

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Special Events



Community Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Zoom



Project Homeless Connect
Friday, June 24, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Fife Community Center
2111 54th Avenue East, Fife



"Lead the Way Home" Breakfast
Thursday, November 3, 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
McGavick Conference Center



Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude
Thursday, November 22, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Location: TBD

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.

Questions? Contact Sandy Windley at sandyw@associatedministries.org

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

Your partnership impacts our neighbors!

☐ **Yes, I want to impact more people in our community today!**

My gift of \$_____ will help unhoused families and individuals.  

This is a : ☐ single gift ☐ monthly gift

Name: _____

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Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____
MM YY

Signature: _____

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



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

Together

Working together toward lasting solutions to homelessness

am ASSOCIATED
MINISTRIES

ASSOCIATEDMINISTRIES.ORG | 253.383.3056 | SPRING 2022

AM's volunteer program took Ronni and Sharon from client to independence!

By Jenny Printz

During 2021, AM deployed volunteers and interns who contributed 5,477 hours of service to Associated Ministries and to our community. Every one of them had the opportunity to encourage, inspire and make an impact through the life-changing programs in which they participated. And AM receives the blessing and benefit of their compassion, experience and hard work.

Mary Herman, Community Programs Manager for AM, shared from her experience leading and working with volunteers, how volunteering to paint houses through Paint Tacoma Beautiful, preparing income taxes through VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) or as a volunteer/intern in the office assisting other programs, has impacted the lives of hundreds of people who just want to help.



Ronni

This is where Ronni and Sharon have excelled! They both entered AM's programs as clients, then became volunteer interns and went on to do great things!

Ronni left San Diego with her two young children to flee from domestic violence. After making her way to the Northwest and being referred to AM to locate housing, she became an intern in our CRCC (Community Resource Connections Center). Ronni absolutely loves her work with clients and feels very supported by AM staff, saying, "The person who trained me was

considerate of my situation and availability." Beginning her internship in June of 2021, Ronni said it immersed her into the community, allowing her to find resources for her clients and for herself. Ronni was inspired to get a degree in Social Work and is currently attending college. "Life is going great and I am looking forward to getting a job."



Sharon

Sharon lost her husband, after which she ended up on the streets with a drug addiction. She soon met others like her, and eventually started to notice there were many vets with drug issues and others with mental health issues. She sincerely wanted to get help for all of them. Sharon began to navigate the "system" to learn of resources she could connect to her newfound community.

It was recommended she learn more about Associated Ministries and that's where she met Nina, AM's receptionist. She connected her with wonderful people and resources. It was such a positive experience that Sharon became an AM intern, starting out volunteering for our Mail and Payee program.

"Mama," as Sharon was called by her friends on the street, started making referrals to those who needed help and was able to get off drugs herself. She started going to college and now has an AA degree in Social

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Leaving a Legacy that Will Outlast a Lifetime of Service!

Meet Dr. Lynn Ostenson

In the late 1980s Pacific Lutheran University and Seattle Pacific University hosted an educational program called “Communiversity.” In partnership with Associated Ministries, this program offered a variety of classes to educate the community-at-large on a variety of topics, including community service. Lynn Ostenson took part in one of those four-week sessions, and thus began her journey with Associated Ministries.

We are gratified to be at the center of many community serving opportunities that bring supporters like Lynn to our doorstep, and connect many of them to wider needs and opportunities. But Lynn has always been committed to serving others.

Born and raised in Portland, OR, Lynn was the first in her family to go to college. While attending PLU she was encouraged to apply to medical school. Lynn and fellow student Dick married six days after graduation and went together to the University of Washington for their medical degrees. After Dick’s death in 2005, Lynn started a Palliative Care program at Multicare Good Samaritan, before retiring in 2012.

Lynn’s lifetime of community involvement at one point led her to a free seminar about the power of legacy giving (estate planning through wills and trusts, etc.). Always involved with taxes and later estate-planning upon the death of her husband, as well as her years in palliative care, the importance of legacy giving made sense to Lynn.



