



FRANCIS SPEAKS

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Good Clothes Matter

It was a Tuesday morning in August and the clothing bank was bustling with excitement. Children of all ages were happily engaged in selecting the makings of just the right outfits for school. Parents were carefully counting out their allotted items for each child. They were families on a mission.

In the midst of all this activity, a 10-year-old boy was quietly going through the racks of clothing for 8-year-olds. Julie, a volunteer, asked him if he needed help.

“Maybe,” he said. “My little brother doesn’t want to go back to school because he doesn’t have good clothes. I’m trying to find some for him.”

“What kind of clothes does he like?” asked Julie. Josh looked at her

seriously for a moment. “I’m not sure. Just clothes that the other kids won’t make fun of.”

Looking around the clothing bank for another 8-year-old boy, Julie invited him to help them. Together, the three of them found clothes that would be safe for a shy third-grader to wear to school.

Josh carefully folded each piece of clothing and brought them to his mom to bring to the check-out counter. Julie asked his mom what size shoes her third-grader wore. In a few moments, Julie and her third-grade helper were back with an approved pair of new shoes.

Josh’s mom’s eyes filled with tears as she looked through the carefully-selected outfits. “What would we ever do without you, Josh,” she said.

“Your little brother is so lucky to have you on his side!”

Beaming with pleasure, John turned to Julie and her third-grade helper.

Did You Know... ?

New and gently used school clothing, underwear and socks are set aside all during the year and are put away in our storage mall. By August, there is a wonderful supply of clothing from which our families can select just the right outfits.

School supplies are packaged in advance and stored in the mall and other places so that they are ready for distribution to clothing bank shoppers in August. A faithful and innovative volunteer, Rich Zech, has been the brains and the heart behind the organizing of our efficient school supplies program.

“I couldn’t have done it without you two,” he said proudly.

With that, Josh and his mom headed for the school supplies section to pick out backpacks, supplies, and one more nearly-new outfit. This family’s school year was off to a great start! ♥

◀ *At time of print, we have served a total of 694 low-income students with a backpack, school supplies and a new outfit.*



A New Face Brightens Our Programs

Dear Friends,

It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce you to Laura Anderson, our new Program Manager! Laura accepted this position a few months ago and has already proven to be a great asset to our clients, volunteers, and staff alike.

As Program Manager, Laura is responsible for overseeing the core programs of St. Francis House as well as coordinating the volunteers that work within these programs.

Laura has a long history with St. Francis House that began over 15 years ago when her father was a board member. After her father retired in 2000, he became an active volunteer on the client registration team, and was followed by her mother who joined him in 2005. Now under the same roof, the family has the great joy of serving the community together.



Her parents volunteer alongside approximately 150 other loyal volunteers. "We have volunteers that have been volunteering for over 25 years! Their enthusiasm and commitment to serving their community is truly inspiring," Laura says.

Laura comes to us with a 25 -year career in business management and consulting. However, she says that of all her career opportunities, "being a part of St. Francis House is by far the most inspiring, creatively challenging, and rewarding position." She says she's consistently amazed by our clients' "strength, grace and faith in the midst of great adversity".

Laura's vision for the upcoming year is to have an employment program in place that will help our clients gain the skills and tools needed to become employable and self-sufficient individuals in the community.

If you'd like to introduce yourself to Laura, we invite you to do so! Her office is located in St. Clare House or you can send her a welcome email at: laura@puyallupfrancishouse.org.

Sincerely,

Sister Pat Michalek, OSF
Executive Director

◀ *"I'm consistently amazed by our clients' strength, grace and faith in the midst of great adversity".*

MEMORIAL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

In memory of Betty Boik, Don Fankhauser, Bonnie Johnson, Lois Landon, Edna Leemon, Bill Neil, Dorothy Nimitz, Martha Renggli, Wayne Urban and Heather.

GRANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Florence B. Kilworth Foundation, Forest Foundation, Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Foundation, Norcliffe Foundation, Norman Archibald Foundation, Union Pacific Foundation and Washington Federal Foundation.

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

A Special Place for Families

If you have ever been on our campus, you know we take great pride in our grounds and gardens. Often times we find our families immersed in the smell and sight of our rose bushes or admiring the grand tree that hovers over our courtyard.

The care we put into our gardens is indeed intentional. We know that many of our families come from unpleasant



places. Therefore, we strive to make our campus a peaceful and beautiful place for our families to come. However, we don't do it alone.

Over the years, many groups have helped us maintain our grounds. Most recently, a group from Cornerstone Church (organized through Puyallup Cares) spent the weekend beautifying our space. We had a lot of tasks that needed to get done and their group arrived with enthusiasm and energy to make it all happen. They repaired and painted our fences and gave our flower beds a new cover of mulch, to name a few.



◀ *Thank you, Cornerstone Church, for helping to beautify our space for our families, volunteers, and donors. We appreciate you!*

You Raised Your Paddle

Approximately 200 guests filled the Station House on May 20th for our *Fashionable Giving* auction. Guests enjoyed complimentary wine from Ginkgo Forest Winery, delicious hors d'oeuvres from The Vault Catering, and an incredible fashion show highlighting twice-loved fashions from our very own clothing bank! It was truly a night to remember.

