

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
for these Upcoming Special Events

(Note: All in-person events will be in accordance with State COVID-19 guidelines.)



Community Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, June 17, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Zoom



Project Homeless Connect Packing Event
Friday, June 11, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Tacoma



Lead the Way Home Breakfast
Thursday, November 4, 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
McGavick Conference Center



Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude
Thursday, November 23, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Location: TBD



Interfaith Women's Conference
Saturday, March 26, 2022
Location: TBD

Questions? Contact Sandy Windley at sandyw@associatedministries.org

You can now
give using your
camera from
an iPhone or
Android QR
code reader!

Hover over this code
and it will open our
donation page.



THANK YOU
FOR PARTNERING
WITH US TO END
HOMELESSNESS.



an ASSOCIATED
MINISTRIES

ASSOCIATEDMINISTRIES.ORG | 253.383.3056 | SPRING 2021

It'll work, if you work for it!

A powerful first-person story from an AM client

I first experienced homelessness March 16, 2019. I was leaving a domestic violence situation. It's never easy being a single mother and I found myself displaced with two out of three of my children. My son was living out-of-state with his dad but wanted to come home. AM's Coordinated Entry quickly found a housing program called Exodus Housing that would work for my family and the barriers I had built up for myself through 15 years of toxic relationships.

obligations and stack a little foundation for my family. When I had to take my kids out of that home they grew to love over a period of 10 months, it hurt. But this time it didn't devastate me because I've been through the process and knew it would be possible, I just had to work for it. Closed mouths don't get fed and it'll work if you work for it, no one is going to hand you anything in life. I'd like this to be the last time my kids experience this.

I have never had a problem doing what I want to, my mom raised me that way: "You can do anything you set your mind to." That and "be sure your sins will find you out." I wanted my kids back. I'd never lost my kids to someone taking them from me and I wasn't going to lose them now. I watched my mom leave domestic violence with my dad and if she hadn't had a program like this for herself 30 years ago, she wouldn't have been able to show me it's possible to provide a good life for your kids as a single parent. But you have to have a good foundation and sobriety.



I have worked the past two years on getting my license back, paying off debt. I only owe a little over \$3000 because I've been able to take care of some bills with the help I've received. I'd like to buy a house for my family so no one can take their home from them. I've been able to get my license back when I was told I couldn't have it until 2028 because of the marks I got for myself.

I appreciate all the time and donations that people give in this program. I think about all the families that don't have loved ones around them and they need resources more than ever. Without it my family would be lost.

My sincerest gratitude,
S.D. and her kids: C., M., A., S. and C.

It is generous friends like you who make these inspirational stories possible! Thank you for partnering with us as we journey with our clients to permanent housing!

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.

Keep Up the Fight to Get Families Housed!

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

My gift of \$_____ to help unhoused families and individuals! VISA MasterCard

This is a : [] single gift [] monthly gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ - _____ - _____

Email: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____
MM YY

Signature: _____

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



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

SNL21

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.

Director's Corner

The Journey Continues

By Michael Yoder, Executive Director

What a year we've experienced, unlike any other in our lifetimes. We've seen the worst of times, but also many positives. We know the bad things well: the many lives cut short by the virus; devastating financial losses for families and businesses; essential services and institutions struggling to operate and serve their constituents.

But I want to focus on the "redemptive" aspects of the past year. In the midst of the crisis there were countless ways people stepped up and offered sacrificial and generous acts of kindness, acts that kept organizations like Associated Ministries functioning and even allowed us to increase services to our vulnerable neighbors.

The creative and innovative ways that nonprofits, congregations and service providers pivoted to do NEW things in NEW ways to respond to NEW needs was truly inspiring to see. The resilience of the human spirit shone brightly in the midst of the darkness of a global pandemic.

That's why I don't want to "return to normal"! The past year has shown us that much of what we valued highly and thought was essential were not what they seemed. To me, our goal must not be about returning to the way things were, but rather to build on this new spirit of generosity, flexibility, and innovation. If we can do that, the result will be fewer vulnerable neighbors and a community in which everyone is able to flourish.

Is that really possible? I'm praying it is, because that is the kind of community I want to live in. The AM team is dedicated to do our part to contribute to the wellbeing of all. Thank you for standing with us and for continuing with us on a journey of change!

