran Church of St. Paul * Mountain View Lutheran Church * Our Savior Lutheran Church * Sumner Presbyterian Church * Trinity Church * United Methodist Church Benevolence Fund * United Methodist Church of Puyallup * United Methodist Church of Puyallup *

CLUBS/GROUPS

Boy Scout Troop DXVI * Cub Scout Pack 557 * Destiny Riders Chapter 433 * Emerald Ridge Interact Club * Girl Scout Troops 40355, 40347, 40393, 40694, 40814, 40059, 40429, 41561, 40051, 40694, 40814, 40259 * 4-F (Friends of Four Legged Animals) * Hands All

Around * Meridian Riding Club * Rogers High School SADD Club * Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary * South Hill Single Seniors * Sumner Rotary * The Last Ladies Bunco Club * Women of Immanuel *

SCHOOLS

Emerald Ridge High School * Curtis Junior High School * Puyallup School District * Rogers High School * Sumner Middle School

INDIVIDUALS

Al & Helen Adams * Jan Adams * Tiffany Adams * Cindy Ager * Richard Ager * Christina Allen * Tamara Annas * Jamie & Alison Anderson * Anne & Eric Arnston * Dawn Ayers * Carole & Ted Axtell * Patricia Bahny * Cathy & Wayne Barnard * Marian Bartels * Jackee Bechtold * Tamara Berntsen * Dave & Laura Beste * Chris Bivins * Leanne Blyth * Janie Brim * Dana Brooks * Marge Brouillet * Judy Brown * Molly Cady * Carrel Cabrerra * Katherine Caras * Ahnna Carlson * Josh Chau * Brittany Clapham * Darrin Clapham * Robin Clarke

NEED YOUR HELP

Here are some ways you can help:

■ Organizing a Food Drive- The shelves in our food bank are a little low and we are only mid-way through the year. We are in need of non-perishable food- mostly peanut butter, jam, juice, crackers, canned fruit, applesauce, flour, sugar, oil.

■ Provide a Dinner for Thanksgiving or Christmas: This is a wonderful opportunity to make a significant gift to a family in need. We ask that a group provide either a turkey or ham dinner for the holiday meal. We sometimes have a family with alternate traditions, so please consider providing for them. We would also like you to consider adding other food families can use during the Thanksgiving Break/Winter Vacation. Many of our families receive subsidized school meals, and your gift of a "super-sized" holiday basket would be a welcome

addition. Gift Cards are also welcome and appreciated.

■ Adopt a Family for Christmas: This is a wonderful opportunity to make a significant gift to a family in need. The excitement of anticipating gifts

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on Christmas morning is a pleasure that all of our families cherish. We require all of our families to follow a monthly budget and savings program. The Holiday Giving program eases

our parents' impulse to sacrifice their immediate financial future and encourages them to stay on course to their ultimate goal of moving into private housing. Your gifts will reassure them that their children will not be "left out" during the holidays.

■ Ideas of Monthly Support: Every month you can help by supplying: Toilet paper and paper towels, bath towels, wash cloths, and hand towels, new children's books, household Supplies (kitchen utensils, light bulbs (60W), pots & pans, baking pans, silverware, bowls, measuring cups & spoons), twin and full size bed sheets, quilts for beds and twin/full sized bed comforters.

*Tiffany Coleman * Maxine Coty * Vicki & Randy Crumpacker * Marissa Day * Elaine Daza * Patty & Mike Deal * Norman Deasis * Joan Devine * Chris & Sara Devine * Melissa Dodge * Melvin Drummond * Jeanine Eshpeter * Lisa Eshpeter * Lynne Eskil * Cole Ferquier * Rick Foster * Larry Franckowiak * Donald Frood * Nancy Fulton * Julia Garnett * Kaitlyn Gaut * Michelle Gaut * Becky Giffin * Leroy & Beverly Goff * Jess Gotwals * John Gunderson * Virginia Guptil * Lois Harvey * Teresa, Gregory, Shay Hochstein * Annette Husted * Nate Jackson * Joyce Jensen * Sharon Jewell * James & Sung Johnson * Amy Jones * Kelly Keaveny * Tim Keller * Billiemarie Klein * Tina Krogh * Maureen Kleinhantz * Ruth Landers * DongNghi Le * Joy Longe * Ross & Dianna Lynch Vicki Merrill * Pati Mosier * T.G. & Ivy Myers * Jeffrey & Cathleen Nelson * Steve Nolan * Sierra Norris * Kelly Mainelli * Geri Marquardt * Deanna Maschner * Anne McGinn * Manley McKay * Vicki Merrill * Abby Mitchell * Ha Nguyen * Lisa Ostergren * Jim & Rene Painter * Jeanie Paris * Ralph Preston * Terri Quesada * Allison & Steve Renz * Nola Renz * Dorothy & William Rhodes * Allie Rikard * Susan Ruth * Ashley Sabey * Bobbi Jo Schaapveld * Carla Schlecht

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IN HONOR OF

Communities In Schools By Patricia McMullan

IN MEMORY OF

Mark & Melissa Gudmundson for Cynthia Schwartz

Northwest Industrial Repairs for Cynthia Schwartz

Helping Hand House makes every effort to accurately list the names of our valued donors. If we have inadvertently omitted a name or misspelled a name, please accept our apology. We appreciate your corrections- please call Helping Hand House at (253) 848-6096 ext. 17.

HHH STAFF

Executive Director: Nola B. Renz

Operations Director: Linda Tevis

RETURN REQUESTED

Finance Director: Anna Burris

Development Director: Jamie Anderson

Deputy Development Director: Marion Hogan

Executive Assistant: Becca Schlecht

Volunteer Coordinator: Lisa Heintz

Receptionist & Homeless Prevention Specialist:
Melanie Zdunski

Emergency Housing Specialist: Mike Vega

Bright Futures Specialist: Kay Kohlman

Rural Bright Futures Lead Specialist: Pat Williams

Maintenance Manager: Bill Jones

Front Door Lead Program: Martha Myers

Front Door Tacoma Program: Ralph Preston

Front Door Sumner Program: Tre Davis

Front Door Children's Specialist: Jess Gotwals

Sign of The Times

In an effort to help the environment and to help reduce costs, we are going to also offer a paperless copy of our newsletter to our supporters. If you would like to receive a paperless copy rather than a paper copy, please call us at 253-848-6096 ext. 17 and provide your e-mail address or you can email directly to: lisah@helpinghandhouse.org



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