After being sexually assaulted by her boss when she was 23 years old, Luci moved from Des Moines, WA, to Seattle to get away. “It was a big deal,” Luci said. “It sort of drove me insane. I didn’t feel safe anywhere after that.” Once in Seattle, she was able to get into a local group home for youth and started to put her life back together. She got a job at Goodwill and eventually got her own place. She was doing so well that she decided to go back to school.

Then in 2013, the man who attacked her showed up at North Seattle Community College and confronted her on campus. She called the police, who escorted her out of the building and gave her a ride home. She began to fear that her attacker might know where she lived, so she collected her belongings and fled. She decided she might be safer in the system moving from shelter to shelter instead of at a fixed location.

It was at this time that Luci found Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) and has been coming to the Day Center ever since. “I feel safe at EGH,” Luci said. “I can take a shower, take care of laundry, eat breakfast and lunch, and they even help with bus tickets so I can get back to my shelter.”

Luci is working with a pro bono lawyer to renew her deferred immigration status so that she can continue attending school. Additionally, she just learned that she got into a studio apartment in northeast Seattle and will be moving in this week. Luci is grateful that EGH will continue to be a safe place for her to come to for support as she faces the challenges ahead.

Luci adopted Buddy from someone who couldn’t take care of him. He helps her deal with stress. Luci said, “Buddy helps me stay sane.”

Luci dreams of having a good job and a home, but because she was brought to the US from Mexico when she was a child, she worries about her uncertain future due to her immigration status. “My family in Mexico doesn’t know me. I’m not Mexican enough for them, they consider me an American,” Luci said. “And now I’m afraid of what will happen with all of this talk of deportation.”

Now, More Than Ever

give BIG

Wednesday, May 10th
Executive Director’s Reflections

As I write this, I’m reflecting on how grateful I feel for the abundant community support that Elizabeth Gregory Home receives on a daily basis. That support comes in many forms, whether through the gift of time and talents by hundreds of volunteers, in-kind donations, or monetary gifts. At our 11th Annual Dinner that was held on March 19th, we had the opportunity to honor a women’s group that contributed in all three of those categories over the past five years: What If Network Seattle (WINS). I think Margaret Mead captured this group’s essence when she wrote:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

WINS has changed our organization’s world in so many ways, whether through board service, clothing and supply collections, 1:1 mentoring on computers, serving as an advocate for women in our transitional housing program, or making monetary contributions. I could go on. But one of their gifts to me as a leader was helping me look at What If...from a variety of perspectives. I’ve chosen to land on the one that explores possibilities for the future. I shared a few of these at our dinner, such as:

♦ What if EGH was open more than 5 days each week?
♦ What if EGH could extend its hours in the morning to accommodate the food and hygiene needs of homeless women who are trying to get back into the work force?
♦ What if EGH could become a community-wide model of inclusivity for transgender women?
♦ What if EGH could develop skills training modules that would foster skills supporting long-term employment and housing stability?

I invite you to consider taking action today by sharing your thoughts, questions, and ideas with me about how Elizabeth Gregory Home can transform these possibilities into realistic offerings. For, in the words of William James:

“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”

With gratitude,

Ruth Herold
Executive Director
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hanks to everyone who helped to make this year’s annual fundraising dinner successful. We enjoyed catching up with friends, honoring this year’s award recipients WINS and Fischer Plumbing, celebrating the accomplishments of 2016, and hearing the stories from two resilient women who are working to overcome homelessness.

Josie (left) and Emily (right) shared their stories of how they became homeless and how EGH has helped them turn their lives around. Josie participates in EGH’s Transitional Housing Program. She recently enrolled in classes at North Seattle College, and in fact, has been nominated as the next Vice President of their honor society. Emily lives in a 1984 recreational vehicle and relies on support and services at the EGH Day Center. In the past month, she began two part-time jobs, and reunited face-to-face with her 14 year old son for the first time in over a year.

We are so grateful that the following companies chose to sponsor our dinner: Adam’s Architecture, Bravo Roofing, Lysa Catlin-Caliber Home Loans, Companis Workers Association, Fischer Plumbing, Hewitt Architects, Geoff Hill, Keller Williams Realty, Keller Rohrbach, David Oliver and Associates, Puget Sound Bank, University Audi / VW, and Western National Insurance Company.

EGH Meal Program - A Productive Partnership with Food Lifeline

As you enter Elizabeth Gregory Home’s Day Center in the morning, you are often greeted by the smell of biscuits hot from the oven. A hot protein-dense breakfast is already on the table as women file into our kitchen and dining area to eat after a night in a shelter.

Sharing a meal at Elizabeth Gregory Home is an essential part of the welcoming feeling at the core of EGH. “We’re family!” said Teresa. “We sit at the table in the kitchen and we talk, we tell jokes and laugh a lot.”

Thanks to our partnership with Food Lifeline, volunteers drive each Wednesday to the Food Lifeline warehouse and pick-up 1,500 - 1,700 pounds of food for the EGH Day Center.

In 2016, EGH received 86,865 pounds of food valued at $138,984. This food is prepared by clients, staff and volunteers as congregate meals, in addition to allowing individuals to cook food for themselves. This provides rare and welcome opportunities for women to address special dietary needs or cultural expression.

Several women have earned their food handler’s permits in order to both help prepare meals for the Day Center, as well as acquire job readiness skills. “Getting here first thing to cook really helps me to get out of bed in the morning and it gives me self-confidence,” Linda said.

Every Thursday, Food Lifeline’s program known as “Seattle’s Table” facilitates the delivery of prepackaged foods, such as salads and sandwiches, that women can either eat at our Day Center or take with them at the end of the day. This nationally recognized program gleans prepared and perishable foods from local restaurants, hotels, universities and corporate cafeterias and delivers it to over 50 meal programs in King County. For more information about this and other Food Lifeline programs, visit their website at www.foodlifeline.org.
Top Five Needed Items
In these cold winter months it’s more important than ever for our clients to stay warm and dry. Our top needs this quarter:

- Backpacks
- Butter & Sugar
- Quart & Gallon Ziplock Bags
- Full Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- Sweats - pants and tops (large sizes to XXXL)

Thank You!

GO PAPERLESS
Email us at info@eghseattle.org and type “Go Paperless” in the subject line.

Employer Matching Gifts
You May Be Able to Double Your Gift to EGH Through an Employer Matching Gift

Many Seattle area employers match contributions made by their employees to nonprofit organizations. To learn if your company has a matching gift policy, please ask your HR representative. Below is a list of some Seattle companies that match gifts made to charities:

- Adobe Systems Inc.
- Allstate Insurance Company
- A T & T
- The Boeing Company
- Cambia Health Solutions
- Kaiser Permanente
- Hewlett-Packard
- Intel
- Microsoft Corporation
- PGE
- REI
- Safeco Corporation
- Starbucks
- Symantec
- T-Mobile
- U.S. Bancorp
- Starbucks
- Wells Fargo & Company
- Umpqua Bank

Please Remember Elizabeth Gregory Home
When Planning Your Estate

Including Elizabeth Gregory Home in your estate plans is a simple way to have a lasting impact on women experiencing homelessness. You can leave a legacy of support through bequests, retirement accounts (IRA, 401K, etc.), trusts, or life insurance.

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Stevenson at (206) 729-0262 ext. 1006 or via email estevenson@eghseattle.org.