

Thanks to our Many Friends

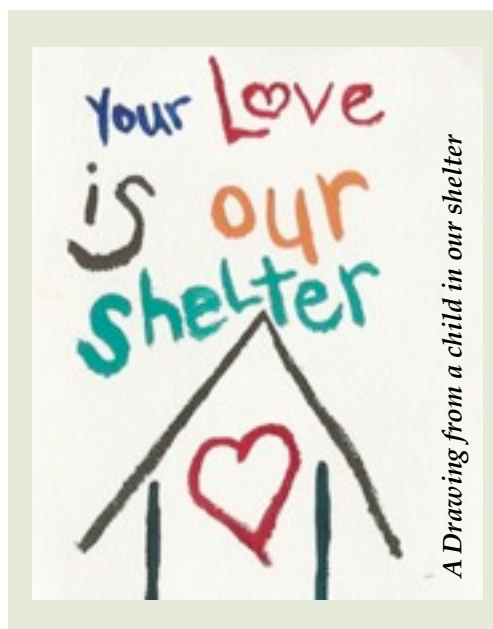
Dear friend and supporter of Family Renewal Shelter

As I write to you a few days after Thanksgiving my mind and heart are so filled with gratitude to God and to you as I look back at this last year. I have to admit that in many ways it has been a demanding and trying year. There have been a lot of challenges for all of us but as I look around I'm reminded that we have so very much to be thankful for.

Life moves so fast in America today that it seems you can blink and a year has gone by. After all the preparations at our shelters and getting ready for multiple turkey dinners, welcoming new residents and taking time for our own growing family are finished I always enjoy the few days after Thanksgiving as a time of reflection before we all jump into round two of getting ready for Christmas.

I admit I don't take enough time remembering all the things I have to be thankful for, but when I do it's always a blessing and comfort no matter how many difficult situations compete to steal my joy and gratefulness. We live in a very negative world in which it takes an effort to see the good, but if we just take the time to look for it, good is in fact all around us. When God finished His creation He said "that was very good" and in spite of every thing His world still is. If you haven't had the chance in a while we encourage you to take some time to consider the blessings in your life.

After the many positive things and people I have in my life like my wonderful wife, Leah, our great children and grandchildren as well as a dedicated and hard working staff we also have



many gifted and committed volunteers. On top of all these things I think of you, our incredible partners whose gifts help us do the work at Family Renewal Shelter. This time we have highlighted a few of the groups that made a real difference this year but there are so many others who also made real sacrifices, given over and above the call, who worked so hard for many hours, often doing the menial tasks that just needed doing. The results have been profound because Family Renewal Shelter is really a team effort and everyone's efforts are important and together have changed lives.

This will be my 18th Christmas at Family Renewal Shelter and I'm very excited about what's ahead. Each year we never know what to expect. Who might come to us directly from a hospital emergency room a few days before Christmas? What police officer will ask us to accommodate a mother and her many children on Christmas Day? Who will need to be helped to flee this area to stay ahead of a person that has made death threats against her? At the same time who will be safe and secure at one of our shelters and able to experience their first peaceful and joyous Christmas in years? How much wonder will we see on the faces of children as they enjoy many special

moments because of the gifts provided to them by wonderful donors like you? What gifts will be purchased by moms for their kids with the gift cards you provided? What will be the impact of helping children make it through their first or second Christmas without their mother who was killed by her intimate partner? I don't have the exact answer to any of these questions. All I know is that we are blessed to be able to be a part of a shelter that with your help ministers to all these types of needs.

I realize that between the time you receive this newsletter and Christmas you're probably going to be very very busy. As I said at the beginning of this letter, this has been an extremely trying year for us and frankly being stretched to the max has directly affected our income. That's one reason you haven't heard from us for awhile. Could you please spend a few minutes thinking about how you might help us to continue to move forward while providing these lifesaving and life affirming opportunities to the many people we're helping now and those we will serve the future? Family Renewal Shelter has always been privately funded and has never accepted any government money. Individual donors provide more of our annual income than any other source. That is something that we are so thankful for and is actually very rare today. That's why you are so critically important to the health and future of our shelter and those we serve. Please visit the How You Can Help box to find one of the many different ways you might help. Thanks!

My prayer is that you experience all the joy that Christmas can bring. May God bless you and your loved ones both now and in 2008.

