

# FRANCIS SPEAKS

*Serving the Needs of the Community since 1974*

Puyallup Valley St. Francis House

PO Box 156, Puyallup, WA 98371

Volume 26, Issue 1

## *The Story of James*

James limped into St. Francis House with a walker brace on his left leg. In January, he had gotten a splinter in his foot, and it was now infected and in danger of being amputated. He had already lost his right leg to amputation because of an infection. His lovely wife, Janet, has a disease like fibromyalgia that causes searing, constant pain in both her legs, so she cannot walk and is wheelchair bound. In the midst of these struggles, they also care for their twenty-one year old adopted daughter who has cerebral palsy.

James and Janet adopted their daughter at birth from a fifteen year old girl from their church. The young girl had been a member of James' youth bible study that he led every week. She suddenly stopped attending one day, and after a few months, James called to check on her and see how she was doing.

She had told him she was about to have a baby that she didn't want. James and Janet and their two biological children agreed that adopting the infant and making her a part of their family was the right thing to do. Their new bundle of joy was born with cerebral palsy and would need a lifetime of care, but they knew she was worth it.

Today, James came to our office to ask for \$108 to keep the power from being shut off at his house. This was only a portion of the total amount that was owed. Thankfully, we were able to help him with the entire \$170.88 owed to the power company. James and Janet were overjoyed and tearfully thankful for the help. We were even able to give them a gas voucher to help pay for their visits to and from St. Francis House. After giving staff a huge hug, James said, "I always remember, there's always someone else worse off than we are." ♥

## *Maximize Your Impact*

There are many ways to maximize your impact at St. Francis House. Check out a few of these easy and free ways to support our mission!

- **Amazon Smiles:** Shop [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and select St. Francis House as your charity and a percentage of your purchases will go directly to us!
- **Fred Meyer Rewards:** Do you have a Fred Meyer rewards card? If yes, make sure to participate in their [Community Reward Program](#)! Simply link your card to St. Francis House and whenever you shop at Freddy's, you will be helping our organization earn a donation.
- **Company Match:** Many employers will match charitable donations made by their employees. Make sure you check with your company to see if they offer this benefit. Some companies will even pay for you to volunteer!

## Celebrating 45 Years of Faith-Filled Service

The year was 1974. The place was a small store front on Portland Avenue in Tacoma. Puyallup residents, Stan and Doris Michalek, opened the doors of their first St. Francis House to low-income neighbors, offering them free clothing as a means of easing their struggles. Members of a group of Secular Franciscans, they had found a concrete and meaningful way for this group to bring the Gospel to God's poor.

This Gospel message, the good news that God continues to dwell among his people and whose presence is revealed to them by the caring presence and compassionate service of St. Francis House, continues to be proclaimed 45 years later at its current location in downtown Puyallup.

In the course of its years of service, St. Francis House has expanded its programs beyond its clothing bank to include an evening meal program, an emergency food pantry, English classes for Spanish-speaking adults, and one-time assistance with rent and utilities for those threatened with homelessness.

Waves of volunteers have flowed in and out of St. Francis House programs, bringing warm, giving hearts along with new skills. A hard-working and talented staff provides stability and quality assurance to its programs. A competent Board of Directors oversees its policies and resource development.

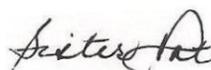
Donors have sprung up and faithfully supported its programs even during economic downturns. As some of these donors have moved gracefully into their last years, they have gifted St. Francis House with bequests that ensure its future. These unexpected contributions create a legacy of goodness that will allow St. Francis House to continue its mission into the years ahead.

As our founder, Doris Michalek, was wont to say, "God never asks you to do something without being there to support you through it; God never leaves you hanging alone on a limb!" You are among those volunteers and donors who hold up that limb!

In this issue, you will read about others like you who play a significant role in the mission of St. Francis House, offering hope and relieving the hardships of the poor, today and for years to come.

As we celebrate 45 years of service, we celebrate each of you, as well!

Sincerely,



Sister Pat Micahelik  
Executive Director

### MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUM GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

**In memory of** Tony Antonelli, Don Armatis, Louis Boitano, Ryan Brown, Katherine Casteel, Colleen, Clifford Coole, Don Fankhauser, Gordon and Rose DeLacey, John Edwards, Robert Gitt, Marna Harrington, Heather, Corky Heeb, John Hough, Dulce Lasso, Mike Lucey, John Melton Jr., Bob Nearhood, Minoru Okada, Eric Peterson, John Pompeo, Kathryn Riebli, Allene Rodenberg, Nancy Van Pevenage and Steven Wilson.

**In honor of** Dick and Edna Barnes, Catholic Coffee Girls, David Cornforth, Debbie Hebert, Jeff and Jackie Kirsch, and Earl and Gail Mach.

### GRANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Altrusa International of Puyallup Valley Foundation, Forest Foundation, Milgard Family Foundation, Oscar T. and Olivann Hokold Foundation, Puget Sound Energy Foundation, Puyallup Kiwanis Foundation, Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions, Washington Federal Foundation and William Kilworth Foundation.

## A Full-Circle Moment

Shirley stopped by St. Francis House to donate some clothing one sunny afternoon. During her delivery, a staff member asked her how she knew about us. It turned out Shirley has a long history with our programs, and it started out on the receiving end.

Shirley became pregnant at an early age of seventeen while attending Puyallup High School. Unfortunately, she had to drop out of school to attend to her new baby girl. During this time, she found a part-time data processing job at Good Samaritan Hospital. She loved her job, but it wasn't enough income for her family. She came to St. Francis House and received wonderful clothing for herself and her daughter as well as many

household items. "I would have never been able to afford any of those things at that time," said Shirley as she reminisced about those hard days.

