“Thanks to You, I Now Have a Place to Call My Own”

What’s most important to me in life is my family and my faith. I have two children and two granddaughters, and belong to a church.

In 2013, I heard my church was looking for people to serve as missionaries at an orphanage in Mexico. I jumped at the opportunity. I served for two years, but could not continue to do that work due to physical limitations, so I moved back to Seattle to be with my family. I lived with my daughter for a short time, with the understanding that her small family could not support me long term. I sought area resources in order to ease the burden on my family and found a shelter to move into known as Hospitality House.

Part of staying at Hospitality House was a commitment to either work or volunteer in the community. The staff suggested I come to Elizabeth Gregory Home’s Day Center to volunteer. I thought it would be something I could do once or twice and be done with it. What I discovered in the process of volunteering at EGH is that I really enjoyed working with the clients. I started volunteering one shift each week at the front desk and learned that EGH offers incredible resources, like bus tickets for local transportation, a food source that allows folks to take up to a day’s worth of groceries home with them, and computers to use to stay connected with family and friends. I also found out that EGH has a transitional house in the Maple Leaf neighborhood for homeless women to live in for up to two years.

While volunteering in 2015, I found out from Michele Martin that there was an opening in the house, and I applied for the Transitional Housing Program. I was so excited when I got accepted! One of the Care Team counselors, Midge, was a terrific help with finding housing, as were Ruth and Michele. It felt like they really cared about me as a person, not just a client seeking housing. Thanks to them, last week, I moved into my own apartment!

Having an experience with homelessness has made me a better person. I know it has made me more compassionate for other people experiencing hard times. Because of what I’ve gone through, I realize that just one person can make a difference in someone’s life. My dream is to become a peer counselor, reunifying families whose children have been removed from the home.
If new beginnings are associated with spring, then EGH welcomes this fall as a “spring imitator”! We welcome our newest additions to our staff, who are featured below. By collaborating with our beloved community partner, Companis, Karen Hundreiser joined our team. By contracting with Companis over the years, we have grown our staff in an intentional, sustainable way. Given the complex housing needs of women accessing our services, bringing Karen on as a part-time Housing Navigator seemed an obvious next step. It is our hope that we will continue to build our financial resiliency in order to hire the Navigator as a full-time position next year.

Our other newest staff member, Valerie Smith, was referred to us by board member Glen Garrison, who worked with her for more than ten years. She has already proven to be a calming and inspirational presence in the short few weeks she has been with us.

This summer we welcomed two new board members, Marie-Claude Milot and Elaine Lauderdale. Both bring energy and talents that support EGH’s collective vision of helping each woman discover her inner power that will move her out of homelessness.

The final “leg” of our team is you, our supporters. Thank you for your thoughtful investment of curiosity, time, energy and resources. I am deeply grateful.

Sincerely,

Ruth Herold
Executive Director

Karen Hundrieser, our new Housing Navigator, has been charged with helping EGH clients secure permanent housing, as well as assisting with Day Center operations. Karen has a rich background in human services, including being the pastor of five United Methodist congregations and managing a homeless shelter in Waukesha, Wisconsin. Karen has a law degree from Northern Illinois University College of Law and comes to EGH through the Companis Workers Mission Association.

Please welcome Rev. Valerie Smith as our new Day Center Coordinator. Valerie has a Master of Divinity from Colgate Rochester Divinity School and a B.S. in Business Management & Administration from Antioch University in Seattle. Valerie brings over 30 years of experience in office management and administration, as well as a career in pastoral care as an ordained minister. Valerie has a rich history of civic and community affiliations and enjoys traveling, writing and being a positive agent for change.

Connections is published by Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) quarterly for friends and supporters of EGH. It is made possible through donations. Please send comments and changes of address to:

ELIZABETH GREGORY HOME
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Seattle, WA 98105
206-729-0262
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EGH is a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization registered with Washington’s Secretary of State. Contributions to EGH are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.
Once again, EGH is offering an opportunity to purchase holiday cards that allow you to make a tax deductible donation while helping to support a woman who is homeless this holiday season.

Lois Moe was a long-time EGH supporter and member of University Lutheran Church. For years, she created cards out of her painted artwork that were sold to benefit Elizabeth Gregory Home. Sadly, Lois passed away earlier this year after celebrating her 100th birthday. In honor of Lois, this year’s holiday card will feature one of her favorite drawings.

Here’s how our holiday card program works:

**YOU:** Send us your list of names and addresses of the people you would like to honor, along with a tax deductible donation for each card to be sent. We recommend a minimum of $10 per card.

**EGH:** For each donation, we will send a personalized holiday card to each name on the list (sample pictured at the right). The outside envelope for the card will be hand addressed and mailed with a holiday stamp; yours will be the return address.

For more information or to preorder cards, please contact Elizabeth Stevenson at (206) 729-0262 ext. 1006 or via email at estevenson@EGHSeattle.org. Sample cards and order forms will be mailed the first week of November.

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**Janet’s In-Kind Kindness**

Janet has been bringing in-kind donations to Elizabeth Gregory Home’s Day Center on a regular basis for over five years. She has developed a network of people who help gather items that our women need. Just last week, several of her friends had daughters heading off to college who cleaned out their closets before they left. Thanks to Janet connecting them with EGH, many women who are experiencing homelessness benefited from those donations.

Janet also hosts multi-family garage sales each summer to benefit a breast cancer fund. After each sale, she brings items that didn’t sell that she knows our Day Center needs, such as sheets, towels, blankets, and gently used clothing and shoes. Recently, she brought in several nearly new backpacks and rolling suitcases, both of which are greatly sought after by our clients.

Janet is a great example of how one person can have a big impact on the lives of women seeking support and services from Elizabeth Gregory Home. Please visit www.eghseattle.org/donations to find our current list of needed items. Thank you!
As the weather grows cold and wet, women we serve are in need of weatherproof and warm coats, as well as our other top needs this quarter:

**Blankets and Sheets**

**Large - XXL Cotton T-shirts**

**Sweaters and Jackets**

**Stretch Pants (larger sizes to XXXL)**

**Large Size Cotton or Flannel Nightgowns**

*Thank You!*

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**Top Five Needed Items**

As the weather grows cold and wet, women we serve are in need of weatherproof and warm coats, as well as our other top needs this quarter:

**Blankets and Sheets**

**Large - XXL Cotton T-shirts**

**Sweaters and Jackets**

**Stretch Pants (larger sizes to XXXL)**

**Large Size Cotton or Flannel Nightgowns**

*Thank You!*

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**GO PAPERLESS**

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

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**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.
- A T & T
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Fnd
- The Boeing Company
- Cambia Health Solutions
- Kaiser Permanente
- Hewlett-Packard
- Intel
- Microsoft Corporation
- PGE
- REI
- Safeco Corporation
- Starbucks
- Symantec
- T-Mobile
- U.S. Bancorp
- Wells Fargo
- Umpqua Bank

*Thank you!*

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

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**Please Remember Elizabeth Gregory Home When Planning Your Estate**

Did you know that an estimated 70% of Americans pass away without leaving a will or living trust? Without proper estate planning, none of your favorite charities can receive funds from your estate. Please be sure that your estate plans are up to date, and please consider making a provision in your will for Elizabeth Gregory Home. *Thank you!*

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

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