

THE YELLOW UMBRELLA



Elizabeth Gregory Home Opens

Winter 2007

After seven years of hard work and dedication, Elizabeth Gregory Home opened its' door in Seattle's University District with two open houses—a sneak peek preview for University Lutheran Church (ULC) members and friends on 9/24/06 and a community open house celebration on 9/29/06. The community open house was well attended with over 125 individuals sharing in the exciting day.

The open house was held from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and began with colorful balloons and friendly faces greeting guests as they entered through the basement level of ULC. Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) board members led tours of the facility beginning with the EGH day center, counseling room, and the executive director's office, all located in the lower level of ULC. Sue Tong, EGH's volunteer interior designer, was on hand in the day center to an-

swer questions and describe the rooms which were still under construction. Armed with paint, carpet, and tile samples, Sue conjured images of the beautiful finished product for guests.

The tour continued across the street to the EGH apartment complex where guests had the opportunity to view staff offices, 9 resident units, 2 common areas, and the resident manager's apartment. Each participant at Elizabeth Gregory Home receives her own private bedroom with private adjoining bath. The bedrooms were beautifully furnished with hand stained dressers, desks, and nightstands. Lamps, linens and other household items were donated by ULC members and friends from our Target and Linen & Things registries. Easels containing EGH program information were weaved throughout the tour to provide information on case

management and other support services offered at Elizabeth Gregory Home.

The open house culminated with a traditional ribbon cutting ceremony officiated by Elizabeth Gregory Home board member Yolanda Houze. ULC Pastor and EGH board member Ron Moe-Lobeda shared the inception and history of EGH.

After an official congratulations from Seattle City Council member Tom Rasmussen, board member Mary Guiberson shared her personal journey through transitional housing and the powerful way it changed her life. The ceremony concluded with Executive Director Kimberly Jackson thanking the hundreds of people who brought Elizabeth Gregory Home from a vision to the successful transitional housing program it is today.

Volunteers-The Heart of EGH

Since its' inception, volunteers have always been the heart of Elizabeth Gregory Home. From our board of directors to the capital campaign and program committees, to the hundreds of supporters who donated to make EGH the success it is today, volunteers continue to bring joy to the homeless women we serve.



EGH's youngest volunteers **Tali Berkman and Sam Wolfson** celebrated Yom Kippur in a special way this year. They saved their allowances for weeks and celebrated the holiday by donating a hard-earned \$36.00 to Elizabeth Gregory Home. Their generous donation was matched by their parents and hand delivered to EGH in the spirit of "Tzadackah", the Hebrew word for sharing your resources to help others. A big thanks to Tali and Sam who prove you are never too young to make a difference!

The **University of Washington** has formed a strong collaborative partnership with EGH through the Carlson Center. Fall quarter EGH welcomed 10 service learning students who volunteered 2-4 hours a week .

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Seattle City Council member Tom Rasmussen and board members Yolanda Houze and Ron Moe-Lobeda officially opened the doors of Elizabeth Gregory Home. (L-R)

The Yellow Umbrella

EGH Wish List

- Laundry detergent
- Dishwasher soap
- Dish soap
- Bar soap
- Bleach
- Cleaning supplies
- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Napkins
- Tampons/pads
- Razors
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Hand sanitizer
- Tooth brushes and tooth paste
- Dish drainers
- Coffee grinder
- Blender
- Pots and pans
- Cooking utensils
- Bread
- Coffee/Tea
- Milk
- Board games and puzzles
- Books
- Small plants
- CD player
- Videos and DVD's
- VCR
- Digital camera
- Postage stamps
- Prepaid phone cards
- Bus tickets
- Computer paper
- Pens and pencils
- Spiral notebooks
- 3-ring binders
- Gift cards to Target, Safeway, Fred Meyer, etc.

WAYS TO DONATE

Financial contributions may be sent to:

Elizabeth Gregory Home
P.O. Box 45310
Seattle, WA 98145-0310

For in-kind donations, please email:

info@elizabethgregoryhome.com

Behind the Scenes: Meet the Staff of Elizabeth Gregory Home

Kimberly Jackson, Executive Director



As executive director of EGH, Kimberly oversees all operations, administrative and fiscal management of the agency. She supervises our great staff, interns and volunteers and works closely with the EGH board of directors on fundraising and development. Kimberly designed all programmatic policies and directs the quality improvement process to ensure outstanding services for EGH residents. Kimberly adds, "It is a privilege to serve at EGH. We see lives changing daily because of your support."