After a few years had passed, she decided to go back to school. She enrolled at Pierce College to get her GED and then obtained an AA degree with an emphasis in computer science and business. She then went on to graduate from the University of Puget Sound in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science degree.

*It's wonderful to share this full-circle moment with you. We hope it brings joy to your heart knowing the impact you make on people in this community.*

## Honoring our Amazing Volunteers



On March 30, we celebrated our wonderful volunteers during the annual *Volunteer Appreciation Reception* that was held at the Washington State Fair. This special event was to recognize the amazing work of our 155 active volunteers who contributed 18,060 hours last year in our programs!

"Without our volunteers, very little could actually be accomplished at St. Francis House," said Sister Pat during the celebration. Quite literally, we could not do this work unless we hired an additional nine full-time staff!

*We want to thank each volunteer for their contribution and faithful service to the mission of St. Francis House. We are honored to have you as part of our family!*



*This year's service pin awards went to Alice McHugh - 20 years of service (left) and Dick and Edna Barnes - 15 years of service (on right).*

*Award recipients (not pictured) include: Lee Bonvini - 5 years, Jim and Joyce Compton - 5 years, and Morgan Shinstine - 5 years.*

## Meal Program Team Passes the Torch

It all started in 2005 when Terri Olson, Managing Broker and Realtor at Home Team Northwest, decided to invite her company to participate in the Evening Meal Program. The employees, eager to get involved, quickly became a meal program team serving a hot meal once a month on their designated night.



Since opening their doors in 2001, it's been a priority for Terri to have the company stay engaged in the community. "Community is very important to me and serving a meal has been a way in which we could help as a team," Terri said.

In December of 2018, Home Team Northwest served their last hot meal to approximately 60 guests. With an ever-growing business, they decided to take a step away from this service and allow others to step up. "I really believe in what St. Francis House is doing. We will continue to stay connected and help whenever and wherever we can," said Terri.

*We want to acknowledge and thank Home Team Northwest for their thirteen years of service to the Evening Meal Program. Your kindness and commitment don't go unnoticed and we are truly grateful to you all! A special thanks to Terri Olson for her coordination and compassion in serving her community.*

## Joy of Service

"It brings me joy to be of service and to interact with the children and families," said Boyd Wiley when asked why he chooses to volunteer at St. Francis House. Boyd has been volunteering for two years on Tuesdays and Thursdays in our clothing bank. He also leads prayer on those days and has become our "go-to" person for training new volunteers.

Boyd has the wonderful job of checking out families after their shopping session. However, it's not uncommon to hear Boyd entertaining small children with one of his many animal voices.

"Being here is great therapy for me! It has helped me to interact with people different than myself and has changed my perspective on many issues," he said.

Boyd loves listening to the client's stories and he's remarkable at remembering those stories and their names! He even attempts to learn and speak Spanish so that he can engage more personally with our Spanish-speaking clients.



*Boyd's calm and cool nature is refreshing to his fellow volunteers and to clients alike. We are truly grateful to him for his consistent and faithful service to the families of St. Francis House.*

# A Night of Fashionable Giving



**Friday, May 17 from 6-9pm**  
All Saints Parish Center in downtown Puyallup

We are just weeks away from our **8th Annual Fashionable Giving Auction!** This special event will raise critical funds to support our clothing bank, a program that gave hope to 2,194 households last year!

This year's theme, "Love in Action" is sure to delight your senses! We will have complimentary wine, silent auction tables, delicious catered food by the Vault Catering Company and an exciting fashion show featuring "twice-loved" items from our very own clothing bank!

**Tickets are \$65 per person**

**RSVP online at:** <https://puyallupfranchishouse.ejoinme.org/fashionablegiving>

**Can't attend?** No worries, you can still be a part of the fun! A cash gift from you will go a long way in helping us serve families. Return your gift in the remit envelope enclosed or give online.

## Special Thanks to our Presenting Sponsors

**HomeStreet Bank**

**KORUM**  
for Kids Foundation

**Dusty Braden**  
EDGEWOOD, WA

## Current Wish List

We work hard on keeping our website updated with our ever-changing clothing bank needs. Please frequent our website often or subscribe to our e-newsletter on our website to get the latest updates.

In the meantime, here are our current clothing bank and food pantry needs. If you can help in anyway, we'd be so appreciative! *Donation hours and location can be located on the back page of this newsletter.*

### Clothing Bank Needs:

- Men's jeans (size 32/34)
- Men's work attire and work boots
- Small appliances (microwaves, toasters, blenders)

- Girls and Boys clothing (sizes 7-14)
- Children's underwear and socks

### Emergency Food Pantry Needs:

- Canned soups
- Canned fruits
- Canned meats (tuna, spam and chicken)
- Rice and pinto beans (preferably not canned)
- Peanut butter
- Spaghetti sauce
- Top Ramen (chicken and beef)
- Cup of Noodles (chicken and beef)
- Pasta Roni boxed meals



**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](http://www.puyallupfrancishouse.org)

#### **THE NOOK CHARITY BOUTIQUE**

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

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

## *Phoebe's Corner*

My name is Phoebe. I discovered St. Francis House during one of my tours of the neighborhood. It was full of the things I love: people who think I'm wonderful, the children of shoppers, lots of nooks and crannies to explore, and cozy corners for napping. I decided to adopt them as my second family.

My primary volunteer job is entertaining them and guarding the property from invading squirrels and birds.

Be sure to stop and say hello to me when you come to visit. You, too, might think I am wonderful!

