



FRANCIS SPEAKS

Volume 21, Issue 1

A Publication of the Puyallup Valley St. Francis House

April 2016

Schedule of Activities

Lunch Tours

We invite you to join us for a Wednesday lunch tour (see dates below). You can register on our website or by calling our office at (253) 770-6991.

- May 18
- June 15
- July 20
- August 17
- September 21

Fashionable Giving Auction

Friday, May 20 at 6pm
Station House 726, Puyallup
\$60 per person | RSVP online

Annual Volunteer Picnic

Sunday, August 21 at 4pm
St. Francis House

Miracle Makers' Breakfast

Wednesday, Oct 5 at 7:30am
Bethany Baptist Church

Because of you ...

Since January, we have been able to distribute 39,939 items of clothing and household items to 1,667 households, 133 of whom came for the first time -- all free of charge! Thank you for making such an impact this year!

Striving For A Better Place

Karen and her teenage daughter shopped cheerfully in the clothing bank on a warm spring day in March. "I received my Bachelors of Science certificate in the mail today! You're the first person I've been able to tell that to," Karen said happily to a staff member.

Enchanted by Karen's excitement, the staff member asked about her degree, her family story, and what brought her to St. Francis House.

Karen and her husband were living in Arizona where they had owned a construction business. During the recession, the business and then their home was lost. "It was our darkest hour when God came through (as he always has) with a job in Washington."

They moved to Washington with only what little they could fit in their vehicle. Most of their clothing was suited to Arizona weather so they were at a loss to keep everyone warm during those first many months. That's when they heard about St. Francis House. "It meant so much to have warm bedding and coats. Things that others might take for granted like a lamp or boardgame, pretty dishes, a couple extra food items, it all mattered... and we were grateful for each gift."

Most recently, Karen was awarded the Brigadier General Scholarship which allowed her to complete her Bachelors

in Accounting. She plans on taking the CPA exam this fall. "Hopefully, I won't need St. Francis House much longer. But, I'm sure so happy we found this place when we moved here.... the generosity is overwhelming... humbling," she said.

A volunteer, aware of Karen's financial challenges and large household, suggested that Karen and her family be the recipient of a large food donation given that month. "There aren't words to express how grateful our family is for your unexpected gift. The food is wonderful and the love that brought it will stay with our family that much longer," Karen expressed in a letter to the anonymous donor of food.

Karen and her family are working hard to rebuild their lives and are deeply grateful for all of the support they have received. "Thank you to the donors of St. Francis House for being here for us as we strive to reach a better place." ♥



"Thank you for being here for us as we strive to reach a better place."

WHO WE ARE

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

OUR MISSION

St. Francis House provides hope for the future by providing basic necessities unmet by others. All services are provided free of charge.

BOARD MEMBERS

José Padilla, *Chairperson*
 Zach Hamilton, *Vice-Chairperson*
 Amy Pierson, *Treasurer*
 Judy Vidal, *Secretary*
 Susan Adams-Provost
 Ellen Bradley-Mak
 Sharon Coleman
 Trish Dimmitt
 Cosette Gibson-Pfaff
 Jim Hamre
 Paula Jones
 Morgan Shinstine
 Howard Spero

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 156 • Puyallup, WA 98371

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

322 7th St. SE • Puyallup, WA 98372

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

www.puyallupfranchishouse.org
facebook.com/puyallupfranchishouse

DONATION HOURS

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

THE NOOK - CHARITY BOUTIQUE

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

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

Don's Legacy

My dear friends,

Don Fankhauser was a good man. His heart reached out to embrace anyone who was in genuine need. He lightened loads and brightened days with his warmth and smile and humor. He even found practical ways to help.

That is why it has been such a pleasure to help people in his name! Don passed into eternal life on February 26, 2016, leaving behind a legacy of genuine goodness and compassion.

His friends and family have made financial contributions to St. Francis House in his memory and we have placed them in a special fund. From this memorial fund, we have been able to help people whom we think Don might have wanted to help. Let me tell you about one of them.

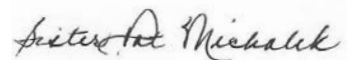
Ruth is a childless widow whose social security income stretches only so far. She made the mistake of leaving her purse in the car while she ran in to use the restroom at a local store. When she returned to her car, the purse was gone. "I was only gone a minute or two!" she said. The tragedy of this event was that her rent money was in her stolen purse.

The domino effect of this theft brought her to St. Francis House carrying her eviction notice and a look of quiet defeat on her face. Thinking that she might be just the kind of person Don would find a way to help, we dipped into his fund and made it possible for her stay in her apartment. I am sure that Don must have been smiling from heaven as he watched her look of despair transform into a look of total amazement!