David Holt, Case Manager



David comes to EGH with a long background in social services. He previously served as the lead supervisor in a drop in center and overnight shelter serving over 700 homeless single adults monthly. David meets weekly with each EGH resident to help them set and achieve educational, employment and permanent housing goals. David works with the executive director on program development and coordinates volunteers to teach onsite life skills classes. David also supervises our MSW student and the EGH resident management team. EGH residents have complimented Dave on his caring and compassionate personality.

Jamie Lee, Program Administrator



Jamie is the administrative side of EGH. She serves as the operations manager and ensures the agency runs smoothly day to day. Jamie coordinates payroll, accounts and personnel. She is your contact for volunteer opportunities, donations, and general questions about EGH. Jamie supervises our UW service learning students and Civic Fellow and assists Kimberly with grant writing and event planning. We are very fortunate to have Jamie at EGH!

Keren Holt,

Master of Social Work Student



A first-year Master of Social Work student from the University of Washington, Keren Holt began her practicum at Elizabeth Gregory Home in November 2006. She is onsite 16 hours a week and works closely with the EGH case manager and executive director on a variety of activities. Keren augments case management services, assists in program development and implementation, and is developing EGH's community mentoring program. She is also working with staff on our upcoming luncheon fundraiser. Keren is thrilled to become a part of the EGH community and looks forward to meeting and working with each of you.

EGH Resident Managers

EGH has a team of 6 Resident Managers who staff the apartments and day center during the evenings and weekends. Resident managers provide a safe environment for all Elizabeth Gregory Home residents during their stay and maintain a staff presence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Resident managers assist with hygiene, cleaning or personal care items residents may need and ensure our facilities are kept clean and tidy. They also offer assistance to residents with referrals to services, help with conflict resolution and emergency care, and supervise volunteer groups. Our diverse team speaks Spanish, Somali, Amharic and Vietnamese which allows us to better serve refugee and non-English speaking residents. Say hello to the EGH manager's the next time you stop by!



Upcoming Events at EGH

Jan. 2007: Nominate EGH as your favorite charity at www.rezoom.com/abetterworld/ for a \$5000-\$100,000 grant award!

1/21/2007: EGH Executive Director, guest speaker at ULC. Come hear how your support makes a difference!

3/5/2007: EGH Board Reception

April 2007: EGH Luncheon fundraiser

Thank you to our community partners who donated for a bright holiday season at EGH!

AOI, Lynnwood

Big Lots, Lynnwood

Jillian's Espresso, Kenmore

McDonalds, Univ. District

Lisa Smith

Tully's, Univ.District



Elizabeth Gregory Home is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.



Homeless Resident Finds Good Health and New Hope at Elizabeth Gregory Home

The homeless women who live in transitional housing at Elizabeth Gregory Home have suffered so much-domestic violence, unemployment, hunger, poverty, and abandonment. They work hard each day on completing school, finding jobs, and searching for permanent homes. Although the women come from very different backgrounds they each have a story to tell. They are our mothers, grandmothers, sisters,



friends and daughters. One such story is that of Cathy, a southern woman in her early 50's who has suffered tragedy unbeknownst to most of us. After her husband of 30 years left her unexpectedly she tried desperately to support herself after years as a homemaker.

Disabled by health problems, she worked part time as a nursing assistant until the trailer she lived in burned to the ground one night with all her worldly possessions inside. A friend encouraged her to come to Seattle for a fresh start but Cathy soon found

herself homeless with no job, no money and no place to live.

Afraid for her safety in a downtown shelter, Cathy made her way to Elizabeth Gregory Home. She has been hospitalized 2 times since coming to EGH but her spirit and zest for life have not been dampened. EGH caseworkers have connected Cathy to appropriate medical care and she is now preparing to enter vocational college to become a veterinary assistant. This is one of only many lives changing at Elizabeth Gregory Home because of your support.

Perspectives from a Pastor

Now that Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) has opened its doors and the first women have moved in and become a part of this living community, I am ever grateful to everyone who has played a role in bringing this vision to its present reality. Over 7 years ago, University Lutheran Church (ULC) commissioned a Facility Use Task Force to determine the use of some vacant space at church. The Task Force recommended that the space be used as a shelter for homeless women. After a series of cottage meetings set up to consider this recommendation, the congregation expressed a preference for transitional housing that would allow fewer women to stay for a longer period of time and be given the opportunity to receive all of the support services necessary to assist them in their return to independent living in the community. Once this proposal was adopted by the congregation, a separate Board was elected



and a separate 501(c)3 was established.

