

Under the Yellow Umbrella



EGH Board of Directors Welcomes New Member Joan Overland

November
2007



As the newest EGH board member I was asked to share some of my perceptions with you. My interest and involvement came awhile before board membership in July 2007. I participated in the Women of Worth holiday party last December, co-chaired the first fundraiser, a dinner last May, and with my husband volunteer on a weekly basis organizing and maintaining EGH's storage area. I also chaired our fall fantasy casino night fundraiser.

This is my first experience volunteering with a fledgling organization. My previous experience over a period of more than 20 years was with a well established nonprofit, Ryther Child Center League. The agency is now over 100 years old. **This is so totally different!** There aren't over 60 guilds all working to support the organization. We have no membership network. We do not have the support of numerous large grants from big businesses. Our grants are many and we are so grateful for them. Some were substantial but many are small, and it takes hundreds of \$1,000 and \$2,000 contributions to keep a \$25,000 a month agency afloat. We must depend on our donors to support fundraisers,

appeals, and special events at this stage in our growth. Perhaps this helps explain your hearing of our ongoing need for financial support. We opened with faith, a solid base of initial funding, and continue to expand our constituency.

We are so proud of our EGH women! To date 8 have moved into permanent subsidized housing, several have gainful employment, and 1 is reuniting with her 11 year old son after a lengthy time apart. **How exciting is progress like this after only 13 months of operations?** We continue to expand our funding base with mini-fundraisers such as October's Macy's "Shop for a Cause" at which EGH earned first place at the Northgate Mall store and netted \$5,500 thanks to staff, resident and board efforts. We are asking for volunteers to work 2 events in December at Barnes & Nobles in University Village-gift wrapping and giving away free bookfair flyers from which EGH will receive proceeds when redeemed. We continue to place emphasis on expanding our contribution base to other area churches and organizations. We recently received a \$10,000 gift from Merrill Gardens and will be the

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EGH Donor Debra Flanigan (L) and EGH Board member Joan Overland (R) at EGH fund raiser "Under the Yellos Umbrella: Women on Their Way"

Wish List

Toilet paper
 Paper towels
 30 gal. garbage bags
 Napkins
 Bleach
 Laundry detergent
 Dishwasher soap
 Dish soap
 Bar soap
 Shampoo
 Conditioner
 Razors
 Toothbrushes
 Tampons/fem. Pads
 Cleaning supplies
 DVD player
 Twin bed/bunk beds
 Dresser
 Desk
 Lamps
 Kitchen items
 Bus tickets
 Postage stamps
 Computer paper
 Spiral notebooks
 3-ring binders
 Movie passes
 McDonald's & Jack-in-the-Box coupons
 Warm socks
 Gloves sizes S-XL
 Warm hats
 Gift cards to Office Depot, Office Max & Staples
 Gift cards to Safeway & Target
 Phone cards
 Suit case/duffel bag

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With Help From Our Friends

Your past support of Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) has been phenomenal. Thank you! Your gifts and contributions of love and hope allowed EGH to not only open our doors last fall, but to serve homeless women for over a year. However, EGH is now at a critical point financially. **We only have funds to keep our doors open through December 2007.** As a new start-up agency we struggle for every dollar received. We do not have the government contracts or recurring revenue of that of well established agencies with large constituencies. EGH depends entirely on private funds to rescue women from the streets and give them a safe place to call home.

It costs nearly \$25,000 a month to operate the transitional housing and drop-in center programs of Elizabeth Gregory Home. At EGH women feel safe. They find jobs, go to school and learn new skills. Mothers are reunited with their children. This past month EGH graduated 4 women into permanent housing. **But we cannot do it alone. Without your generosity, EGH will permanently close its doors this winter.** The women who have called EGH home for over a year will be forced, if lucky, back into limited emergency shelter. Our guests who access the EGH drop-in center will be turned away to face the cold winter streets.