As the days have passed, other Don-like acts have made life better for other people. Car batteries and shattered windshields have been replaced, groceries and gas have been purchased, down payments for apartments have been paid; life is better for eleven other people in our community.

And Don's legacy continues to shine through the generosity of his family and friends. Rest in peace, Don Fankhauser, good friend of God and of God's vulnerable ones!

Most Gratefully,



Sister Pat Michalek
 Executive Director

GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

In memory of Gene Anderson, Sr. Shirley Ann Boucher, Joanne Cramer, Mrs. Sinh Do, Richard Dunn, David Fairbanks, Don Fankhauser, Howard and Ruby Fitzgerald, John Gallagher, Mike Kupfer, Mike Lucey, Gloria Nagle, Jeffrey J. Patoff, John Sittnick, Fr. Tony Vallis, Dolores Wanden and Steven Wilson.

In honor of Dan and Lilia Carmona and Julie Mounts.

Remember St. Francis House in your will and allow your legacy to live on in the community.

What To Worry About First

Naomi was worried when she came to St. Francis House on a wet and windy morning in early March. “I have never had to ask for help before,” she confided to the intake volunteer. “But my husband left me two months ago and I am trying to figure out how to take care of my two sons and myself.”

As the interview progressed, it became evident that Naomi had been left with few resources with which to support her family. She had found a job, but would not receive a paycheck for one more week. In the meantime, she was behind on her rent, her utilities, and her car payment. The front brakes of her car were barely holding. Her two teenage sons had already grown out of the clothes they had been wearing when her husband left. “I don’t know what to worry about first,” she said.

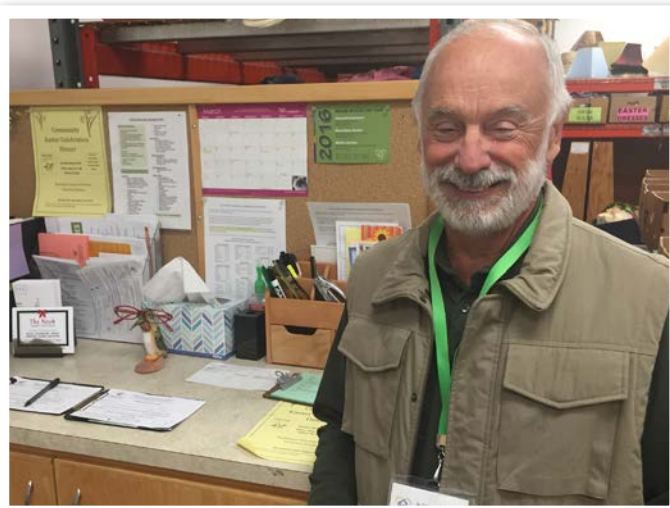
Within the next hour, St Francis House had arranged for part of her rent and the balance of her utilities bill to be paid. They had connected her with the school counselor at Emerald Ridge in hopes that the school district could pay the balance of her rent. Through the kindness of Bill Korum’s Nissan, an appointment had been made to replace her brakes free of charge. She had also found clothing for her sons.



Thanks to Bill Korum's Nissan and other faithful donors, Naomi and her family are a little more hopeful.

“I had no idea that people could be so kind,” she said as she left St. Francis House that day. “When I came, I didn’t know what to worry about first. Now I feel like I don’t have anything to worry about at all! I don’t know how to begin to thank you.” ♥

To Be An Ambassador



Burt Ellison is a familiar face around St. Francis House. He became engaged in the organization as a board member in 2007. Nowadays, you’ll find his cheery personality in our donation receiving room as an official Ambassador of St. Francis House.

Burt became an Ambassador two years ago and loves volunteering in this capacity. “I enjoy coming here once a week to do my small part in giving back.”

As an Ambassador, Burt greets the donors with a warm smile, helps unload their donations, and provides campus tours and information to those who are interested. “I love giving tours to people and watching their faces light up in surprise when they get to see everything we do here.”

Burt is one of our Ambassador leaders and he dreams of having a full team of volunteers serving at least once a week in this capacity. “It’s important to show our donors how much we appreciate them and it sets us apart”.

Burt encourages anyone who’s outgoing, believes in the mission, and enjoys people to seriously consider being an Ambassador of St. Francis House. You can visit Burt on Tuesdays or call our office if you are interested in getting involved.

Business Partner Spotlight

St. Francis House is honored to partner with so many wonderful and generous businesses in our community. Businesses support the mission in a variety of ways. Some businesses get involved by sponsoring one of our major events, hosting clothing and food drives, setting up employee contribution funds, or hosting special fundraising events for our programs.

Sportsman's Warehouse is a newer business partner of St. Francis House. Their local store in Puyallup has become very active in the community. They initially became involved with our organization in 2014 when they partnered with us on their *Ladies Night* in-store event and raised \$525 for our programs.

