

An Incredible Opportunity!

Dear friend and supporter of Family Renewal Shelter

I'm very excited to write to you today and happy to start with the very good news. The reason we're so excited is because we have just been presented with an unprecedented opportunity. This is the first time in our 22 year history that we've been offered a chance to match new funds one-to-one.

We are thrilled to announce that we just received a pledge challenge from a local private Foundation to match \$10,000 if we can raise an additional \$10,000 from new donors or donors who haven't given in a while. We believe we can accomplish this with your help, even during these uncertain times that have taken a serious toll on our fundraising efforts.

Here are the conditions of this pledge where every dollar will be matched one-to-one up to a total of \$10,000

"Monies that qualify as matching dollars are gifts from those who have not given this year or in the previous two fiscal years or gifts over and above what was given last year. Pledges and gifts in-kind will not qualify as matching funds-only cash gifts received will be counted toward a match."

So if you are a donor who last gave to Family Renewal Shelter in 2005 every dollar you give now will be matched one-to-one. That also includes every additional dollar given in 2008 that totals more than your donation for 2007. If you are a donor who has always given in-kind contributions which include used clothing, food, building materials, automobiles, etc, but have never given cash, your cash donations will now be counted for this challenge grant. Also the cash donations of organizations, friends and those just discovering our

work will all be matched one-to-one so please let others know about this opportunity. This is a very exciting chance for us and I hope you will participate. If you have any questions please call us at 253-475-9010.

The reason that this is so important at this time is because as of September 30th we have already served more families than all of 2007! Throughout the newsletter you'll see other areas of service and expansion that will fulfill dreams we've had for a long time. Many new doors have opened and partnerships established. We truly have done more with less financially for some time now so if we're going to fulfill the vision that God has placed in our hearts we now need additional support. Never before have we struggled this much with cash flow. We're so very grateful for the faithful and generous donors who have sustained us during this difficult period. Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment.

We've also had some wonderful teams of volunteers whose efforts we want a highlight that have accomplish so much and been so amazingly generous. It is because of their team work that we are able to provide lifesaving and life



Sunflower from our Flower Garden

affirming services to victims of domestic violence in our community, even those who escaped violence in other states to start a new peaceful life here.

Our 24-hour hotline now never falls silent for very long because there is such great need. Right now we're still able to accommodate those who come to us. But frankly it's becoming much more difficult and our emergency fund is quickly being depleted. Our goal for the future is not just to meet the crisis needs of high-risk domestic violence victims but in 2009 we plan to open our first of five new transitional shelters to provide more long-term confidential safe shelter so that more families can have a chance at a fresh new start. Shaking off the effects of being a domestic violence victim doesn't happen overnight. It takes time and a place to rebuild. We want to provide more of such places. We believe we can with your help.

One last thing. Please take a few moments to consider how you might help us during this difficult and challenging time. We realize that it's hard for many Americans right now so we all have to make choices. Please consider choosing a long-term, established, stable and independent shelter like ours that has learned to accomplish a lot with a little. Your investment really does go a long way in lives and hope. Thanks so much for joining with us today.

Keith Galbraith
Executive Director
Family Renewal Shelter

p.s.: We're looking to acquire a single-family house to open our next transitional shelter in 2009. There are many tax benefits available to donors of property and houses. We're looking for creative input and opportunities and would appreciate your help.



Mortgage Brokers Association Members Set Gate Posts

GIVING BACK

To my friends at Family Renewal Shelter,

I thank you so much for all your help and support. Without you I wouldn't have made it this far. I celebrated my fifth year of independence this year as a survivor. My favorite part was when someone that didn't know me really cared about me.

I donated these items to the ladies in the house. Please take them to the ladies and let them know I care and would like them to have my extra items so they can have fun dressing up.

God bless you all.

With love, Nanett

Through the years many of our former residents have become long term volunteers and supporters. We have hundreds of cards, letters e-mails, invitations, photos and files we love to receive. People are grateful to FRS and they are grateful to you for your support.
ED

Letter to our House Manager:

"Thank you so much for everything you've done. The children loved going in the garden with you and all the fun stuff you have planned for the day. You are so organized and that is so wonderful. I'm going to try your schedule to remember you by. You are a cool and awesome friend and worker."

Letter to our Case Manager:

"Thank you so much for picking me up at the bus depot. I don't know where we would be if it wasn't for you. You've helped us so much in so many ways. I'm glad I got to meet you and I wish I could have stayed longer to know you all better. You were like our hero. Thank you so much."

"Hello! I am writing this letter to extend to you my deepest gratitude. Your generosity in sharing your transitional home with us has meant more to my family than I can express. For so long we were forced to move from place to place. My children became experts in keeping their belongings narrowed down to what would fit in a backpack...knowing when they made a friend it was only until we

moved again. I became an expert at moving, never meeting new people and always looking over my shoulder. I cannot convey the joy I feel in being able to allow my children the freedom to play outdoors, return to school and see their friends. This has been a time of freedom for my family. Thank you!"