With the downturn in the economy, the Board delayed the capital campaign among the members of ULC until 2005. In the meantime, the Board continued to make preparation for the day when EGH would open its doors. With a successful capital campaign at ULC, the Board was able to leverage several grants from local foundations for the renovation. However, with the increasing cost for renovation, the plan to house the women in the lower level of ULC was still beyond reach. The Board proved its flexibility and creativity by contracting with an apartment owner across the street from the church for an entire floor of apartments. With the hiring of Kimberly Jackson, the new Executive Director of EGH, and the remodeling of a day room in the lower level of the church, the final stages of preparation were put in place.

At the open house for EGH, someone asked me how I was feeling. I responded by saying that I don't think this milestone will hit me until the

women actually move in to EGH. After the first few women moved in, I had the opportunity to introduce myself to them. I was overcome with the joy of encountering women who now had a safe and warm place to live until they were able to get their lives put together and be stable enough to move back into the mainstream of society. The journey to this point has required patience and perseverance on the part of an entire congregation. Now, the whole community has the opportunity to support this new home and make sure that the women who reside at EGH have the best resources available to be successful in their transition from homelessness to being self-sufficient members of our community.

Elizabeth Gregory Home Board Member and Pastor of University Lutheran Church, Ron Moe-Lobeda has served the homeless of Washington D.C. and Seattle for over 20 years. He has graciously agreed to share his perspectives in this ongoing column. Send comments to perspectives@elizabethgregoryhome.org

Volunteers

Continued...

The students moved us into the apartment complex, assembled furniture, helped in the offices and much more. In addition to our service learning students this quarter, EGH has also been selected as one of only several nonprofits to receive a UW Civic Fellow. Student, **Aimee Fitzgerald** works onsite 6-8 hours a week and assists with grant research and fundraising. We welcome Aimee to the EGH team!

The residents at EGH celebrated a wonderful holiday season because of the generous donations contributed by so many. Several community partners held holiday drives in their businesses and collected donations for EGH. **University Lutheran Church and St. Stephen's Parish** both hosted giving trees and numerous individuals donated gifts as well. As a result, every resident at EGH received approximately 8 presents and a \$50.00 gift card. Both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals were delicious feasts because of the turkeys and trimmings donated by EGH friends and community members in response to our volunteer advertisement on Craig's list.

On 12/23/2006 EGH hosted the 1st annual "**Women of Worth**" holiday party. It was the only event of its kind for homeless single women in the community. Over 40 volunteers, staff and residents worked hard, and guests enjoyed delicious refreshments, caroling, jewelry and card making crafts and even a surprise visit from old Saint Nick himself. Every guest received gifts of a sweater, warm hat and gloves, a donated winter coat and a raffle gift card. Thank you to all those who continue to make EGH a special "home" for so many.





P.O. Box 45310
Seattle, WA 98145

P 206.729.0262
F 206.729.1011
www.elizabethgregoryhome.org

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EGH Luncheon Fundraiser April 2007. "Save the Date" cards coming soon!



ULC member Joan Overland and granddaughter Lauren deliver beautiful Christmas gift baskets to grateful Elizabeth Gregory Home residents.

Want to participate in this year's One Night Count on 1/26/07? Call Dave at (206) 729-0262 to become a member of the EGH team

EGH Board of Directors

- Carol Bridges, President
- Scott Davies, Vice President
- Nora Buettner, Treasurer
- Rochelle Adams, Secretary
- Nadiyah Easton
- Yolanda Houze
- Frank Gregory
- Linda Olsen
- Mary Guiberson
- Candace Pidcock

EGH Staff

- Kimberly Jackson, *Executive Director*
- Jamie Lee, *Program Administrator*
- David Holt, *Case Manager*
- Mari Mitchell Putnam, *Admin. Assistant*
- Seth Rosenberg, *Consultant*
- Osman Ahmed, *Resident Manager*
- Lonnie Gallagher, *Resident Manager*
- Tamara Oakcrum, *Resident Manager*
- Gretchen Reinemeyer, *Resident Manager*
- Han Tran, *Resident Manager*

REMEMBRANCES

Thank you to those who generously donated to Elizabeth Gregory Home

In memory of:

- Helen Britzius
- Gary Schaab

In honor of:

- Yolanda & Bob Houze
- Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda