



ST. FRANCIS HOUSE

Compassion • Giving • Hope

Francis Speaks

Serving the Needs of the Community since 1974

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With a grateful heart, they say goodbye

Brittany's eyes shone with excitement as she sat in Sister Pat's office. "I just got some great outfits for cheerleading practice here!" she announced. "I always find good stuff here."

St. Francis House has been an important part of Brittany's life over the past few years. Her family's financial situation was challenging; at the same time, it was important to her that she looked good enough to fit in with her cheerleading friends.

"We will soon be coming to the end of our visits to the clothing bank," Brittany's mother said quietly. "My husband has a better job now and we won't be needing to come anymore."

The mom went on to explain that the family had first come to St. Francis House when her eldest son had been diagnosed with epilepsy. "It was a terrible time for us," she said. "We were so worried about my son, the medical bills kept piling up, extra gas money was needed to go back and forth to Mary Bridge, and my husband's work was sporadic. And then it was time for school and we couldn't afford anything extra."

Coming to the clothing bank was a happy time for the family. "Sister Margaret always remembered who we were and the burden we were carrying. It felt good to talk to her. Everyone has always been so kind to us here. No one ever made me feel bad or treated me like I was poor."

Simple things found in the clothing bank brighten the lives of our families. Even our youngest shoppers are filled with joy when they find nice clothes and new games to play!

Simple things found in the clothing bank brightened her life. "Whether it was a new pot or pan or a new spoon, it made things easier for us."

"Now that my husband has a steady job and is in the union, we are doing so much better. Not only that, but it has been a year since my son has had a seizure! We think he may have grown out of his epilepsy. I think we are coming to the end of a dark chapter in our lives."

The family's final visit to the clothing bank will take place in August. "I will miss seeing everyone here," said Brittany's mom. "Perhaps after August you will let me volunteer. I would love to help you help other families in their dark times!" ♥



It Is In Giving That We Receive

My friends,

One of the very special joys at St. Francis House is that of bringing moments of happiness into the lives of others. That is often the motivation that brings donors of items and of dollars to our door.

This desire extends even to those who come to The Nook*, our charity boutique on East Main Street. Those who shop at The Nook often report going home with treasures that brighten their homes and lives. One of them recently left with wonderful surprises for someone besides herself!

She had carefully selected Easter dresses for the three little girls who live next door to her. "My neighbors are going through a hard time," she explained. "I am sure they don't have any extra pennies for Easter dresses this year."

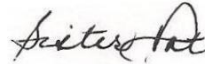
Not only did this shopper have fun selecting lovely dresses, but she also had the joy of surprising her little neighbors with this unexpected gift.

This shopper is not unlike many other donors who look to St. Francis House for a way to brighten the life of someone else. Whether it is bringing a new coat picked up on sale or offering the best of what is extra in their homes, their hearts seem full as they carry in their gifts to be shared.

As the prayer of St. Francis points out, "It is in giving that we receive." It is with much gratitude that we thank you, our donors and volunteers, for your generous hearts

May you receive a hundredfold in special joys of your very own!

Sincerely,



Sister Pat Michalek, OSF
Executive Director

** Staffed by a creative manager and an amazing group of volunteers, The Nook offers home décor and clothing at reasonable prices. The proceeds from these sales helps to support our clothing bank program.*



Thanks to many generous donors, including the Iron Bar Gym (pictured here), we were able to brighten the lives of many families this Easter.

MEMORIAL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED:

In memory of Jeanne K. Cramer, Eugene Duane Esget, Don Fankhauser, Sue Ford, Ann Fowler, Lyman Geis, Jay Vaughn Heber, Ed Hurlow, Carl Kabodeaux, Arlen Lindbo, Bill and Charlotte Morrow, Bill Neil, Ray Ozanich, Brad Parlari, Art Riebli, Cecilia Schiedler, Kim Diane Shack and John Wiley.

In honor of Marian Barallo and Carol Shipman.

GRANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Forest Foundation, Garneau-Nicon Family Foundation, Medina Foundation, and Woodworth Family Foundation.

"We Step Up Because Community Matters"

Many generous businesses are stepping up in various ways to support children and families struggling in our community. We see it here at St. Francis House on a continual basis.

The level of support that businesses are able to provide is invaluable. Their resources - financial as well as the employee connections - are a huge blessing to organizations like ours.

Many businesses get involved with St. Francis House

during the holidays by either hosting a gift drive or putting together holiday meals for families. This involvement usually carries over to other special activities and/or events throughout the year.

Northwest Motorsports has been engaged with St. Francis House for many years. They just recently sponsored our annual Miracle Makers' Breakfast and are currently hosting an employee-wide spring household drive at their offices. *We are truly grateful for their kindness, genuine care and loyal support!*



"It is our pleasure to work with St. Francis House. Our long-standing partnership with SFH has allowed us the opportunity to get our employees involved in the giving back aspect of engaging with our community. We choose to partner with SFH without hesitation during our seasonal employee engagement events because community matters to our staff at Northwest Motorsport, and the cause aligns with our core values and culture."

- Tina, Human Resource Manager

Helping Prevent Family Homelessness

St. Francis House's Emergency Assistance Program has grown tremendously over the last few years. Our program is designed to provide critical short-term relief (rent and utilities support) to families that are at risk of losing their homes or having their utilities shut off.

Year to date, we've been able to help a total of 57 families with rent and utility assistance - helping prevent family homelessness in our community.

There are times toward the end of the month when we have exhausted our monthly budget for these funds and are forced to turn away individuals and families. Since January of this year, we've turned away 233 families

seeking rent and utilities support.