The good news is it is not too late! We can still pull together and turn this bleak picture around! But not without your generous support. Please join us in our fall giving campaign. Your gift to EGH helps single, adult women regain their health, reunite with their families, and reassume the responsibilities of contributing citizens in the community. But your gift means so much more than that. It will ensure EGH can continue to serve women in need. **Whatever size gift you can give will make a difference!** A gift of \$5, \$25 or even \$100 will be maximized through sound fiscal management and our caring and committed staff and board of directors. **When you donate to EGH you can proudly know you are making a life-saving gift to a woman in your own backyard.**

Your gift made payable to EGH may be returned in the enclosed envelope, or you can simply and conveniently charge your gift to your Visa or MasterCard by marking the appropriate box. **Remember, no gift is too small.** If you work for a company that matches gifts to community agencies, please remember to enclose your company's form. Initially, we were faced with either not opening EGH or opening with limited funds and prayers that God would see us through. For nearly 15 months this has worked. And it can continue to work if you, our friends, pull together. **We can reach our goal of raising \$115,000 and keep women safe from the streets!** Please make your gift today before you no longer have the opportunity to do so. Thank you again on behalf of the women of Elizabeth Gregory Home and for responding to this critical appeal.

With sincere gratitude,

Kimberly Jackson





A Second Chance

Many of you may not know Patsy's story. She was married twice and endured 25 years of injustice and mistreatment. Taking life into her own hands, Patsy courageously left California in October 2005 and moved up the coast to Washington. Separated from her previous relationships, Patsy began her recovery from drug addiction. Patsy is still in touch with her 1 son and 8 grand-babies living in California. Since entering EGH, Patsy has worked hard to find employment and maintain her sobriety. With the help of her EGH case worker, she was connected with appropriate treatment and support for her recovery.

Patsy continues to work hard toward obtaining permanent housing and is an example of persistence and determination to all our residents. She maintains a positive attitude and actively increases the visibility of Elizabeth Gregory Home by sharing her story. When asked about her feelings toward EGH, Patsy stated, "It's given me a second chance at life."

Patsy is just one of the many women helped at Elizabeth Gregory Home because of your generosity. We are able to serve these women because of you!



Operation Nightwatch: "EGH is Vital to Community"

If you haven't figured out by now, the work of Elizabeth Gregory Home is absolutely essential in helping end the cycle of homelessness.

Our agency, Operation Nightwatch, has been overrun by desperate women seeking help in the past 18 months. Some nights all the shelters are full and we are stuck giving a vulnerable woman a blanket and a bus ticket; all the shelters in the city are full. We need the services that Elizabeth Gregory Home provides for homeless women. You are giving women — "our" women — the tools to move out of a homeless shelter and into permanent stable housing.

It's exciting being part of a new endeavor — exhausting too. Every day there are new crises to manage. Staff is dealing with women in turmoil and chaos. There is no way to avoid it. Their chaos spills over into everything. And especially now, at this critical moment, when the services EGH provides are so needed, there is one more thing to worry about.

Will EGH have the resources to get through the holidays and into the new year? My hope, my prayer for Elizabeth Gregory Home, is that this uncertainty would be replaced with confident assurance.

Please give today, and keep this vital program going.

— Rev. Rick Reynolds



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recipient of monies from the University District Chamber of Commerce's December luncheon where our Director Kimberly Jackson is the featured speaker.

We appreciate the support of all of you and pray for its continuance. The holiday season always brings expanded needs in order to give our residents the support we have pledged them. If you have someone on your holiday list that "has everything", why not consider giving a gift in their name to EGH? We will send them a nice card telling of your gift and what it will do to help end homelessness for women in Seattle. We are open to and welcome your ideas and comments. Please address them to the EGH board of directors and staff. We are growing and learning how to better serve the women who enter our doors.

Thank you and have a wonderful holiday season!



Residents show off their costumes at EGH Halloween party



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EGH women on an outing with newly donated purses.

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