More importantly, guests raised their paddles in support of our mission and together we raised over \$102,000! Every penny that night went directly towards our client programs - *helping individuals and families get the help and support they need during their time of hardship.*

Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the evening. Whether your business sponsored the event, you donated items to our auction, volunteered, or attended the event... **every contribution made a difference!**

This event could not transpire without the kind hearts of all of our corporate sponsors. Their generosity led the



▲ *Thanks to all the volunteers who modeled on the catwalk this year in support of our mission.*

way for us to achieve our goals this year. A special thanks to our Presenting Sponsors.... **We are beyond grateful to you!**



More Than Just Great Food

When you are able to help others and see how your help impacts lives, don't you feel a great sense of fulfillment?

On October 5, we invite you to step into our mission and discover the true impact of your gifts. Come learn about the struggles families are facing in our community and how you are making lives better.

Save-the-date and gather with us over a free breakfast for an empowering, life-changing morning of miracles! For thirteen years, this annual fundraising event has made an huge impact on our programs and the families we serve. We invite you to be a part of it!



Miracle Makers' Breakfast | Wednesday, October 5, 2016

MIRACLE MAKERS' BREAKFAST

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

7:30am – 9:00am

Bethany Baptist Church, Puyallup

RSVP by September 30th by calling (253) 770-6991 or visit our website at www.puyallupfranchishouse.org.

If you want to do more, consider hosting a table at this event. There's no cost to host a table – simply invite seven of your friends to join you for an opportunity to learn more and get involved in our mission. For more information, contact Janel at (253) 770-6991 or email janel@puyallupfranchishouse.org.

There's a LION!



▲ *We are deeply appreciative of the Puyallup Valley Lions Club for their commitment to helping us with our monthly lunch tours. It's good to have a LION on our side!*

A Note to You

"You see the unfortunate problems people go through every day, yet you have the brightest smile to give away.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for extending help to me. The helplessness that comes with watching your life fall apart cannot be described in words to give that feeling justice. Because of your awesome help, I am feeling relieved for the purpose of adjusting my sights on getting back on track.

Again, thank you for your generosity. I have faith along with God's love to help me come through to the other side of this challenge - stronger and wiser. Peace be with you!"

- Past client who received emergency assistance

Taking Great Pride in the Baby Department



Meet Kathy Vance! Kathy is a loyal volunteer who has been serving at St. Francis House since September 2002 after retiring from her teaching career in Sumner. We are blessed to have Kathy working in the “baby department”. She works diligently to keep all the baby clothes and items nicely organized, as well as putting together beautiful layettes for our expecting moms.

The layettes are carefully and lovingly assembled with new blankets, bed quilts, sleepers, diapers, outfits, bibs, stuffed toys – *all the essentials a new mom might need!* She enjoys giving her time to this special niche.

When asked why she loves volunteering at St. Francis House, Kathy responds with a laugh, “the pay is really good!” Kathy finds great reward in being able to help people truly in need. “It has been fun to watch the organization grow over the years and it’s nice to be a part of it”.

In Kathy’s spare time, she and her husband spend time at their second home on Camano Island. She’s also a proud mother of two sons and grandmother to three adorable grandchildren.

We want to thank Kathy for her service, for her kind heart, warm personality, and for being a part of our family here. We appreciate you, Kathy!

Interested in joining our Volunteer Team? Call Laura at (253) 770-6991 or email laura@puyallupfranchishouse.org.

Pick a Day ... Touch a Life

On any given day at St. Francis House, someone’s life is being touched by the kindness and generosity of someone else. Enjoy these little snippets of recent happenings!

At Our Meal Program

A tantalizing aroma of fried chicken filled the air as Jason held out his plate at the meal being served at the National Guard Armory. First, the chicken, then a pile of steaming mashed potatoes, then chicken gravy, then buttered peas, then a green salad were loaded onto his plate.

Tears streamed down his face as he sat down to eat. A server delivering milk and chocolate cake to him asked if he was all right. “Yes,” he said. “I haven’t eaten for two days. I can’t believe all this good food. Thank you!”

At Our ELL Classes

Students were discussing the various ways they study

The lives of these three little ones were touched when they each received a pair of brand new shoes!

English. Maria brightened up as she described what she does. Then she added that she also texts with the parents of her children’s friends.

“I look at how they say things and then I try to answer them. My daughter used to look at my texts and say, ‘Oh, Mommy, that’s not how you say that!’ and then she would tell me how to say it. Now that I am coming to classes, she doesn’t say that to me so much anymore!”





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 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



◀ *A warm thanks to the young adults from Lighthouse Church who came and served in our Clothing Bank.*

We invite you to come serve with us! There are many opportunities to learn more and get involved.

- Attend a lunch tour to learn more about our mission (Sept. 21 at 12pm)
- Volunteer at The Nook *or* Shop the Nook! (Thur - Sat from 11am-5pm)

- Donate children's new socks and underwear, sizes 7-14.
- Volunteer to help put together Christmas baskets (starting in October).

Serving the Needs of our Community Since 1974