

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## Upcoming Special Events

*Interfaith*  
Celebration of  
Gratitude



PROJECT  
HOMELESS  
CONNECT

### 36th Annual Interfaith Celebration of Gratitude

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

6:00PM-7:00PM

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Tacoma

### Associated Ministries' Open House

December 2024

Date coming soon!

### Project Homeless Connect

Thursday, January 30, 2025

11:00AM-3:00PM

St. Leo's Catholic Parish, Tacoma

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

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](mailto: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

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Ron Martinez, Harbor Christian Church

Yuni Medlin, United Methodist Church

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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 partners  
for supporting our communities!**



Pierce County  
Human Services

MultiCare

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 All Are Housed, Healed and Whole

an ASSOCIATED  
MINISTRIES

ASSOCIATEDMINISTRIES.ORG | 253.383.3056 | FALL 2024

## THE ROAD HOME: Hope after homelessness and domestic violence

The road that leads to homelessness is complex, filled with different turns and factors unique to each individual. One of the most predominant factors that causes women, men, and children to experience homelessness is domestic violence.

Since the beginning of this year, 34% of program participants of Associated Ministries have had lived experience with domestic violence.

Of those, 32% became homeless or housing insecure because they were actively fleeing domestic violence. 21% of those are fleeing with children in tow.

But these are more than just statistics, these are the real-life experiences of the people Associated Ministries works with on a daily basis.

By the time Evelyn had reached out to Associated Ministries, she had already fled twice from her abuser.

**"My kids and I were homeless living in my car. We lost our first apartment due to my abuser finding us."**

But her family's journey did not end there. From that terrifying place of fleeing from violence, Evelyn and her children have not only survived, but **thrived**.

Our Housing Specialist in Associated Ministries' Rapid Rehousing program, Kristle, has helped Evelyn every step of the way on her path towards freedom and stability.

**"This family is doing amazing and is a great example of how the Rapid Rehousing program works for those who put in the effort. It has been a blessing to work with this client." -Kristle**

It is thanks to the hard work of Evelyn and Kristle that this family is on the road to success and a future filled with joy and triumph. Evelyn and her family now have their own housing, and Evelyn is even looking to become a manager in the company she works for within the next year!

Currently, Evelyn's children are not only stable and in school, but even engaged in after school programs they love!

When asked what Evelyn's hope was by working with Associated Ministries, she said:

**"Learning the knowledge and skills to become financially free and getting the support my kids and I need to help us on this journey of self-independence."**

And while the road ahead is still long, she is well on her way!

The final question we asked Evelyn was if she felt safe.

"Yes! Very!"

Thank you to all of our supporters who make stories of success like this possible. Together, hope is possible. One home at a time.



## How a gift is turning one home into many

The AM team recently received a wonderful surprise when we opened the mail and found a check for several thousand dollars from a longtime supporter. While that is a very large gift by any measure, it was especially noteworthy because, although they had consistently donated to AM during the past decade, this supporter had never given more than a few hundred dollars at any one time in the past. We felt there was a special story behind this extravagant gift... and indeed there was!

After reaching out, we were blessed to learn more of the story and motivation behind this significant donation. In his own words, this is Doug's story.

"After retiring from our careers in the East and Midwest, in 2012 my wife and I decided to follow our daughter and her family and join them in the Tacoma area. We purchased our new home in Fircrest. For us this was a return to the area in which we had grown up and where many of our close relatives still live.

"We lived in Fircrest for 12 years, but following the death of my wife, I decided to sell our home and move to an apartment. The home sold quickly for a price well above what we had paid. Both my wife and I have volunteered for many years with organizations seeking effective responses to our society's housing issues. Consequently, I decided that it would be appropriate to devote



**"Thanks to AM for your productive efforts in dealing with this difficult problem." -- AM donor, Doug**

a percentage of our home's sale price to an organization which we believe has been one of the more effective respondents to homelessness in the Tacoma area."

In a conversation with Doug, we learned that he discussed his decision to give this large gift with his children, aware that this would impact them. Doug shared that his son and daughter agreed that making this donation would be a beautiful tribute to their mother, Doug's wife of 59 years who passed away 10 months prior.

Doug shared in the letter he sent with his donation, "Thanks to AM for your productive efforts in dealing with this difficult problem [of homelessness]." We extend our deepest thanks to Doug for his years of meaningful volunteer service to our community, for his heart to serve those without a home of their own, and for his extraordinary generosity and willingness to invest to make a huge difference in the lives of the families we work hard to serve every day.

May Doug's compassionate spirit be an inspiration to us all!

## Director's Corner

### Simple steps fueled by extraordinary hope

By Michael Yoder, Executive Director

Homelessness is most often overcome as our clients and housing specialists diligently work together and take one step at a time, doing the work that is necessary to travel the road back to permanent housing.

Reading the inspiring stories in this newsletter, I sense a conundrum: while some of the steps our clients take may seem simple, they all take extraordinary hope and diligence to achieve.

At the same time, our supporters and volunteers also need to have extraordinary hope and diligence in their efforts to support this vital work. Let's face it: some days it doesn't feel like a whole lot of progress is being made towards our dream of ending homelessness.

And yet we keep showing up to do this amazing work, changing the lives of one family at a time. And you keep showing up too, enabling us to continue doing this work. Sometimes that looks like volunteering at a Project

Homeless Connect event, other times it looks like committing to a small monthly gift to provide ongoing support, and occasionally it looks like an act of radical generosity, like donating a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of your home to help AM provide housing to those without it!

Every step forward gets us closer to the goal of safe and stable housing for everyone in our community. Even on the days when that goal seems far off, I would challenge us not to lose hope, to keep believing that this radical vision is truly possible.

I recently heard the story of someone who approached a chaplain in the midst of a challenging situation. The person implored the chaplain to pray harder. The chaplain replied with this humbling comment: "Imagine where we'd be if I had not been praying so hard all along."

So on those days when the goal of providing a stable home for everyone seems hard to imagine, I remind us all to think about where we would be if we had NOT been doing so much good work all along. Now is the time to recommit to ending homelessness, to renew our sense of hope that it is possible, and to keep taking simple steps towards making this dream a reality. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for standing with us through your faithful support.

## AM's FEATURED PARTNER: Molina Healthcare

We are truly grateful for our multifaceted partnership with Molina Healthcare. They have been a key financial sponsor of our Project Homeless Connect events every year since 2021, and have sent staff members to these events to provide valuable services to our clients. In addition, Molina has supported the entire AM organization by sponsoring our Lead the Way Home Breakfast in 2020 and 2024. While Molina has grown into a Fortune 500 company with a national reach, they genuinely care about every community in which they serve, including Pierce County!