To Give Is To Receive

An Interview with Brian and Anna Peterson

Associated Ministries has worked hard to navigate the pandemic and effectively respond to it, knowing that our neighbors without homes – and therefore without the ability to easily social distance – have been at particular risk. Our extra efforts have been buoyed by some extra-ordinary gifts from our friends.

Brian and Anna Peterson recognized these desperate needs and felt called to do something about it. An important Bible verse to them, Matthew 25:40 says, "And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did to me!'"

The Peterson's have been giving to AM over the past 20 years, so they knew a lot about the needs of those without homes and knew who they wanted to help. Fortunately, they had the foresight years ago to put some of their inheritance aside, knowing they would want to help some day when they saw a particularly urgent need. COVID was the "urgent need" they knew they had been saving their inheritance for.

They had previously donated their 2020 stimulus checks to AM, but they had the desire to "answer the call" by making a personally transformative gift in addition.

"It is more important for us to use our talents and resources to bring about a more loving world where all have their basic needs met. The blessing for us is knowing we are part of Christ's work on earth." Their favorite quote by Saint Oscar Romero of the Americas, reads "Strive not to have more, but to be more."

Brian set out to "be more" by writing a Letter to the Editor of the Tacoma News Tribune, hoping he could inspire others to give their stimulus checks to causes which were in particular need due to COVID. You see, Brian and Anna came from families who modeled giving, so this seemed like a way they could pay it forward and model it for others. Not only do the Peterson's want to live out their Christian values, they want to model for their children a legacy of generosity.

In addition to the "inheritance gifts" they gave to AM, they were also generous with gifts to Saint Vincent De Paul and Catholic Community Services, all organizations in particular need as a result of COVID. The Petersons truly live lives full of thanks AND giving!



What Do Car Repairs, ID Renewals, and House Painting Have in Common?

AM not only helps hundreds of people find housing each year, we also meet smaller – yet still essential – needs that are a critical precursor to stable housing. We know you will find hope and inspiration in these unique stories showcasing our unusual efforts to help clients continue their journeys into permanent housing.



Getting Vehicles Back on the Road

"During 2020 and COVID-19, AM's Community Resource Connection Center (CRCC) met many challenges head on as we received calls for immediate needs. Included have been an unusual number of calls for car repairs. While not the norm, such requests have been in high demand during this season. In addition to engine repairs, we have helped with broken windows, brake repairs, tires, and parts such as new batteries. This assistance has helped many vulnerable neighbors maintain their stability, as well as helped those experiencing homelessness; that occurs as we make sure they don't get their cars towed, or by helping to pay for parts so they have a reliable vehicle to get to work. Although the CRCC is not resourced to cover high-cost repairs, our ability to help with lower-cost items has been a critical service to many in our community."

Maggy Delaney
AM CRCC Team Lead

Obtaining an ID Leads to Work and Housing

"In June 2020 a client contacted me requesting assistance with getting his Washington State ID Card. He was at the end of his rope. He had contacted the State Department of Licensing and was informed that although he had a Washington State ID 20 years ago, and despite currently being in possession of his birth certificate and Social Security card, that it was not possible to get a new ID. He was lost as to what to do next. He expressed to us that he needed his ID as soon as possible to gain employment. Over the course of several weeks, and with a lot of help from AM, he was able to contact several state and out-of-state offices to obtain

four documents that were required in order to get a Washington ID. **He now has his new ID!** He expressed deep gratitude to Associated Ministries for assisting him with navigating this challenging process. He is overjoyed to have overcome this hurdle and he is now looking forward to gaining permanent employment and housing."

Angie Lewis
AM CRCC Team

Painting a Home Blesses a Family in Need



"Thank you for continuing the Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful program in 2020, despite the challenges of COVID-19. As I write this, our church continues to follow the Governor's guidelines on holding virtual services. For many members of our congregation, working together as a paint crew for PTPB last summer became our only face-to-face time since March 2020. The "normalcy" of our 30th consecutive paint crew year gave us cherished time together. As the pandemic continues, we become even more thankful for precious crew time spent on the project. Thanks to Associated Ministries' COVID-19 safety training and resources, everyone felt safe. Volunteers and the homeowner appreciated face masks, booties and disinfectant that AM supplied. The paint job turned out great, we left an elated homeowner, and we look forward to our 31st project in 2021."

John & Mary Herem
Spanaway Lutheran Church paint crew coordinators