

## Inside this Newsletter

- \* [Renewing Interfaith Housing Partnership](#)
- \* [Interfaith Devotional Gathering September 29](#)
- \* [CROP Hunger Walk October 2](#)
- \* [A volunteer story](#)
- \* [Fall Gathering Thursday, October 27](#)



Fall Newsletter  
September 2011

P.O. Box 12824  
Everett WA 98206  
425.252.6672  
[Interfaithwa.org](http://Interfaithwa.org)

## EXPANSION NEEDED

Over quite a few years, Interfaith has periodically been able to offer the services of our **Interfaith Housing Partnership (IHP)**. Historically this program has been funded through 2–3 faith groups who provided monthly rent subsidies. A remarkable and successful undertaking! We are currently looking to expand this program and in order to do that we need your help!

This program was designed to meet the needs of families at our shelter who had employment but still were not able to afford rent. It promotes long-term independence by providing gradually-reduced rent subsidies for up to three years including case management throughout.

The economy has changed. We find fewer families at our shelter who have income from employment. We want to adapt Interfaith Housing Partnership to better meet our families' needs. This means increasing the number of faith groups supporting this program and increasing dramatically the number of community members involved in surrounding our families with the kind of support they need.

Specifically, we need monetary and time commitments. We are developing a wonderful training for people who would like to learn how to surround our families with appropriate support.

***We see this as a crucial need i.e. increasing the number of families able to move into stable housing and toward independence. Please call Mary Ellen 425.252.6672 for more information. She will be scheduling meetings about IHP in the near future.***

### BY THE NUMBERS — HOW MANY AND HOW?

Numbers don't mean too much except when they represent real people. Last fiscal year **45 families made up of 156 individuals of whom 89 were children** found safety at The Family Shelter. **Volunteers donated 4232 hours** (at least those known to us). We received **\$58,813** in in-kind donations.

### Staff Role Call

Jackie Rasco ..... Shelter Director  
Adele Vinaya..... Case Manager  
Oriana Osborn..... Prevention Case Manager  
Constance Stanford..... Shelter Coordinator  
Desmond Pullen..... Children's Advocate  
Bette Schneider..... Office Manager  
Mary Ellen Wood..... Executive Director

### And from the Executive Director, Mary Ellen Wood

Unbelievably, it's Autumn. I'm not quite sure summer was here. How about you?

With fall comes a stark reminder of the weather to come and the state of families and individuals in our community who do not have adequate housing or food. What shall we do?

With jobs, the economy and other challenges we all face, it may be difficult to see just how we can help. We may feel more helpless than in years gone by—without adequate resources to address societal 'issues.' Indeed we may have financial crises of our own and wonder about how feasible helping others is.

It would be easy to feel guilty and help out of guilt or not help and feel even more guilty. What a circle for us who see ourselves as people of good will.

I've recently been thinking about the concepts of scarcity and abundance and the reality that goes along with the concepts. I have no answers just my own perspective that the reality I live in is one of abundance yet my small thinking interprets the abundance as scarcity. When things appear scarce we hoard and fear. This is not the time for hoarding or fear but a time to challenge ourselves to realize the abundance in our lives and how to share it. This is an individual decision then to be applied to the community in which we live.

All faith traditions support thinking abundantly. May we find within our hearts and spirits our ways to contribute.

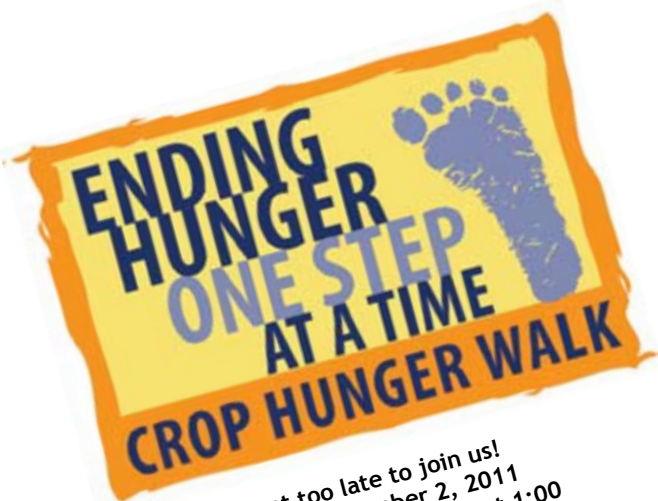
**8th Grade Girls Scouts definitely rose to the occasion! After touring The Family Shelter they decided to find diapers for our children. Through persistence & creativity they contributed 6000+ diapers!!!**