Wishing every blessing to you in Christ for life,

Keith Galbraith
Executive Director
Family Renewal Shelter



Thank You From an Emergency Shelter Resident

One night, after a call to the hotline, we picked up a mother and her three small children from the train station. Her ex-husband had held them all captive with no heat and no food in a remote area of a neighboring state. He had violated the restraining order many times, saying he didn't care about court orders or custody orders and threatened to kill her. At one point he hit her four year old daughter so hard she needed speech therapy afterwards.

This mom was very motivated to get as far away as possible from this very abusive man. FRS paid for five nights in a motel until we could take her into our shelter. While at the shelter, she was able to rest, have time with her children and with our case manager's help, make a plan. We were able to give her one of our donated cars and pay for the costs of registration and insurance coverage. After lots of preparation, she drove across the US (with no car problems) where she is now happily living and going to school.

She writes: "I needed a change in my life. I needed a new start and a safe place that was different than any other shelter - a place that understood and specialized in security. I want to thank everyone at Family Renewal Shelter for all their help, love, hugs and talks. For providing for my own and my children's needs. For showing me joy with the Bible study.

Even coffee, massages, inspirational movie nights and pedicures that we experienced with the House Manager, Juliana and other volunteers. Last but so important, the amazing gift of the car. We will never forget you

"Kallie"

Thank You From a Transitional Housing Resident

This is a letter of gratitude. My heart is so full of appreciation to all of the many people who have helped to make the Family Renewal Shelter what it is. Just how would I describe the shelter itself? For me, it was a place of refuge - safe harbor from a frightening storm. I had no idea what to expect, and really had expected the worst from things I'd been told in the past about shelters. I only knew I had to do something to keep my children and myself safe, and figured this couldn't be any worse than what we were already experiencing.

I was very pleasantly surprised at how nice the shelter surroundings actually were, and at how hard everyone there worked at making sure we felt welcome and were comfortable. Due to our issues with domestic violence and abuse, my boys and I left our home with next to nothing, and had to give up school, a vehicle, our pets, friends, personal belongings, etc. In this difficult and emotional time, we were treated with the utmost compassion and kindness by everyone at the shelter. I was amazed by the dedication and caring of the staff and volunteers, and could hardly believe how generous they were to us. We didn't have all of "our stuff," but we were provided with everything we needed and more.

Thanks to the efforts of many, this shelter lives up to its name, and is indeed a place of renewal. My sons and I left a place of fear and uncertainty and moved into a place of hope. We are grateful each and every day for God's mercy and grace, and thankful to all who helped us on our path to a brighter, more fulfilling future.

May God bless you.

"Andrea"





Professional Associations Make a Major Difference

Above: Painters and Decorating Contractors of America South Sound Chapter

Just as we never know who is going to call needing immediate assistance we also never know who might call with offers of major help for our shelters. This year we were tremendously blessed by two associations who stepped up to undertake major renovation projects that have vastly improved our administrative center.

On Saturday March 24th, a group of wonderful men, all members of the Painters and Decorating Contractors of America South Sound Chapter completely repainted the inside of our three-story administrative building in one day. A few days later, members of the Christian Biker Tabernacle installed new carpet donated by Vanessa Hurley of Campbell-Cox carpets. It has allowed us to provide a newly updated environment for the hundreds of visitors who come to our center each year. This renovation was long overdue on the building we have occupied for ten years.

On Saturday October 13th, a large team

from the South Sound Chapter of the Mortgage Brokers Association undertook a huge renovation project of our donation building. This extreme makeover included re-roofing, ripping out two rotted sections of the building and rebuilding them, installing and trimming of windows, completely painting inside and out, and replacing siding and insulation. What a difference it has already make. Two weeks later, with a great discount from Harkness Furniture, they donated all new mattresses for our entire main shelter. WOW!

All the materials for these projects were donated along with the hundreds of individual worker hours it took to complete them. These are the kind of projects that would have cost thousands of dollars and taken weeks of work by a few people. That's why it's so great to be a part of something that truly is a team effort. These kinds of projects are also a tremendous amount of fun and very satisfying and rewarding for everybody that participates.

Another major group project that included the work of the huge team of volunteers was the annual Puyallup United Methodist Church Rummage Sale. On August 11th Ruth Tervol and her team again this year had a very successful rummage sale that generated thousands of dollars of support for Family Renewal Shelter.

Great support also came from Tacoma city employees and their Community Connection under the leadership of Dan Rome. The annual chili cook-off and fall barbeque generated substantial donations to support our shelters. Thanks again to them for all their hard work.

We are very grateful for the many other efforts too numerous to mention here undertaken by our partners in the community that made a real difference this year. Thanks to everyone for being a part and being a blessing. We look forward to what's ahead in 2008.

