

THANK YOU to our Long-term Partners!

These foundations and businesses have provided generous financial support to AM over multiple years

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- Pierce County Medical Society Foundation
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- Puyallup Tribe of Indians Charity Trust Board
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- Safeco Insurance Foundation/Liberty Mutual
- Sequoia Foundation
- State Farm Insurance
- Stewardship Foundation
- Umpqua Bank
- United Healthcare
- Vandeberg, Johnson & Gandara
- William Kilworth Foundation

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Special Events

Community Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, November 17,
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Tacoma Community House

“Lead the Way Home” Breakfast

Thursday, November 3,
7:30 AM - 8:30 AM
McGavick Conference Center, Lakewood

34th Annual Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude

Tuesday, November 22,
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM
Mason United Methodist Church, Tacoma

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.

Together

Working together toward lasting solutions to homelessness

am ASSOCIATED MINISTRIES

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Intentional Community Partnerships Lead to Success for All

Profiling AM’s Longest-Serving Staff Member, Valorie Crout

Not many of us like to go it alone. Trying to meet goals on our own timelines, with only our own knowledge, and for our own purposes, is not a recipe for success.

Most of us know that we are better together and that we can get a lot farther toward our goals when we work in harmony. And our impact on the community is far greater when we build solid, trusting relationships with key partners.

It is through intentional relationships and community partnerships, combined with longevity of commitment, that has allowed Associated Ministries to build strategic programming for the benefit of those in need of critical services for the past 53 years.

AM’s Chief Programs Officer, Valorie Crout, has nearly 30 years of professional experience working to build partnerships. Since joining the AM team 24 years ago, she has fostered strong working relationships with almost every service partner in Pierce County.

“There is NO way we could do this work on our

own,” shared Valorie. “It takes all the players coming together to share ideas, give advice, support each other, and fill in gaps.”

These partners take the form of social service agencies, funders, government entities, and the

AM staff itself; all seeking to maximize their impact within the community. For AM, forging relationships with community groups adds a special depth of support, led by our legacy work partnering with congregations and other organizations of social goodwill.

The value of these partnerships keeps AM going strong. Valorie

continued, “Knowing you are not alone and don’t have to figure it all out on your own, is one critical piece of this puzzle. We actually collaborated on what to do when COVID hit, as none of us had experienced anything like it before. The fact that we ended up on the same page in how we focused our efforts was the result of collaborating as a social service community to bring success to those we serve.”



Valorie Crout presents at a Community meeting

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



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Pastor Gregory Christopher is a Model of Compassionate Partnership

Throughout AM's 53 years of service, among our most important partners have been communities of faith. And among local faith communities which have had a focused commitment to love and serve their neighbors are those affiliated with the Tacoma Ministerial Alliance (TMA).

Dr. Gregory Christopher serves as President of the TMA, in addition to serving as Senior Pastor of Tacoma's Shiloh Baptist Church for the last 22 years. Pastor Christopher was first ordained at Shiloh in 1993 after graduating from A.L. Hardy Academy of Theology in Seattle. He was born in Chicago and grew up in Shreveport, Louisiana, marrying Evelyn in 1989. They are the proud parents of five children, 16 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

Further demonstrating his commitment to community partnership, Pastor Christopher is also affiliated with the Tacoma Branch of the NAACP, Tacoma Pierce County Black Collective and the Tacoma Urban League. He is a past Board Member of Associated Ministries as well.



Members of the TMA leadership team.



Pastor Gregory Christopher

During his decades of leadership at Shiloh Baptist and the TMA, Pastor Christopher has spearheaded a focus on community service. Today his congregation and the entire TMA are involved in life-changing partnerships and programs that have moved them into key roles in effectively meeting the needs of those who have traditionally been underserved.

Shiloh Baptist has long operated several homes to provide affordable housing, and just recently announced a new partnership with the Tacoma Housing Authority to develop a larger scale affordable housing development on their church property, which will include housing the homeless. During the past two years the church has hosted a much-needed overnight men's emergency shelter within their church building. The church has led countless initiatives over the years from international children's outreach to local youth programs, and almost everything in between! Pastor Christopher has led the Shiloh congregation to serve as a model of compassionate partnership with other TMA churches and with the wider community.

Pastor Christopher likes to quote an oft-repeated line from the late Rev. Dr. E. S. Brazill, "As long as I can help somebody as I travel this way, then my living is not in vain."

It is among our greatest joys to partner with congregations like Shiloh Baptist and leaders like Pastor Gregory Christopher!

Director's Corner

Practicing the Power of Partnerships

By Michael Yoder, Executive Director

No doubt you've noticed that the theme of this issue of our newsletter is "partnerships." That is especially appropriate because it would be accurate to say that the concept of partnership is in our name! Indeed the word "associated" implies concepts such as connected, linked, allied, and affiliated.

With that in mind, let me state clearly: YOU are a key part of our valuable network of partnerships!

Since our founding 53 years ago, a core part of the mission of Associated Ministries has been partnering with volunteers, congregations, donors, foundations, businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, service clubs... ANY person or group seeking to help build a community that is more humane, compassionate

and just. Over the decades, thousands have joined us in this essential work.

In the past year, our partners come together with us to impact the 10,458 lives that were touched by AM programs during 2021. The ripple effect of the work we've done together cannot be fully estimated.

Throughout this issue you'll read several inspiring examples of the power of partnerships. I hope you can see yourself in one or more of these stories. But whether your efforts are featured publicly or done in relative obscurity, I want you to know that your partnership with AM is truly changing the world. The entire team at Associated Ministries thanks you for the key part you play as we "work together toward lasting solutions to homelessness."

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things." – Mother Teresa

"Individually we are one drop, but together we are an ocean." – Ryunosuke Satoro

Intentional Community Partnerships. [Continued from page 1](#)

Other important values for Valorie include: supporting each other, sharing advice and ideas, fulfilling the need for allies in this work, and gaining strength from others.

Looking at the history of AM, Valorie can see how far we have come and see what's possible even when the odds have looked daunting. She has visualized better ways of doing things and has actually watched them happen! She is constantly looking at ways to strengthen programs, and she is especially energized by engaging with the faith community. She is also encouraged to see the many volunteers and interns in the AM office who partner with us to add to our community impact.

People engaged in the work we do need to be passionate and resilient. This is very hard work. Valorie knows that we need to take care of ourselves or we won't have what is needed to take care of others. It is also essential that we listen to clients and determine what they need before we can actually move the needle with them. Valorie pushes AM to study quantitative and qualitative data to help us develop the best practices which we are committed to deploy.

AM simply cannot do our work without our partners: community program partners, congregations, volunteers, and our funders including foundations, businesses and individuals. Truly, our success is due to our community partnerships!

