

FRANCIS SPEAKS

Serving the Needs of the Community since 1974

Puyallup Valley St. Francis House

PO Box 156, Puyallup, WA 98371

Volume 26, Issue 2

A Gift of Gratitude Lives On

It was early morning in 2004 and November's heavy night frost still hung in the air. As Sister Pat hurried past the covered patio outside the clothing bank's sorting room, she noted that the homeless woman whom she had allowed to sleep there had not yet awakened. Concerned, she approached her to make sure she was alright. She was shocked to see that the woman's hair was actually frozen!

This encounter led to Sister Pat and our founder, Doris Michalek, having a serious discussion about whether they should allow Leslie to sleep inside the family home building on the property. Realizing that this homeless woman was newly estranged from her family, they had been trying to help her find work. Keeping her from freezing to death now seemed an even higher priority.

The next night found Leslie safe and sound in an upstairs room of the house. In the course of the next weeks, Doris succeeded in helping Leslie secure work at the local Baskins Robbins. Within a month after finding work, Doris had suggested to one of St. Francis House's friends that she offer one of her small apartments to Leslie. This kind landlady took Leslie in and befriended her.

But Leslie's times of trial and tribulation were not over. She was diagnosed with cancer and required a surgery that was followed by months and years of difficult treatments. Her landlady supported her through this, helping her to get to her treatments and forgiving sometimes inadequate rent payments. A little over six months ago, Leslie lost her battle with the disease.

After Leslie's death, her landlady finished taking care of her affairs. One day not long ago, she arrived in Sister Pat's office with a check for \$20,000! This was what was left of Leslie's estate. Her often repeated wish that she could somehow repay her debt to St. Francis House was finally fulfilled!

We have been "standing on tiptoe" waiting to see whom God will send us as a candidate for Leslie's gift of gratitude!

This gift has been placed in a special emergency assistance fund. It is designated for use in helping older women living on our streets, one of the fastest growing groups in our homeless population. It will be used for something that would make a significant difference in helping these women become housed again. We have been "standing on tiptoe" waiting to see whom God will send us as a candidate for Leslie's gift of gratitude!

We are a center of compassionate presence and service that offers hope and eases the hardships of those in need in east Pierce County.

The Greatest Joys

My Friends,

Have you noticed that one of the greatest joys of the human heart comes from helping someone else? It is something that seems to be “baked” into us by a God whose continuous outpouring of love created us in His image. We find ourselves to be happiest when we are faithfully reflecting that image.

This simple yet profound truth is evident in so many corners of St. Francis House. Whether it is witnessed in the smiles of our volunteers and staff members or on the faces of our donors and partners, the joy of making a difference in someone else’s life creates a common bond among us.

In this issue of “Francis Speaks,” you will find evidence of that life-giving bond. The wonder of Leslie’s story will surely warm your hearts. Our spotlight on Phyllis, a longtime volunteer, will bring you face to face with a giving spirit. Our client stories will introduce you to some of those who have benefited from our services. The Back-to-School program will offer you a simple way to make a difference. Our auction re-cap invites you into an important way to keep our programs flourishing.

We urge you to mark October 2nd, our Miracle Makers’ Breakfast, on your calendars! Plan to invite one or two friends who share your joy in helping others. They will surely thank you for finding one more opportunity to give of themselves in a meaningful way!

Sincerely,



Sister Pat Michalek
Executive Director



MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUM GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

In memory of Don Armatis, Richard Bresina, George Bustruck, Betty Chipps, Don Fankhauser, Jim Hamre, Leslie Lemon, Janice Morris, Bill Neil, John Pompeo, Kathryn Riebli, Chuck Wetzel and Richard Zech.

GRANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

National Christian Foundation Northwest, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Schiff Foundation and Woodworth Family Foundation.

Preparing Children to Succeed

We believe every child should be equipped with the tools needed to be successful and ready for school. We also understand that sometimes our families struggle to afford the long list of school supplies that are needed each year.