Plantings of a Safe Place

(Recollections at a battered women's shelter)

I see her face when she comes in
Pretending to be OK--
Tending the children...
The polite humor...
A pro at holding it all together...
But what I really see
I see with the eyes of my memory
The indirect look...
The tight voice...
The busyness...
Summon haunting memories
Of a pain that once held me hostage.
The shattered dreams...
The betrayal...
The shame...
Fused into one blinding pain
Within my oppressive dark world--
That was lit by soft voices
In a safe place:
Voices of empathy...
Voices of empowerment...
Voices of sanity...
Seeds planted in parched, trampled ground
Only to be sprouted
By tears of an honest look.
And as I did many times,
She also yielded to her pain
And went back
The easy way out
Swallow it and go on.
But I know the voices
From the safe, sane place
Will shed light on her dark reality.
Tears will come...
Seed will sprout...
A new life will break through.

Judith Hanson R.N.
Survivor
Long time F.R.S. Volunteer
FRS board member



Some of the Many PUMC Volunteers Take a Break for a Picture

THE BEST RUMMAGE SALE EVER!

Our thanks again to Ruth Tervol and her army of volunteers and donors at Puyallup United Methodist Church that made this year's rummage sale (which is one of our county's biggest and best) an outstanding success, raising thousands of dollars. Mark your calendar now for next year's sale which is scheduled for August 1, 2009.



A Very Small View of a Huge Sale

FAMILY RENEWAL SHELTER
 6832 Pacific Ave., Tacoma, WA 98408
 Tel: (253) 475-9010, Fax: (253) 475-0848, Toll Free: (888) 550-3915
 email: staff@dvhelp.org, website: www.domesticviolencehelp.org

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.

GARDEN BURSTS AT THE SEAMS

It's Harvest Time here at the Shelter again and we are having so much fun!

We love to go out to the vegetable and flower garden as a group carrying boxes, buckets and pulling wagons.

Before too long our containers are full of corn, tomatoes, squash and brussels sprouts.

The kids are running through the corn and searching for ripe green beans, as their moms cut flowers of every color and put them in vases for the house.

As I watch everyone have fun and see the children's excitement as we bring the bounty in to the kitchen, it helps me to realize that just as we anticipate the growth of a garden, and enjoy its fruit, we are watching these special families grow and flourish here each day.

In a safe place, free from violence and fear, a new life is possible and the harvest is a new beginning. Thank you for all you do to help these families walk forward into their future.

Juliana
 House Manager



Juliana and Sandra



South Sound Chapter of Mortgage Brokers Association at it again!

Last year they rebuilt and renovated our donation building in a weekend. This year they paid for and built a beautiful new security and privacy fence at one of our shelters. What a difference it immediately made in the security and peace of mind of our families. They also prepped the shelter for painting and even performed major tree trimming.



Quota Volunteers Make It Happen

Our thanks to our friends at the Quota International of Tacoma who on June 7th installed a new drip irrigation system and window boxes, trimmed hedges, planted new bushes and flowers and performed much-needed outside maintenance at our administrative center. It has made a tremendous difference.



Family Rebuilds Playground

Our thanks to the Wittenberg family, Dave, Shannon and Mitchell for doing a beautiful job rebuilding our playground equipment in a weekend. All the new lumber and hardware made a huge difference as this playground is in constant use and often the first thing kids arriving at the shelter are drawn to.

Two Pet Programs Change Lives

In 1996 we started several programs to address two critical needs of domestic violence victims. We realized that some domestic violence victims would not leave their pets behind, knowing that they would probably be abused or killed, so they would even stay in abusive relationships for the sake of the pets. That's when we started our Domestic Violence Shelter Pet Program that to our knowledge was the first in the United States that began to accept pets brought by their families when they fled abuse. Since that time we've accepted scores of dogs, cats and many other types of pets who have been welcomed at our emergency shelter. In the last 12 years it has allowed women who would not have otherwise left to overcome that final obstacle. We now can't imagine not providing this service.

At the same time we also started our Pet Therapy Program that over the years has had a menagerie of dogs, cats, chickens, rabbits

and even goats living at our shelters. What a wonderful therapeutic blessing they have been especially helping traumatized children to deal with their pain and to verbalize what's going on inside of them. While our latest dog Jack was being trained at our office to transition to the shelter a woman with four children, just having fled a serious violent relationship, came to our office as their first point of contact. I told her that we had a dog in training and asked if the kids would like to see him. For the next half-hour while the mother was filling out paperwork I observed these children with Jack and realized his primary place of service was from now on to be our office. Jack is becoming kind of famous, having appeared on a magazine cover, television program and many other public events. He has even attended a bill singing in Olympia!

Maggie the Dog and Fidget the Cat are two of our many shelter pets. These great animals help to take the sting out of the crisis situations that people find themselves in. We're very excited that other shelters and domestic violence programs are now starting similar programs. We have received many calls in the past several years from domestic violence programs across the country and are always happy to help share our many wonderful experiences. This photo was included in recent Tacoma News Tribune article on Domestic Violence Shelter Pet Programs by Debbie Cafazzo.



Two beloved Therapy "Friends": Maggie the Dog and Fidget the Cat

How You Can Help

1. Return the Enclosed Envelope with your 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.



Flowers Planted by Children in Their Garden



"Jack" our newest Shelter Therapy Dog!

FRS News

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Volunteers Make It Happen

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