This April, they hosted this event for the third year and raised over \$1,200! *Ladies Night* is among one of the many ways Sportsman's Warehouse stays engaged. They also support our annual auction and most recently the District Manager, Howard Spero, began serving on the Board of Directors at St. Francis House.

"We are thrilled to continue our partnership with St. Francis House this year. They are not only very grateful for our support, but they also want to see our business succeed as well. We've gained valuable customers because of our involvement in their organization," said Howard.



Sister Pat (left), Howard Spero (center) and Amy Pierson (right). Howard and Amy both serve on the Board of Directors at SFH.

Businesses like Sportsman's Warehouse make a great difference in the sustainability of our programs. We are thankful for their loyal support, kindness and contributions.

What Will Become Of Your Legacy?

We are extremely grateful for your donations. Your gifts are changing lives. Large and small – every dollar makes a difference. **But, what if you could continue impacting lives even after your lifetime?**

If you want to ensure that your support of St. Francis House continues even after you're gone, you may be interested in the simplicity of designating a gift in your will or living trust (known as a bequest). In doing so, you'll leave a lasting legacy to your values as you help continue our work far into the future.

It's very simple and easy to do. Bequests of every size build our future financial strength. If we are one of your most important charitable causes, consider making the mission of St. Francis House part of your legacy.

For more information or to speak to someone on our Planned Giving Team, please call our office at (253) 770-6991. You can also visit our website to learn more about your giving options at: www.puyallupfranchishouse.org

Auction and Fashion Show Like No Other!

We invite you to join us for the "Time of Your Life" on Friday, May 20th. We will kick off this year's auction with a glass of wine, photo booth, silent auction, savory hors d'oeuvres, and tasty desserts. Following the social hour, there will be a high-energy live auction, Fund the Mission opportunity, and an exciting fashion show featuring twice-loved items from our very own clothing bank!



The Nook Gives Hope

Did you know that all the proceeds from The Nook support our Clothing Bank Program? The Nook plays a big part in helping us continue to provide vital services to our community.

If you haven't visited the boutique yet, we invite you to do so! The Nook is a wonderful place to find unique items for your home, for yourself and for others - at great prices! The Nook also has a new Facebook page where they continue to update on their activities and all the wonderful merchandise for sale. You can find them at: www.facebook.com/TheNookCharity.

A warm thanks to our loyal customers and supporters for helping make this boutique a great success and for giving hope to our neighbors in need.

The Nook Charity Boutique
1206 E Main St, Puyallup | Thur - Sat, 11am - 5pm
(253) 770-6082

Friday, May 20 at 6:00pm

Station House 726

427 N. Meridian Street, Puyallup 98371

Tickets | Reservations are \$60 per person

Attire | Fashionably Casual

RSVP online at www.puyallupfranchishouse.org

Or call (253) 770-6991

Please help us thank our Presenting Sponsors:



If you cannot attend the auction, a gift from you will go a long way! Consider making a financial contribution towards our fundraising efforts or donate an item/service to our silent auction. Visit our website for more information and to download a donation form.

It's Like A Miracle!

Raul was standing in mud up to his knees when Hanneh arrived with the pizza. Struggling to pull his feet out of the mud, he lost his shoe somewhere in the mire. Nevertheless, as he limped over to Hanneh's van, his smile was radiant. "Pizza!" he said. "I hungry! Thank you! Thank you!"

Noticing his shoeless foot and muddy pants, Hanneh asked him to wait a moment. She rummaged in her van and came out with a pair of hip waders that a fisherman had donated to St. Francis House. "This is for you," she said.

Raul stood there with pizza in one hand and wading boots in the other. "*Dios es grande!*" he said. "I pray to God to help me and he sends me pizza and tall boots. It is like a miracle!"



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

St. FRANCIS HOUSE

Compassion • Giving • Hope

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 e-news. Sign up today by visiting our website.

FOLLOW US



A Glimpse Inside:

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-  Featured Event: *Fashionable Giving Auction*



Serving the Needs of our Community Since 1974

Get Connected!

Explore the many opportunities to get involved and support our mission. Here are a few suggestions:

- Volunteer in the Clothing Bank, Office, ELL Program, or on a fundraising committee.
- Attend or donate to our Fashionable Giving Auction on May 20th.
- Donate cash or gently used items to our clothing bank program.
- Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to our organization.
- Shop The Nook for great items while supporting our mission.
- Attend a Lunch Tour on the third Wednesday of the month from noon-1pm and invite a friend!
- Become a Business Partner and engage your business and employees in giving.
- Join our team! Check our website for current openings.

For more information on how to get connected, visit our website at www.puyallupfrancishouse.org or call our office at (253) 770-6991