Last year, St. Francis House served 1,035 students with a backpack full of grade-appropriate school supplies and clothing for school.

Our Back-to-School Program will run for five weeks, beginning on July 30 and ending on August 30. We are expecting to serve even more students this year and would love your help!

Help students by purchasing school supplies off the supplies list to the right. We also have put together an Amazon "Back-to-School Wish List" that you can access on our website. Shop our highest need items

on Amazon and have them shipped directly to us!

Please try to contribute school supplies before the end of July. This will ensure the supplies get to the students just in time for our program!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED:

New children's socks and underwear
Backpacks (gently used or new)
College ruled spiral notebooks and paper
Wide ruled spiral notebooks and paper
Blue and black pens
Crayons
Highlighters
Colored folders
Earbuds / Headphones
Lunch boxes

*Help prepare
more than 1,000
students for school this
year by contributing
school supplies and
clothing.*



Annual Fashionable Giving Auction

Our 2019 Fashionable Giving Auction raised just shy of \$140,000! On Friday, May 17 supporters of St. Francis House gathered at All Saints Parish Center for the 8th Annual Fashionable Giving Auction.

Guests were treated to complimentary wine, delicious food catered by The Vault Catering Company, and tables full of beautifully packaged items to bid on in the silent auction.

A heartwarming testimonial from Marianne, a widowed grandmother raising her two grandchildren, touched our hearts and reminded us of the difference we can make in people's lives.

Our program ended with an exciting fashion show featuring "twice-loved" items from our Clothing Bank and models from our community! It was truly a wonderful evening spent with wonderful people!



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the individuals and businesses who donated auction items to the event, to our generous guests who invested in the lives of the families we serve, and for the many volunteers who made it all possible! THANK YOU for the amazing and loyal support.



Guests, Andrea Hogan and Sheryl Knowlton, captured a special moment in the event photo booth!

Thanks to our Sponsors!

PRESENTING SPONSORS:



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Banner Bank • Christian McClung - State Farm Insurance • Ken's Pool & Patio

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FRIENDS OF ST. FRANCIS HOUSE SPONSORS:

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Cheerful and Faithful Volunteer

Dependable... faithful... cheerful... eager... helpful... kind. These are just a few of the words that staff and volunteers used to describe Phyllis LeBlanc. Phyllis has been volunteering at St. Francis House for 14 years!

She started out by donating items to our Clothing Bank. "I loved that the items I donated were immediately put out in the store and distributed to families. And, it was free!" said Phyllis. After donating for several months, she saw a flyer posted in the receiving area for volunteers needed. She put in her application and began volunteering right away.

"At first I was hanging clothes up in the store," she remembers. "Then, I learned that Krispy Kreme would give us their day-old pastries, so I offered to pick them up on my volunteer days."

When Krispy Kreme's closed, Phyllis worked an arrangement out with several local Starbucks. She

faithfully picked up pastries from Starbucks twice a week for many, many years. She would sort and package the donated pastries and put them out in the Clothing Bank for families to take. They were quite the hit with families!

Phyllis currently helps with sorting the donated socks and organizing them by age and sizes. She also helps pull all the empty hangers off the racks after a shopping session.

"I keep coming back to volunteer because of the people. The people we serve and the people I get to volunteer with," said Phyllis.

We are extremely grateful to Phyllis for her faithful service over the years. Her cheerful demeanor and eagerness to help is a blessing to everyone around her. Thank you, Phyllis for being such a wonderful and committed volunteer!

"I'm grateful for the community that supports this organization. They should be commended for their generosity."





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

Phoebe's Corner



You might have noticed that our flower beds have been freshly treated with beauty bark. This was spread by a group of about 15 teenagers from Gospel Life Church. They worked diligently for over an hour. You can be sure that I supervised their work carefully. No one steps onto my turf without being inspected!

cared-for grounds. It seems to make them happy to be in a beautiful environment. Those young people did a good thing!



I am sure that people who come to our clothing bank will love walking on our freshly