



Summer 2015

A Message from Ruth Herold, Executive Director



This summer, Elizabeth Gregory Home is abuzz with anticipation of the long-awaited showers and learning and wellness center. With a 42% growth in numbers of women served since 2011, the need for service and program expansion is essential. But it did indeed take a village to get to the point that construction was able to commence on July 13th. The two-year process involved both planners and donors who gave freely of time, talents and financial resources, for which we are deeply grateful.

A special thank you to the planners, including the University Lutheran Church Property Committee (Mari Mitchell-Putnam, Jack Hatlen, Larry Gockel, Lowell Knutson and Mark Hillman); the EGH Expansion Committee (Bob Chamberlain, Ron Moe-Lobeda and Charlie Spaeth); the steadfast leadership of our former Project Manager, Daryl Grothaus; our pro-bono architect team of John and Anne Adams; and our general contractor, Mark Larson.

An additional heartfelt thank-you to the following donors who contributed generously to the project:

Pride Foundation
University Rotary
City of Seattle Technology Matching Fund
Joshua Green Foundation
Tulalip Tribe
University Lutheran
Robert Chamberlain Family Fund

Charis Family Fund
Glaser Foundation
Presbyterian Women of the USA
Norman Archibald Foundation
Boeing Employees Community Fund
Christ Episcopal Church
Charlie Spaeth

The anticipated project completion date is mid-November, after which I assure you there will be a celebratory open house! By the way, you can get project updates by going to our website: www.eghseattle.org.

Another exciting recent development for the project is the fundraising effort of the **Seattle Rental Housing Association (RHA)**. Thanks to the advocacy of Charlie Spaeth, the RHA Foundation Chair, the Association has pledged to raise \$20,000 in support of our shower and expansion project! They have already raised over \$12,000!

Anyone can donate! To learn more, go to http://rhawa.org/about-rha/rha_foundation.aspx

Or: Phone donations: Call Melissa Canfield at (206) 905-0615
Send a check to: RHA Foundation c/o Rental Housing Association
414 SW Andover St, Ste. D207, Seattle, WA 98106).
Please place **"EGH Fund"** in the memo portion of the check.

Meet Program Manager Jeny Bird

In June, Jeny Bird joined our staff as the full-time Program Manager. As a graduate of the Human Services Program at Western Washington University, Jeny brings over 15 years of experience as a human services professional and life coach. Specializing in training and designing systems, she has completed projects for several nonprofits, including The Volunteer Center of Whatcom County, Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood and Washington Nonprofits. In Jeny's words:

"Joining Elizabeth Gregory Home is an incredible opportunity. Learning and growing are important to me in my work life, and with EGH in the throes of physical and programmatic expansion, there will be ample opportunities for both! "



"I would love to hear about historical perspectives as well as ideas for future program and service offerings from the community at large, and can be reached at jbird@eghseattle.org."

Contact Us

Questions, comments, ideas? Email us at info@eghseattle.org or visit our website at www.eghseattle.org

Rose



Everyone agrees being homeless is difficult. But imagine being homeless and facing rejection at every turn simply because of who you are? That has been Rose's experience since beginning to live her life fully as a trans woman. Not only did she lose her job, car, home and belongings, but ultimately ended up sleeping under a bridge. Then she discovered EGH, where staff helped her find temporary overnight shelter and eventually transitional housing through the Veterans Administration. Last month, Rose was approved for a housing voucher program and will move into permanent housing sometime this fall. She is presently taking business classes, working part-time in a barbershop and dreams of eventually opening her own salon, which she will call "Transformations".

One thing Rose didn't ever lose was her desire to give back and be of service. Despite her challenges, she has provided free hair styling services to EGH women at the Day Center on a monthly basis. In fact, Rose has already graciously "beautified" more than 49 clients this year alone! Rose says that it is the most satisfying thing she does. "I get to come here once a month and make the lives of a whole bunch of other women beautiful."

Meghan

Meghan found herself homeless in 2014 after fleeing domestic violence. She heard about Elizabeth Gregory Home when staying in an overnight shelter. While accessing the EGH Day Center resources of food, laundry and clothing, Meghan applied for an opening with our Transitional Housing Program last March. Once accepted, she celebrated by doing a little "happy dance", as this new-found stability would enable her to continue on as a full-time student at a community college, as well as work part-time.

Within the next year, Meghan intends to transfer to the University of Washington and earn a degree in history and political science. She firmly believes her dream to one day attend law school and become a public policy attorney is definitely an attainable goal.



Thank You *Thank You!* Thank You

In 2014, the in-kind donations from our community supporters totaled \$241,278! Items included food, clothing, bus tickets, Ziploc bags, laundry detergent—the list goes on from there. We couldn't meet the essential needs of each woman we serve without this support, and on behalf of all at EGH, we thank you! Although there are many to thank, here are a few highlights featuring recent 2015 in-kind donors:

Huda Giddens has been collecting practical and professional clothing from generous donors in the Laurelhurst neighborhood for over four years. Many women eagerly await her offerings!

Sharon Katzevman, Senior Director of Thirty-One Gifts, donated 31 beautiful designer handbags filled with small luxury treats such as make-up as well as hygiene items. These bags were the highlight for each of our client volunteers who received one in honor of their service at the EGH volunteer recognition event in June.

Katherine Bouglai, who connected with EGH through the eWomen Network, selected EGH as a career fair site in June. Thanks to Katherine's coordination efforts, over 25 homeless women had the opportunity to access professional career coaching as well as apply for job openings at several local businesses.

The Lunch Brigade: The highest demand for food at our Day Center each week is Monday, yet availability is at its lowest volume after a weekend. To address this need, the following folks stepped up to our request for support and we now have food delivered **three** Monday's of each month!

Connie Huffine, Ruth Darden and friends

Gaby Bell and Anne Derome (with occasional delivery assistance from Ari Bell-Brown and Don Brown!)

University Baptist Church, with Lin Carlson and Marilee Nielson serving as lead coordinators

Looking for a way to give back? We would **LOVE** to schedule another Monday food delivery! If interested, please contact Jeny at jbird@eghseattle.org.

In addition to in-kind donations, the financial investments from businesses, individuals and grantors are the bread and butter that keep our operations afloat. At our **spring dinner** alone, we netted over \$72,500 from individual donors. Shortly thereafter, EGH received over \$17,000 through **GiveBig**, an annual online individual donor giving event sponsored by the Seattle Foundation. We are deeply grateful for each and every gift that allows Elizabeth Gregory Home to provide a welcoming and respectful refuge where homeless and at-risk women have access to compassionate care.