We Will Not Let COVID-19 Take Us Down!

☐ Yes, I want to support AM, inspired by the generosity of others I’ve just read about!

My gift of $_________ to help move someone into a home!

Name:______________________________
Address:______________________________
City:_________________ St:_____ ZIP:_______
Email:_________________________________
Phone:______ - _______ - ________

This is a : ☐ single gift ☐ monthly gift
Card Number:__________________________
Expiration Date:__/____
Signature:______________________________________

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

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
For these Upcoming Special Events

Community Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (June meeting has been cancelled)
Bethlehem Baptist Church
4818 Portland Ave E, Tacoma WA 98404

Project Homeless Connect
Summer 2020 (TBD) - Check Facebook for updated information.

"Lead the Way Home" Breakfast
Thursday, November 5, 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
McGavic Conference Center - Clover Park Technical College
4500 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood WA 98499

Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude
Tuesday, November 24, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Location TBD

Interfaith Women’s Conference
Recently rescheduled to February 2022

Questions?
Contact Sandy Windley at
sandyw@associatedministries.org

WHY WE DECIDED TO RENT OUR CONDO TO A FAMILY IN NEED OF HOUSING

Lindsay came to run in a 5K – but it led to providing housing to a family experiencing homelessness.

It was last year, when Lindsay signed up to run in the Hunger Walk & 5K fundraiser, presented by AM and Emergency Food Network. She stopped to read brochures on a table at the end of the race and met Tony, there to represent AM’s Landlord Liaison Program.

Once she learned from Tony that potential tenants were prescreened and received a lot of support from other agencies, renting out her condo to a family in need of housing sounded like a great idea and a perfect fit with she and her husband Mark’s values and desire to help the community.

Several types of risk mitigation, from damage repair costs to rent coverage during repair time, is available to landlords who rent to tenants referred through this program. The units rent at fair market rate and are assured of receiving full rental fees every month. Lindsay and Mark evaluated this to be a solid program in which to consider participating.

Along with making sure the landlords are taken care of, the supportive services of other agencies are critical to helping the referred households succeed in their housing goals. Case managers make regular calls to the renting families to check on them to see how they are doing and if they need any other resources. Building trust through maintaining good relationships is at the core of their success.

Lindsay and Mark eventually completed the application required to join the program as "property partners" and one of the agencies would now wait to hear from one of the agencies anxious to place an unoccupied family.

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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 assistance as they emerge out of crisis, find paths out of poverty info personal stability, and aspire to build a foundation of skills, social connections and financial assists.
WHY WE DECIDED TO RENT OUR CONDO...
(continued from Page 1)

One of those partner agencies was Helping Hand House, which was working with a young family needing housing. The family had already met the criteria and been prescreened for the program. This meant they met the minimum income requirement, had at least one child under 18 in their care, and were referred to a “coordinated entry” agency. Their case manager was able to access LLP’s “housing bank” to see which units, meeting the family’s needs, were currently available.

It wasn’t long before Lindsay and Mark got the call about this young family who was ready to move in. The new tenants came to preview the space and were so excited to realize this would be their new home. They moved in late last summer, with the assistance of Helping Hand House and Northwest Furniture Bank, and are enjoying the safety and security of their new home.

The family has become learning how to be good tenants and accepting help from their landlords, Helping Hand House, and Landlord Liaison Program as needed. They had a good rental payment history until just recently.

Early in April, after both parents lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 situation, the wife contacted her landlord to let her know she could only afford food and diapers. Not wanting to put any additional stress on the family, Lindsay and Mark told them not to worry about paying the rent that month! In the two and a half years since this program began, no landlord had ever waived a rent payment before.

Lindsay credits the tenant herself for speaking up and letting her know of the situation they were in. She was the catalyst for solving her own problem. It takes a great deal of trust between landlord and tenant to resolve a potential issue like this one.

As a nurse, Lindsay fully understands that good health outcomes are tied to stable housing. When asked what being part of the Landlord Liaison Program has meant to her, Lindsay shared it has “given her an opportunity to live out her faith, pay it forward, be a decent human being and be invested in the community.”

And what would she say to another landlord who was considering becoming part of LLP? “Do it, absolutely! Invest in the community and its people. You reap benefits more important than money. You help people launch themselves into a better life.”

Lindsay, we wholeheartedly agree. Thank you for being a life-changer and promoting homefulness in our community!

PAYING IT FORWARD
Inspiration from two of Associated Ministries’ generous supporters!

This $100 bill was given to me by my big brother when he was worried that I would not have enough to feed my kids. I have been homeless before – one of the many fully employed who sleep in cars or couch surf and act like it’s all okay. I am now stable and so I hand this off to you. My stepdaughter is chronically homeless and that is where our resources currently go. Once we stabilize her I will pledge. Thank you for what you do. It matters. – T.R.

REMAINING ON THE FRONT LINES
By Michael Yoder, Executive Director

Nearly everything about our world seems to have changed overnight. The COVID-19 pandemic and the order to quarantine at home (at least to those for whom that is possible) will undoubtedly be a critical period in human history. I hope and pray we will learn from this tragedy, and that we will never return to a society in which the vulnerable are left out of access to many of life’s essentials, particularly a safe and secure place to live.

Our work at Associated Ministries has continued with only minimal interruption. We’ve transitioned the majority of our staff into home-based work spaces, where they continue to tirelessly connect with our clients and provide effective services to as many as possible. Thanks to AM supporters who stepped forward in late March and early April with a generous response to our urgent appeal for funds, we were able to invest in technology that enables our work to continue. We’re also providing hazardous duty pay for the few AM staff members who continue to come into the office regularly to serve clients who have no other means to connect with us.

My attention cannot help but focus on the coming weeks and months, during which I foresee a tidal wave of new needs impacting our community, and consequently AM itself. Never the less, we remain committed to do everything possible to help as many of our unhoused neighbors as we can. Your support and prayers will be key to our ability to remain on the forefront of this battle, providing life-changing assistance to many of Pierce County’s most vulnerable residents. From the bottom of my heart I thank you for standing with us during this unprecedented season.