

FRANCIS SPEAKS

Serving the Needs of the Community since 1974

Making Homes Brighter This Season

This is a special time of year when families gather to celebrate the holidays over food, gift giving and traditions. However, for many of the families we serve, this can be a challenging season, one filled with worry and anxiety over how to create a special Christmas for their families with limited income.

We want our families to be able to fully enjoy this season. We want them to be able to have good food on their tables and wonderful gifts to give their children. The fulfillment of this wish for our families is made possible because of each of you. Here are a few ways you can help generate hope in the lives of others this holiday season.

- **Give a Christmas Gift to a Child** (visit our website to see our Christmas Wish List)
- **Provide a Holiday Meal for a Family**
- **Give a \$25 Fred Meyer Gift Card.** Gift cards are a great way to help a family with the "extras".
- **Give a Cash Gift** so that we can use it supplement any one of these areas.

- **Host a Winter Clothing Drive**
- **Volunteer Your Time and Talent**

Visit our website for more information and donation hours.

Fixings for a Holiday Meal

Support a family with the makings of a Christmas meal. Here is a list of grocery items you can purchase and important dates for meal donations. Or contribute a cash gift and we can do the shopping for you.

- 1 Box or Bag Stuffing Mix
- 1 Can Chicken Stock
- 1 Can Cranberry Sauce
- 2 Cans Green Beans and/ or Corn
- 1 Box Instant Mashed Potatoes
- 1 Packet Gravy Mix
- 1 Can Pumpkin Pie Filling
- 1 Ready Made Pie Crust
- 2 Sticks Butter
- 1 Box Powdered Milk
- Whipped Cream
- Package of cookies for the children

Drop off dates for food donations are December 10, 14 and 17.



◀ *Our Christmas Elves are working hard and have already wrapped and distributed over 1,200 Christmas gift baskets to our families.*

Nurturing the Future Through Your Legacy

Dear Friends,

The giant leaves of our lovely catalpa tree continue to fall upon our grounds, blanketing us with memories of their youthful greenness! Although we hurry to scoop them up, some still manage to sink into the soil, destined to nurture the ongoing life of the tree that towers over them.

This cycle of death opening the door to new life surrounds us during these autumn-into-winter days. Its mystery is reflected in nature, but it is also evident in the programs and buildings of St. Francis House. So much of what we have become has been made possible by the lives and contributions of those who have gone before us.

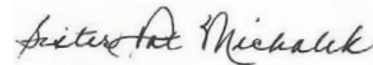
The legacy of our founders, Stan and Doris Michalek, continues to inspire and affect the ways we serve those in need in our community. The financial contribution from the estate of Henry Welzel made possible the building of our storage and office wing. The generosity of Kathryn Riebli shines forth in the renovated beauty and improved functionality of the family home building on our property. The original funders of the Gary E Milgard Foundation and the Ben Cheney Foundation as well as those of many other local foundations have poured life-giving resources into our programs and buildings. Contributions from the lives and energy of countless donors, Miracle Maker Society members, and

volunteers spill over into the lives of those whom we serve, one life nurturing another.

In this issue, you will find a number of ways in which your legacy might be joined to that of others. Whether your resources are great or small, you too can be counted among those who have kept St. Francis House strong and effective in its mission to ease the hardships of our neighbors in need.

In this holy season of giving, consider how your legacy gift might play a lasting role in bringing hope into the lives of present and future generations!

Sincerely,



Sister Pat Michalek
Executive Director

It is with warm gratitude that we remember the legacy of Betty Chipps, long-time volunteer at St. Francis House. An amazing cook and an organizer extraordinaire, Betty provided, prepared, and served Christmas Dinner to our meal program guests at the National Guard Armory for over 20 years. Her children and grandchildren served alongside her. Betty passed into eternal life on July 30, 2018. This Christmas, their first without her, Betty's family will continue the tradition by serving dinner on Christmas Day at the Armory.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUM GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

In memory of Chet Bennett, Grace Carpenter, Betty Ann Chipps, Anne Clinton, Richard Dunn, John M. and Patricia Edwards, Don Fankhauser, Marie and Edward Farole, John Hough, Terry Kabanuck, Bob Nearhood, Minoru Okada, Nancy Van Pevenage, Allene Rodenberg, Wayne Suter, Al and Julie Walter and Heather.