Our Emergency Assistance Program is only one intervention designed to keep individuals and families in their homes, but we believe collaboration with other organizations is a critical part of providing our clients with a comprehensive web of support and the means with which to both preserve and strengthen their families.

If you'd like to help, a gift towards our Emergency Assistance Program will go a long way towards helping families stay together and housed.

Mark's Story

Recently, a St. Francis House staff member stopped at Fred Meyer on the way home from work. As she approached the door, she spotted a familiar figure sitting on the sidewalk, leaning against the building with his dog huddled protectively next to him. It was Mark, one of her homeless friends. He looked drained and exhausted.

Remembering that that day had been his first day on a new job, she asked how it had gone. It seemed that the day had gone well but he had been on his feet the entire time. He had tried to make it across town from work to our meal program at the Armory, but his bad back had caused him to have to stop walking to rest too many times. Knowing that he wouldn't get to the meal site in time, he had given up and stopped to rest at Fred Meyer.

She asked if he was hungry and was surprised to see tears fill his eyes. "My food stamps are used up," he said quietly. "I can't even feed my dog." Of course, she got him food from the deli: hot soup, warm chicken tenders and potato wedges ... and a chocolate eclair!

When Mark pulled the chicken and potatoes out of the bag, he just sat there looking at their wrapping for a while. Puzzled, she asked if the food was okay. He looked up at her with fresh tears. "You tore the prices off!" he said. "That makes it like a gift, not like a hand-out!"

If you are touched by Mark's story or any of our client stories, please consider giving a gift today so that we can continue to inspire hope to those who come to us for help.

Volunteer Spotlight

St. Francis House is blessed to have over 150 wonderful and committed volunteers who make our work possible. ***Last year, our volunteers contributed over 21,419 hours to our organization.***

Sarita is among one of those faithful volunteers. Sarita has been volunteering at St. Francis House for over ten years. A friend from her church had invited Sarita to attend one of our lunch tours. It wasn't too long after the lunch tour that Sarita became engaged with St. Francis House. She initially started working in the clothing bank, but staff quickly realized her gracious and kind spirit was best suited in client registrations.

Sarita enjoys meeting the clients just as much as she enjoys her fellow colleagues. She says everyday is interesting, but finds the most reward in helping the single mothers get what they need for their family. "I love trying to get the moms to smile and to feel at ease with our process", she said.

Sarita has a beautiful and tender soul. She's truly a blessing to SFH and to all those who get to meet her along their life journey. Thank you, Sarita, for your faithful service for over a decade of your life. We are truly grateful to you!



Join Us For The "Best Day Ever!"

Our annual auction, *Fashionable Giving*, is just a week away! We are so excited to be celebrating this year's auction at All Saints Parish Center on **Friday, May 19 from 6-9pm.**

We'd love for you to join us in raising money to support children and families in our community who are struggling to have their basic needs met. Please consider helping in anyway that you are able.

Reserve your seat today! Tickets are \$60 per person. You can RSVP online at www.puyallupfranchishouse.org or by calling our office at (253) 770-6991.

Can't attend? Consider giving a gift to support our efforts by using the remittance envelope provided. *Please note that your gift is for the auction.*



We would like to extend a special thank you to this year's **Presenting Sponsors** for their generous support:



How will you be remembered?

Leaving a gift in your will to St. Francis House is a once in a lifetime chance to see that families and those who struggle to overcome have somewhere to turn for help, even after you're gone.

John and Cosette Pfaff made that important decision last year. John and Cosette have been involved with St. Francis House since 2012. They were attracted to St. Francis House because of the efficient flow and organization of the operations of the clothing and furniture bank. "With so many people donating and so many people in need, you would think it would be chaos, but it's not. It's so amazingly organized," said Cosette.

John and Cosette are impressed with the way people are treated - with such love and respect. "It really is magic. I think it would be hard enough to ask for help if I was down on my luck, but coming to St. Francis House is more like shopping at a department store, so I would be able to keep a little bit of my self-respect."

When asked "why did you choose to put St. Francis House in your will and what do you hope your legacy gift will do?", Cosette responded, "We decided to do this because we have seen the help and goodness that are delivered through the services that St. Francis House provides. We hope our legacy gift will help make St. Francis House sustainable for future generations of people in need."



To learn how easy it is to leave a legacy gift, call Janel at (253) 770-6991, Ext. 22.



St. FRANCIS HOUSE

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Puyallup Valley St. Francis House
P.O. Box 156
Puyallup, WA 98371-0016

Address Service Requested

DONATION HOURS

Mon - Fri 10:00am - 5:30pm
Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday Closed

MONTHLY E-NEWS

Stay up to date on the activities of St. Francis House by subscribing to our monthly eNews. Sign up today by visiting our website.

FOLLOW US



OUR MISSION

We are a center of compassionate presence and service that offers hope and eases the hardships of those in need in East Pierce County. All services are provided free of charge.

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

322 7th St. SE
Puyallup, WA 98372

Clothing Bank: (253) 848-3618
Office: (253) 770-6991

www.puyallupfrancishouse.org

THE NOOK - CHARITY BOUTIQUE

1206 E Main St - Puyallup
(253) 770-6082

Thursday - Saturday:
11:00am - 5:00pm



◀ Sarah's family of eight were recipients of a large food donation given last month by an anonymous donor.

"To the donors... First and foremost, I would like to thank you. I know you probably don't get to see very much how you affect people, but it touches people a lot - *more than you will ever know*. I don't think there is ever words that I can express to you to tell you 'thank you' for helping

people like my family out during these hard times."

- Sarah, Clothing Bank client

*For all you do,
we thank you.*