



Inspiring online gatherings focused on lasting solutions to homelessness

Join us as we focus on the vital part we all play in building a community marked by compassion and justice.

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PARTNERING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO SERVE OUR CLIENTS

The police and Child Protective Services dropped a bombshell on Phyllis: she and her children would have to leave the home where they lived because someone filed charges on her roommate. Phyllis would have to leave immediately, even though she had nowhere else to live but in her van. She did what was best for the kids and sent them to stay with their father.

Phyllis eventually sought help from AM and came to our office for her intake appointment. After the appointment, her van had transmission trouble. Other AM clients helped push her van into a parking space near our office. But with nowhere to go and no one to help her, she decided to stay in her van, parked right there on the street.

Soon an AM staff member noticed the van had been parked in the same place for a few days and decided to see who was inside. She found Phyllis

living in the van, with no facilities and little food. It was a dismal situation, to say the least.

The AM team sprang into action to help Phyllis get into more appropriate shelter. They contacted their colleagues on Greater Lakes Mental Health's PATH team, who sent their emergency response team to talk with her. Unfortunately, Phyllis was venturing out from her van during the day, sometimes to visit her children, so she was not there when the PATH team arrived. It took five days for PATH to finally meet up with Phyllis and assess her situation. They learned she was diabetic and had no medication, so their first step was to help her get the medicine she desperately needed.



PATH connected Phyllis to another partner agency, Comprehensive Life Resources (CLR), by making a call on her behalf. But Phyllis would not leave her van behind since all her possessions were inside. So they needed to find a place that would allow her to safely stay in her van while permanent housing was located.

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Complete and detach form below and enclose with your gift in envelope provided.

Help us Leverage the Power of Partnership!

Yes, I want to partner with AM to provide critical services for those in need!

My gift of \$_____ to help care for the whole person!



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You may also make your gift online at www.associatedministries.org



am ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES 901 S 13th Street Tacoma, WA 98405 253-383-3056

Associated Ministries is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, tax ID #91-0847534. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services were provided in exchange for your generous financial donation.

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 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.

WHATEVER IT TAKES...

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PATH and CLR, in collaboration with Phyllis, reached out to the Salvation Army; they granted permission for her van to remain in their secure parking lot for the interim. The only trouble was, the van would have to be towed in order to get it there.

AM stepped in again to organize the towing of her van to the secure lot, ensuring that Phyllis would have a safe place to remain in her own van for the night. The AM staff then reached out to yet another partner agency, Shared Housing Services, to help find a long-term affordable housing situation for Phyllis. They helped her to fill out the application and find a good match.

Within a few weeks a room was located in the home of a woman who would become Phyllis's roommate and a new friend. This turned out to be an ideal situation for both of them. PATH was able to pay the move-in costs for Phyllis, allowing her to settle in right away.

And that meant her van would have to be towed again, which for the second time was handled by AM. Phyllis' housing crisis was settled, for a while at least.

Tragically, just a few weeks ago, the woman who became Phyllis's landlord and friend for 10 months unexpectedly passed away. Phyllis was again on her own, with no place to go. She was heartbroken.

Phyllis contacted her case manager at AM and they immediately went to work discussing housing options for her. AM again reached out to Shared Housing Services, who is once again assisting her. Fingers crossed, it looks like they have identified another housing solution for her.

It's all in a day's work for AM and our partners, who go to great lengths doing creative things to assist those who come to us in need. Thank you for your support that enables us to be there for dozens of people like Phyllis whom we are privileged to come alongside every month.

PIVOTING TO REACH MORE PEOPLE

Due to social distancing restrictions mandated by the pandemic response, we were not able to host our summer Project Homeless Connect event in person. But that gave us an opportunity to creatively "pivot" to an alternative format, enabling us to reach a larger group of people throughout a wider portion of Pierce County.

Working together with our community partners, other direct service agencies and volunteers, we created Project Homeless Connect "community resource bags." The first 600 bags were assembled on Aug. 28 and promptly distributed to agencies in Tacoma, Puyallup, Sumner, Orting, Eatonville and Key Peninsula. Another 1,400 bags will be put together in the coming weeks. Each contains essential items such as soap, sanitizer, socks, hand warmers, face masks, healthy snacks and information from key service providers.

It is our hope to resume in-person Project Homeless Connect events in 2021. We are grateful for our supporters who are enabling us to provide these community resource bags to our neighbors in need in the interim.



THE POWER OF A PARTNER – OR THREE!

AM has been meeting community needs for more than 50 years, but we have never done it alone.

A couple came into AM recently seeking help. They stated they were homeless, so the staff of our Community Resource Connection Center (CRCC) jumped in. The CRCC strives to connect individuals and families to community resources that will move them towards housing and employment solutions.

The first step was to learn if they had been served previously by any homeless provider, but no record was found. The second step was to call a contact they listed at the Salvation Army, who was willing to help in any way they could. The third step was to contact the PATH team at Greater Lakes – which provides mental health outreach – and learned they would be able

to walk alongside this couple once they settled into a shelter.

After a few days of ongoing communication with the Salvation Army, the couple entered their shelter. The PATH team soon met with them and connected them to Coordinated Entry. Our CRCC team was able to order them ID cards, an essential step in their ability to receive additional services. Finally, the housing team at AM was able to begin looking for long-term housing.

They say it takes a village. In this case it took several specialized organizations working in partnership to serve some neighbors who were in desperate need. We're so grateful for the relationships that make outcomes like this possible!



THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS

An Interview with Mark Merrill of Shared Housing Services



AM is honored to work with many outstanding community partners. One of these agencies is Shared Housing Services (SHS), whose office is literally two blocks from ours! SHS offers low-income individuals and families innovative and affordable solutions to prevent homelessness and foster independence through their Homesharing and Youth Host Home programs that include case management services and connections to vital community resources.

Mark Merrill is the Executive Director of SHS, and he recently shared his perspectives on the value of collaboration. "I'm a huge advocate for partnering," Mark said. "We don't have the space or the expertise to do everything ourselves, so we need to tap into the expertise of others."

"Our clients and their needs come first, so our job is to determine how we can best meet those needs. Tapping into the expertise of others enables us to offer a complete package to our clients," Mark explained. "Partnering really is nothing new, but it's more important now than ever."

Mark shared, "We value our relationship with AM tremendously. The sidewalk between our offices is well worn, with both agencies sending clients to the other. The AM team has also been huge supporters of spreading the word about homesharing to the broader community."

SHS's core program, Adult Homesharing, is a practical and cost-effective way to help seniors and people on fixed incomes utilize a spare bedroom in exchange for additional income or needed services such as housekeeping, meal preparation or transportation. To learn more, call 253-272-1532 or go online at www.sharedhousingservices.org.