In honor of our children Jaime and Matt, and the Hobby Hall Superintendent and Supervisors.

GRANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Big Lots Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Garneau-Nicon Family Foundation, Multicare, The Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation, The Florence B. Kilworth Foundation, The Marco J. Heidner Foundation, The Norcliffe Foundation and Union Pacific Foundation.

Finding Purpose in this World

Ann came to St. Francis House the summer of 2016 as a homeless client. She was struggling with addiction, and her mother and stepfather – at their wits end – had “dropped” her in Puyallup. The anxiety of being homeless in an unfamiliar city only accelerated her addiction. During this time, she fell in with a group that made her chances of recovery even more difficult.

Until Spring of 2018, Ann had a car that she used as shelter. She was often taken advantage of so others could share the shelter of her car. To say Ann was abused during her time in Puyallup is an understatement. Over nearly 2 years we saw her; repeatedly beaten and assaulted, she was as thin as a

rail and her hair was falling out in clumps. When she lost her car, she hit rock bottom.

Today, having successfully completed rehab and maintained her sobriety, Ann has started taking care of her past legal issues through court ordered community service with St. Francis House. She has also gained a healthy amount of weight, reconciled with her family and is now enrolled in the Bates Cosmetology Program.

St. Francis has not only provided Ann with clothing and other personal necessities, but it has also provided counseling and encouragement, restoring her dignity and purpose in this world.

The Dynamic Duo at The Nook

Jeff and Jackie Kirsch are a dynamic team volunteering every Wednesday at The Nook. The two have been offering their many talents for over 12 years. Back in the early 2000's, Jackie was first introduced to St. Francis House by her friend, Nancy Polich, who was on the Board of Directors at the time. Jackie started coming in every Tuesday and Thursday to hang clothes for the clothing bank. Jeff soon followed and became an invaluable handyman every Saturday. There was hardly a thing he couldn't fix. Everything from microwaves to vacuum cleaners came his way, and 90% of the time it could be fixed and given to a family need.

Jackie's incredible eye for detail and organization make her a invaluable asset at The Nook. Nearly six years ago, she was asked to come join "Team Nook" to help with the store's weekly staging. She is truly an artist and so completely dedicated that she arranges her vacation times around her Wednesday commitment at The Nook so she won't miss a day.

Jeff's involvement at The Nook began the day he enthusiastically agreed to put some legs on a display table. He was immediately deemed a necessity to the crew of volunteers and now finds himself hanging lights, piecing together furniture, woodworking, climbing ladders and

carrying boxes up and down stairs - to name just a few jobs. He is fondly known as the muscle man and Jack-of-all-Trades; he never says no to a job.

The Kirschs, who have been married 44 years, have a common heart to serve the people who come to St. Francis House in need. They fell in love with the mission years ago and have no plans to stop anytime soon.

A sincere thanks to Jeff and Jackie for their faithful service to St. Francis House. We are truly grateful for their kind hearts, gentle spirits and their genuine goodness.



Monthly Giving Transforms Lives

In October, we hosted the 15th Annual *Miracle Makers' Breakfast!* This annual fundraising event brings together over 320 people for an inspiring, life-changing morning of miracles. As one guest stated, "This event is what kicks off the Fall season in our community".

Although this breakfast is a tradition for many community members, it's also a very important fundraiser for our organization. Guests are invited to give a gift; for many that includes a one-time gift to our programs. However, there are a handful of folks who make a multi-year pledge and become a part of the *Miracle Makers' Society*. These financial commitments are critical to the sustainability of the organization. This year, the following individuals joined the Society, bringing our membership to 54 active members! Please welcome the following to the *Miracle Makers' Society*:

- Patricia Jorgensen
- Grant and Lisa Killmer
- Olympic Landscape
- Mark and Lori Reiman
- Joseph and Janelle Romero
- Darrin Shaw

The monthly giving society helps not only plan for services, but the contributions transform lives for

families in our community. Whether that means providing good school clothing for children, or providing moms and dads with work attire, or food to feed their children, or critical financial support to keep families in their homes - these regular monthly gifts make all the difference!

Guess what? You don't have to wait to sign up for monthly giving until our next Breakfast. You can sign up online today via PayPal or call our office to set up your monthly giving account.