P.S.: Thanks also to our many anonymous donors!



Above: Tacoma City Employees enjoying and tasting the annual Chili Cook-Off and Fall Barbeque.



Above: South Sound Chapter of the Mortgage Brokers Association

A Hotline Story

As many of you know, we have a 24 hour hotline answered by staff and some great volunteers. Calls come from abuse victims themselves as well as hospitals, law enforcement and concerned family members. Usually, the victims need assurance that there really is a way out of the violent and frightening cycle they are trapped in. Some don't need to find shelter, but they do need to talk. They want help with safety planning, resources and encouragement to make the needed changes, often for the sake of their children.

One recent example began with a call in the middle of the night from a young woman who had been referred by a local hospital after being treated there for her injuries due to a domestic violence assault. She and her little baby were put in a motel. After quite a few conversations that night and the next day, she decided to leave the area with help from a family member. She called before she left to say "I just want to thank you so much for talking to me so many times. If it hadn't been for you, I would have stayed here and I might have gone back to him. I can't even tell you what you did for me."

Classical Glass Corvette Club supports Family Renewal Shelter for 20 years

Just a year after Family Renewal Shelter opened the doors at our original location we were approached by a then small car club that was looking to do some good in the community. That initial meeting turned into a relationship that endures today. Over these last 20 years the Classical Glass Corvette Club has donated thousands of dollars, tons of food and household items and other shelter needs and has become one of our most faithful and appreciated partners.

As they have continued to grow, so has their generosity which now supports many other organizations while also supplying scholarships to students. Our hats off to these wonderful friends for all the good they do for so many who they will probably never get to meet.

FAMILY RENEWAL SHELTER

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FRS is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt charity founded in 1986. Our federal tax identification number is 91-1347741, and we are registered with the state of Washington Charities Division. They can be contacted at 1-800-332-GIVE. We are funded by private contributions from businesses, private foundations, community service organizations, individuals, and churches. All of our services are free and no monies come from government funding.

How You Can Help

1. Return the enclosed envelope with your Christmas or year-end gift.
2. Donate Online. Go to our website www.domesticviolencehelp.org then select "donate" and follow the directions - OR go to www.networkforgood.org, type in FAMILY RENEWAL SHELTER, WA. and follow their instructions. Our website is still under construction; networkforgood.org has a lot of good information about our shelter. Both options are secure.
3. Donate through United Way of Pierce County WA Donor voice program, FAMILY RENEWAL SHELTER #2420, or give through the WA State Employee Combined Fund Drive.
4. We also provide opportunities for major gifts, donations of land, vehicles, and other real estate property as well as bequests. Donations of houses are needed to open more transitional housing.



Please consider gift cards

We're so grateful to everyone who supports our efforts to share joy at Christmas with gifts of presents, food and so many other things for the women and children. This year we are again asking our friends to consider giving gift cards. Here's why: Gift cards are much appreciated because they allow a freedom that most of our residents have not experienced. Women are able to get what they really need and want for themselves and their children as well as experience the joy of shopping that we all take for granted.

Any excess gift cards that we might receive at Christmas will be used for birthdays and other special occasions throughout the upcoming year. They are always used immediately when they are received by our residents and are never wasted. Thanks so much.

**This year's deadline for
Christmas gifts is Thursday,
December 20th**

Mary Kay Helps Foil Cyber Stalkers

This year the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation donated a total of \$3 million to domestic violence shelters across the United States. Family Renewal Shelter was honored and fortunate to be one of the shelters to receive a very generous grant that has been used to fund the operations of our shelters this year.

They also underwrote the development of the CD ROM entitled *Survivors Technology: An Interactive Safety Planning Tool* which was produced by the National Network To End Domestic Violence. This new tool has now been distributed to every domestic violence shelter in the United States.

Cyber stalking and tracing, tracking and harassing domestic violence victims through the use of technology such a cell phone records, spy ware and many other technologies has made it increasingly difficult for domestic violence victims or victims of stalking to become and stay safe. This new interactive CD-ROM is the answer to one of our prayers to have tools to help victims stay one step ahead of those trying to hurt them.

We have permission to make copies of the CD for victims, advocates and programs that need them. If you are interested in receiving a free copy of this CD ROM either call or e-mail us and we will make copies available to you.

Thanks again to the Mary Kay Ash Charitable Foundation for their wonderful and generous support of Family Renewal Shelter and other domestic violence shelters across the country.





FRS News

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