

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming Special Events



Lead the Way Home Breakfast

Wednesday, May 8
7:30AM-8:30AM
LeMay America's Car Museum, Tacoma



Project Homeless Connect

September 2024
11:00AM-3:00PM
Date & Location TBD



36th Annual Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude

Tuesday, November 26
7:00PM-8:00PM
Location TBD

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



THANK YOU
FOR PARTNERING
WITH US TO END
HOMELESSNESS.

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

Questions? Contact Sandy Windley at sandyw@associatedministries.org

AM's Board of Directors

Officers

President: Diane Powers, Peace Lutheran Church
Vice-President: Gary Gessel,
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Treasurer: Craig Huish, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Secretary: Carolyn Read, St. Leo Catholic Parish

Directors

Rabbi Keren Gorban, Temple Beth El
Ron Martinez, Harbor Christian Church
Yuni Medlin, United Methodist Church
Ahlmahz Negash, Muslim Community
Rev. Malando Redeemer, Shiloh Baptist Church
Candy Watkins, Tacoma Bahá'í Community
Rev. Paul Lebens-Englund, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Stacey Soltoff, Temple Beth El

**Thank you to the following sponsors
for supporting our communities!**



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.

Together

Working together so that all are housed, healed and whole



ASSOCIATEDMINISTRIES.ORG | 253.383.3056 | SPRING 2024

Ozzy's Story: Hope Starts at Home

We Americans have a hope problem. And it's not difficult to see why.

Every news channel is filled, 24/7, with the next depressing story. Another spotlight on a contentious election. Another tragedy that we, in Pierce County, couldn't prevent.

From wars across the ocean, increasing political polarization, or environmental disasters, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. To lose hope. To become apathetic.

The truth is that you can't fix every problem in the world. But here, in our community, you can change someone's whole world. In fact, our case managers do it every day!

We'd like to tell you about the endless optimism of Ozzy, and a lesson we can learn from his story.

Last winter, a young man by the name of Ozzy was referred to Associated Ministries. Our case manager, Tiffany, worked with Ozzy to find him housing through our Youth Host Homes, a unique program just for 18-24-year-olds. Through YHH, they were able to find a safe place for Ozzy to live.

But our clients' stories never end with just being housed.

Finding housing was the first step in Ozzy's journey. The next step was for him to decide: "What's next?"

Our clients work closely with our case managers, but they are the drivers of their own

transformation. And Ozzy, through his sheer determination and dedication to thrive, was able to succeed. When Tiffany asked him what career path he wanted to follow, Ozzy said: "I want to serve the community that served me."



It can be easy to give into apathy. Easy to focus on the brokenness of the systems meant to help us. Easy for our hearts to be tainted by the injustices of the world.

A lot of people give up. But Ozzy did not. He and Tiffany made progress... every single day.

The next time you feel hopeless, remember this story. The story of a young man, one of your neighbors, who refused to give up.

With a little help from our community, Ozzy was able to overcome a myriad of challenges. He went from someone who slept in a tent, to signing his own lease and being able to pay his own rent.

He went from someone who was helped by local community programs, to being employed by them. He now spends his time improving our community, and giving hope to those that need it most.

Whenever you feel overwhelmed by the problems of the world, remember: Hope starts at home.

Work local. Change the world.

Your partnership with AM means you ARE making a difference... right in your own backyard!

LDS Church Turns Houses into Homes: The Power of a Bed

In order for a house to truly be a home, many things are needed. It must be a space of comfort and security. It must be stable, and not feel as though it could be lost at a moment's notice.

Most importantly, a home must be a place of rest and retreat.

For 52 local families, a true home was almost out of reach.

A house and a home are very different things. Often, when our formerly unhoused clients regain permanent housing, they are met with an empty apartment containing only what they were able to carry while living in their car, or from their time living unsheltered.



Many of these families re-enter housing without something critical: an appropriate place to sleep.

Beds are not just a luxury; they are the foundation for a healthy body and mind. In adults, lack of quality sleep impacts mental performance, attitudes, and world view. Can you imagine working to pull yourself out of one of the most challenging phases of your life without having a place to sleep and recharge?

For children, sleep deprivation is even worse. They need, at a minimum, nine hours of sleep a night. Without quality sleep, children have worse performance in school, have a harder time making and maintaining friendships, and are more likely to develop depression or anxiety.

Last year, AM's rapid rehousing team housed a total of 79 families: mothers, daughters, fathers, and sons who started their journey back to stability with our support. Yet many did so without a critical thing that every home needs: beds.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints saw this need in our community, saw the needs of these families, and stepped in to change lives.

Through the generosity of their Self-Reliance Services team, they partnered with AM to provide our Community Resource Connections Center with the finances needed to equip many families from our rapid rehousing programs, as well as others, with their own bedding. Every family now sleeps on comfy mattresses, clean sheets, soft blankets, and lays their heads on fluffy pillows.

The LDS partnership benefitted several people in several AM programs, including:

Family Permanent Housing: walking alongside individuals and families experiencing homelessness to help them become permanently housed.

Community Resource Connections Center: providing unique supportive services and resources that help community members maintain stability.

Homelessness Diversion: quickly moving those experiencing homelessness from the Coordinated Entry waiting list into permanent housing.

Director's Corner

Thank You for Being a Source of Hope

By Michael Yoder, Executive Director

This spring I've been actively resisting the urge to focus on what is NOT going well in our world – which is beyond our control – and instead refocus on the impact that every one of us can have right here in our community. That's why the theme of this newsletter is: "Hope Starts at Home."

The stories in this issue of our client Ozzie, and of our partnership with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, are inspiring reminders that, while we can't change the whole world, we CAN change one person's whole world!

With the support of friends like you, lives are being impacted every week. Earlier this year I shared the powerful story of our client Brandi. She came to us as a single mom with three children, fleeing domestic violence. She is now housed, employed, and has learned to be self-reliant; Brandi is determined to succeed. With your help, she now has a safe home for her children and she says she has become the mother she always wanted to be. Brandi's story brings me hope!

(continued from page 2)

The LDS Church partnership with Associated Ministries provided 204 people, including 93 children, in our community with more than just beds and pillows. They provided:

REST: The space and ability to recharge; to start each day with your best foot forward.

COMFORT: The fuzzy blankets and soft pillows every child deserves.

Poet Clarissa Pinkola Estes also provides me with an inspiring reality check:

Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world all at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul, to assist some portion of this poor suffering world, will help immensely.

It is not given to us to know which acts or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip toward an enduring good. What is needed for dramatic change is an accumulation of acts – adding, adding to, adding more, continuing. We know that it does not take "everyone on Earth" to bring justice and peace, but only a small, determined group who will not give up during the first, second, or hundredth gale. (Excerpted from "We Were Made for These Times.")

Thank you for not giving up, for standing with us as we work hard every day to change lives with our time, energy and expertise. I am humbled and grateful that you are partnering with us to be a source of hope to so many in our community!

HOPE: The realization that their community cares for them.

An empty room isn't a home. A set of keys isn't a home. A home is a place of rest, comfort, and hope.

Thank you, LDS Church, for helping us create homes!

AM's featured partner: Spinnaker Property Management

For over a decade, SPM has been a dedicated and trusted partner with AM. From giving our clients lowered rental rates, facilitating landlord/tenant classes since 2008, and using their platform to advocate for the chronically unhoused, Spinnaker has been a coveted partner.