## Board Member Roster

Frank Busichio, Treasurer..... member-at-large  
Jeff Brooks..... member-at-large  
Jim Dean, President..... member-at-large  
Kim Johnson..... member-at-large  
Pat Olafson, Vice President ..... member-at-large  
Ted Lombard, Secretary... First United Methodist (Everett)  
Sylvia Stauffer..... Snohomish County Bahá'í Community

*Your name could go here—we always consider new board members!*



It's not too late to join us!  
CROP Hunger Walk -October 2, 2011  
Gather 12:30-WALK TOGETHER at 1:00  
Meet at 1st Presbyterian  
2936 Rockefeller in Everett

**PLEASE REMEMBER**  
Thursday, September 29, 7:00p  
Interfaith Devotional Gathering  
Spirit of Grace Methodist Church  
3530 Colby in Everett



Training, Food, H<sub>2</sub>O

Join us October 2

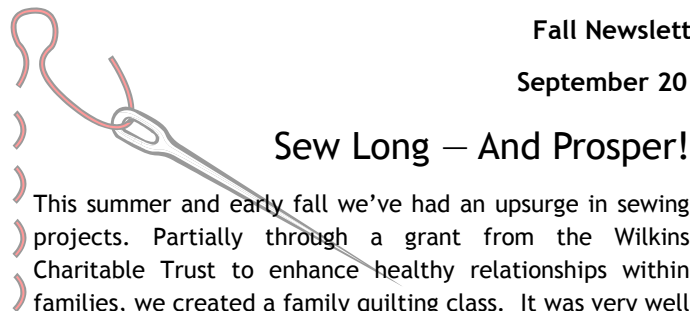
Since 1984 Everett CROP Walk  
raised \$297,519.23!

.....  
*25% of those funds alleviated hunger in our community*  
.....

## THANK YOU—

Catholic Relief Services-Rice Bowl, City of Everett,  
FEMA Emergency Food & Shelter Program; Everett  
School District; Greater Everett Community  
Foundation; Knights of Columbus-Everett; WA Office  
of Supt of Public Instruction/CACFP; Snohomish  
County; United Way of Snohomish County; State of  
Washington; Wilkins Charitable Trust

The sage never tries to store things up. The more he does for others, the more he has. The more he gives to others, the greater his abundance.  
Lao Tsu



## Sew Long – And Prosper!

This summer and early fall we've had an upsurge in sewing projects. Partially through a grant from the Wilkins Charitable Trust to enhance healthy relationships within families, we created a family quilting class. It was very well received including requests to 'do it again.' The results were small family quilts for families to use and take with them as they moved from the shelter. Know any quilters? Let us know. Do we have a project for you!

A community member visited then toured the shelter (you can do this too, just call 425.252.6672 to set an appointment). She liked what she saw and observed, 'I'm 79. If I'm interested in doing something, I do it now. Who knows how long I have?' Within a VERY short period of time she brought in beautiful handmade curtains for the conference room. NOW she's scheduled to teach a sewing class at the shelter to make Halloween costumes—all of this out of one tour of the shelter! Our staff noted, '...Even in this short amount of time, she is making a BIG difference. She is touching people's hearts, beautifying the shelter and teaching life skills.'

What skills might you offer? Let us know. And be sure to schedule that tour!



### OUR MOST RECENT FUNDING AWARDS —

EVERETT CLINIC FOUNDATION: support for Children's Advocate position; SAFECO FOUNDATION: support for case management services; EMPLOYEES COMMUNITY FUND OF THE BOEING COMPANY: flooring & beds for residents rooms at the shelter; ZONTA INTERNATIONAL OF EVERETT: martial arts/self-reflection/journaling class for girls & women at the shelter.

## ALWAYS A Time to Bloom

### Support & Sustain The Family Shelter

Thursday, October 27, 2011 6:30-9 pm

◆ Appetizers/Wine Bar ◆ Small Silent Auction

◆ A Time to Give Generously

Tickets \$20.00 ea

Table for 8 \$150.00

425.252.6672



Dig in! Dig us! Support our children and their families!