THE LANDLORD LIAISON PROGRAM

The Landlord Liaison Program (LLP) was created to fill a gap in the Pierce County homeless housing system. The program officially launched in October 2018.

For years, the homeless system provided services for people that have less than desirable rental history, credit, income and previous evictions. Meanwhile, landlords and property managers who provide housing haven't had much support. This is where the Landlord Liaison Program steps in. The program is specifically designed to provide support and protection for property owners & managers who provide housing to people who are experiencing homelessness and have high barriers, like bad rental histories.

Managers of rental units will now be able to access two types of Risk Mitigation funding if they participate as an LLP Property Partner. The funding is meant to cover damages above and beyond the tenant's damage deposit. In most cases, case managers can provide double security deposits, mediation services with tenants, vacancy loss, cover some legal or eviction fees, and much more. LLP has an exclusive 24 hour phone line for Property Partners to use in the event of any concerns with a tenant housed through LLP.

Several families that were homeless have been housed, and their tenancies have been extremely successful, thanks to their access to Renter's Readiness education provided by LLP.

Early response to LLP has been very strong. Several property management companies signed on with LLP, providing not just a few units but entire apartment buildings. Several independent property owners are expressing interest and support for the LLP, as well.

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BIG CHANGE HAPPENS WHEN YOU GET INVOLVED!

Something amazing is happening in Tacoma and Pierce County! We are experiencing growing momentum as individuals and whole communities of faith respond to the call to serve those in desperate need. Big change happens in the lives of individuals and families when their basic needs are met, and transformation happens when compassion washes across our neighborhoods.

We stand at a threshold where we can see vulnerable members of our community experience “life in all its fullness” - as God intends - because you and other people of faith are making personal commitments, stepping out and stepping up to the call to love our neighbors.

People of faith are called to love, even in the most difficult of circumstances. During the past year, we all acted faithfully as agents of healing, restoration and peace-making. In times like this, with so many daily divisions and distractions, taking action can be especially hard. And vitally important to do. You took action.

When we stand up to voice the needs in our communities and create solutions, others see our ideals boldly and visibly expressed in our lives. You stood up and our communities have been inspired.

As another year of ministry and service has closed, we take heart that you cared deeply about the people we serve. It’s a joy for us to be part of a movement of people like you, energized for a new year ahead.

There will continue to be many needs and challenges in 2019. And we can have even more impact throughout Pierce County. Together we can create a community that is humane, compassionate and just.

All of us at Associated Ministries extend our sincere thanks for your compassionate concern and active care for those in our community who we are honored to serve.

ABOUT ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

Since 1969 Associated Ministries has had an historic leadership position working at a grassroots level in Pierce County, mobilizing people of faith and good will to unite in service to vulnerable populations, including people experiencing homelessness, hunger and poverty, as well as the elderly and disabled. Our vision is for deeply engaged interfaith and other community partners to join together to bring about the transformation of our community. Our programs endeavor to effectively walk alongside those who come to us for services as they emerge out of crisis, find paths out of poverty into personal stability, and aspire to build a foundation of skills, social connections and financial assets.
A VOLUNTEER STORY

By Janet Runbeck, RN, MN

An elderly man who is nearly blind was able to get help to have cataract surgery. A 50-ish man, who lost his job and then his home, got his hypertension medicine refilled. A young woman with painful feet got a pair of shoes without holes.

As one of hundreds of volunteers and staff, I am proud to say we connected people in need at Project Homeless Connect (PHC).

I am proud to work with caring people, who by working shoulder to shoulder, saw a need we could meet by working together. Who knows which of us were more blessed that day; the givers or the receivers?

I was able to volunteer at PHC from the beginning, 2007, until 2013, mostly in the health care services. As an eyewitness to the plight of those who experience homelessness, PHC was the catalyst by which I became an advocate. Academics will teach about the consequences of worsening social determinants of health. Social workers will attempt to alleviate the pain of the poor. But PHC is the platform where the reality of poverty and barriers to healthy living are in full view. It is clear to me that the only difference between me as a volunteer, and the woman standing in line to get services, is sheer luck. The good fortune that is mine is also a mandate that makes me want to work within systems that have proven to be effective in resolving the complexities of homelessness.

Now, our good fortune is that Associated Ministries has taken on the work of PHC. Let’s be supportive of AM, as we continue to define the barriers of housing for all. Let us connect at PHC in 2019.

"I am proud to say we connected people in need at Project Homeless Connect..."