Dr. Lynn Ostenson

When Lynn retired, legacy giving appealed to her because she didn’t know if she would need to plan to have enough retirement funds to last for 10 years... or 30 years! Giving through an IRA and a will assures that her kids and grandkids will be taken care of, in addition to being able to honor her desire to give to her favorite charities.

Lynn is an advocate for legacy giving because she says “it is rewarding to feel like you can contribute something – financial or otherwise – even if you’re not in a place to volunteer your time. In addition, speaking to your family and children about your plans, consulting a financial planner, and looking at the tax benefits are all good starting points for those uncomfortable with the conversations surrounding estate planning.”

Lynn is one of AM’s most faithful supporters. We appreciate her time, talents, and her insights as she has continued to grow in her involvement with us and our entire community. We’re so grateful for the long-term impact of supporters like Lynn.

Making arrangements to have an impact even *beyond* your lifetime is the ultimate gift of support.

As AM continues to seek innovative solutions to homelessness, it is legacy donors like Lynn who fuel truly lasting change. Contact Rebecca Arcarese to find out how you can make an impact that outlives you! rebecca@associatedministries.org or 253-426-1510.

Director’s Corner

The Assurance of Making an Impact

By Michael Yoder, *Executive Director*

With all the needs that exist, and all the organizations attempting to meet them, it is a fair question to ask: Does my support of Associated Ministries really make a difference? I can assure you that for the 10,458 clients who were served through AM programs last year, the answer is an enthusiastic “yes!”

Our work revolves around our current mission: “Working together toward lasting solutions to homelessness.” I hope you’d agree that that compelling idea feels especially urgent right now. We believe that housing is the foundation to wholeness; that without the fundamental need of shelter having been met, there is little chance that a family or individual without it will be able to make much progress on any other front.

That’s why in 2021 we were proud to serve 3,968 individuals through our work with Pierce County’s Coordinated Entry System, the “front door” to our community’s homeless response efforts. The lives of 3,054 individuals were stabilized through our Rental Assistance program; 552 individuals had unique and critical situations resolved through our Community Connections Resource Center; and 248 individuals were welcomed home for good through the work of our Family Permanent Housing team.

That’s a lot of statistics, but each and every number represents a real person with a real need that was met by the dedicated staff at AM. And we know that every hour volunteered and dollar donated by friends like you is an affirmation of the importance of our work, and a strong encouragement to keep on serving our neighbors in need.

THANK YOU for the life-changing impact that your partnership allows us to make in so many lives. Truly, we couldn’t do it without you!



From client to independence. Continued

Services and Mental Health. Her dream and goal is to start her own non-profit to better prepare those with addictions for the services available at organizations like AM.

AM’s sincere belief in Sharon provided the impetus she needed to make a difference in her life and in return, Sharon is now more equipped and trained to make a difference in the lives of her friends who are still on the street.

AM’s sincere belief in Sharon provided the impetus she needed to make a difference in her life...

Mary Herman is hoping to grow the volunteer program at AM, incorporating education and training for the volunteers in order to increase their knowledge of the issues faced by those experiencing homelessness. This will build the confidence of the volunteers as we continue looking at new approaches to assist in serving our community.

There are several ways to volunteer for AM and if you are interested in learning more, visit our website at www.associatedministries.org/volunteers.

SPOTLIGHT: Thanks to our Sponsors!

AM offers many opportunities for community partners to support our work. Their support is offered through cash gifts, by providing donated goods or services, or in volunteer serving opportunities. Our dozens of sponsors help ensure that AM can continue to provide our vital services. Sponsorship allows businesses, clubs, organizations and congregations to demonstrate their “culture of caring” by aligning with AM at special events, or by underwriting programs that change the lives of our clients. We extend special thanks to the following sponsors.