SINCERE THANKS TO OUR BREAKFAST SPONSORS

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Good to Know!

Did you know once you reach the age of 70.5, you are required to take out minimum distributions from your traditional IRA account? If you are in the fortunate position of not needing your distribution, you can avoid income tax on your required withdrawal by donating your money directly to a charity.

Those who meet the age requirement can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly to an eligible charity

without paying income tax on the transaction. Qualified charitable contributions must be made by December 31 each year in order to exclude that amount from taxable income.

Thank you for considering this option for supporting our mission in the community. You will want, however, to consult your tax advisor or estate planning attorney about your situation.

This is What Matters

Written by Heather Bartkowski, staff at St. Francis House

On my way to work today, I debated what color I should paint the walls in my entryway. There are so many choices that I love, but I really wanted to find something my husband liked, too. That narrowed my options considerably. These are the kinds of dilemmas in my life.

Upon my arrival at St. Francis House, I was asked to write an article about one of our clients. Shanice was coming in later that day to finalize paperwork for financial assistance toward the deposit and first month's rent on a new apartment. When she had come in two weeks earlier, she needed \$2,390; substantially more than St. Francis House can afford. She called this morning ecstatic because she had been able to pool money together from other donors. She only needed \$200 more, and we could help her with that!

Since Shanice was coming in, I had the opportunity to interview her in person. I was incredibly nervous because I didn't think I knew how to talk with her, what I should say or ask to accurately write her story. I said a quiet prayer for wisdom as I headed into the room.

Shanice was sitting very still in her chair. She quickly glanced up at me and then back down at her hands and remained motionless. I wasn't certain how I could "draw her out." Her friend Kelly was with her, and it was she who began to relay Shanice's nightmare story.

On March 14, Kelly received a panicked call from Shanice, who was then living in Arkansas. Her boyfriend

had been gunned down and murdered in front of her, in her home, by an angry acquaintance. She was nine months pregnant - due at any time. The police responding to the call treated the case like it was a drug case, but the reality was there were no drugs involved. Police officials did not pursue the gunman. And Shanice, fearing for her life and the lives of her unborn baby and three older children, knew she needed to flee. So she called Kelly for help. Kelly cleared out her bank account and borrowed money from friends to buy five one-way plane tickets to Puyallup for Shanice and her children.

"I felt so down driving here, but I'm leaving here feeling so much better and more hopeful," Shanice told staff as she left.

Kelly, her five children, Shanice and her four children had been sharing an apartment since March. But the neighbors began to complain about the noise and traffic of 11 people living in one small apartment, so the landlord had to ask them to move out. They are homeless and living in their cars now.

While Kelly recounted their journey, Shanice began to weep. Quiet sobs shook her body. She was reliving the horror of the last 8 months. I have never witnessed someone being so broken and so helpless. I wanted to hug her, so I finally gave into the urging to love on her, not certain how she would respond. I stood and walked over to her and asked her if I could hug her. She stood and wrapped her arms around me tightly and desperately, weeping with all her heart. I was giving her the best gift I could possibly give at that moment.

This. This is what matters, my heart whispered.

Your Legacy Gift

Leaving a legacy gift to a charitable organization might seem like a daunting task, but what many don't know (according to Al, one of our donors) is that it can be a very simple adjustment to your retirement savings. Instead of contacting your lawyers and making alterations to your will, you can simply change your beneficiary on your retirement accounts.

You can choose to designate a certain percentage of your account to the charity of choice by designating that charity as a beneficiary.

This easy strategy for giving a major gift has life-changing impact. St. Francis House has been able to grow substantially over the years due to legacy gifts given.

Consider our most recent milestone – the renovation of Riebli House. This project was made possible by the legacy gift left by Kathryn Riebli. Her legacy gift allowed us to complete an important construction project that we'd been dreaming about for over a decade! These major gifts allow us to carry out our mission and better serve families in our community who need our help.



ST. FRANCIS HOUSE
Compassion • Giving • Hope

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-NEWSLETTER

Stay up to date on the activities of St. Francis House by subscribing to our monthly email. 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

Thankful for You!

As we head into the holiday season, we can't help but look back and be thankful for the many blessings that transpired throughout the year. Not only of the client's stories that have touched our hearts, but of *you*, the AMAZING and GENEROUS donors that have become a part of our faithful mission.

