

Elizabeth Gregory Home's Under the Yellow Umbrella



February 2008

EGH Resident Determined to Re-Enter Work Force

Nearly 1 out of 8 full-time working adults are living at no more than two times the federal poverty level according to the Seattle PI. These individuals have come to be known as the “working poor,” living from paycheck to paycheck in order to make ends meet. This is the case with one of EGH’s residents, Angela. Angela lost her part-time job in retail in March 2007 and was unable to pay her rent. She had no history of homelessness and was unaware of resource or support systems such as shelters, housing programs, or job-training opportunities. Angela found herself at a downtown shelter trying to familiarize herself with the services available to her.

schedule is quite busy. An average day starts at about 5:30 a.m. She takes one of the earliest buses running downtown and then to SSCC Campus in West Seattle so she can utilize the computer lab to complete assignments and prepare for school. Angela is in class from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday. Depending on EGH program activities, she comes back for community meetings or groups at 6:00 p.m., or stays on campus to continue working in the library on her schoolwork. Angela usually returns to her apartment by 7:00 p.m. where she prepares dinner and settles in for the evening.

After a few months in shelters, Angela came to Elizabeth Gregory Home where she was surrounded by a community of staff and other residents who encouraged her to accomplish her goals. Within 3 months of residency at EGH, Angela enrolled with Seattle Jobs Initiative and is currently a full-time student at South Seattle Community College. She is learning various computer skills and is participating in an internship at Swedish Hospital. Angela’s

Angela has expressed many times that school is a blessing. She feels confident that she will receive a high paying job after completion of her program and she is looking forward to gaining her life back and becoming self-supportive again soon. Angela will graduate from her program in March 2008 and we at EGH could not be more proud of the success she has shown or the opportunities she has taken because of her affiliation with Elizabeth Gregory Home.

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Angela has been a resident of EGH for 9 months

Wish List

Toilet paper
 Paper towels
 Napkins
 Bleach
Bus tickets
Laundry detergent
 Dishwasher soap
 Dish soap
 Bar soap
 Shampoo
 Conditioner
 Razors
 Tampons/fem. Pads
 Cleaning supplies
 Twin sheets
 Pillow cases
 Towels
 Dresser
 Kitchen items
 Postage stamps
 Computer paper
 Spiral notebooks
 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

Under the Yellow Umbrella**EGH's Jamie Lee Volunteers with One Night Count**

On January 25, 2007 Jessica Silye, EGH case manager, and I met at 1:45 a.m. in the parking lot of University Lutheran Church. The temperature that night was hovering in the mid-to-high 20's. Jessica and I drove to the UW School of Social Work which was the headquarters for the University District teams for the One night Count, which was in its 28th year. We met our teammates; fellow colleagues from the Sanctuary Art Center and a gentleman from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Our team's area was from N.E. 50th to N.E. 55 and University Avenue, to 7 Avenue Northeast. Because our areas was so large, we decided to split the area and the team in two. The count time was officially from 2:30 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. with enough time to get figures to the press by 6:00 a.m. After inspirational words from our area coordinator Laura Pritchard, we were off.

As we walked with flashlights down each alley, up and down side streets, and peeked behind dumpsters and bushes, the cold chill settled into our bones. I could not help thinking how this was just two and a half hours of one night a year for me on the streets in the middle of the night. For people living on the streets, this is a way of life. Come 5:00 a.m. I knew I would be able to go back to headquarters for bagels and coffee and then later rest in the comforts of my own bed. The reality of homelessness settled in my mind more so than it ever had before.

Because our area was highly residential we did not find any homeless persons sleeping on the street, however we did see three homeless youth walking around to pass the night as many of the homeless do to survive. After adding the other half of our team's efforts, we submitted to headquarters a total of ten homeless individuals for our area. Each day I drive past our count area coming to and from work. I never look at the area the same after that night, after seeing and feeling how lonely and quiet the city gets. I see now, more than ever, how much Elizabeth Gregory Home is needed, and I look forward to participating in the One Night Count again.

SAVE THE DATE!

**THIRD ANNUAL FUN(D)RAISER FOR
 UNIVERSITY CONGREGATIONAL
 HOUSING ASSOCIATION
 SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2008**

5:30 p.m.

SHORELINE CONFERENCE CENTER

18560 1st Avenue NE

\$35 per person

(\$15 is a tax deductible contribution)

Tickets for sale now!

**Part of the proceeds from this event will go
 towards Elizabeth Gregory Home**

Please contact Jamie Lee for tickets
 jlee@elizabethgregoryhome.org or at
 206.729.0262



(Italian party celebrating the home)



Homeless and Happy: An Oxymoron? Not at Elizabeth Gregory Home

I checked in with our program supervisor, as I do on a regular basis, and asked how things were going in the EGH drop-in center. I received a good report. He told me the center has proved to be a true blessing for those clients trying to escape the drugs and violence of the shelter system. Women have said EGH is a comfortable place to do laundry and job hunt on computers without being disturbed. Many have found clothing in our storage room and some have found nice suits to wear to job interviews and housing appointments. Women have commented on the enjoyable community meals and the ability to meet one-on-one with a case manager to connect to basic resources such as housing and medical care. He concluded by saying, "I would like to encourage more women to access our drop-in center and experience the happiness that other clients have." Happiness and homelessness. Two words that usually are not linked together. I thought that was a profound statement. But then I realized, he is right.

There is something special about Elizabeth Gregory Home. It goes beyond the welcoming staff, the brightly painted room and cozy library of the drop-in center. In the transitional housing program it is more than the smell of a freshly cooked dinner wafting through the hallways, or the sight of a woman studying while her suitemate gets into her uniform to head to work. It is more than the laughter on game night or the collective tears when someone doesn't get the job interview or a much-hoped for permanent apartment does not come through. Yet, there is still happiness to be found here. I am not talking about smiling all the time, never down in the dumps, Brady Bunch happiness. I am talking about a spark of hope and commitment and perseverance that comes from within. I believe the sense of happiness that permeates Elizabeth Gregory Home is here because we are much more than a program—we are a community. A community of women who share life's joy, sorrows, hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow. This gives the women a sense of inner happiness and the drive to move forward. This is what the clients of the drop-in center feel when they walk through our doors. They feel loved and supported and nurtured, and they who have been outcasts for so long, are now part of a community.



I often worry about where the funds will come from to keep this community alive. As with every small grassroots nonprofit, we often live hand to mouth. But then I look around me at the women we serve and I know that this program, this community of successful, dedicated women will and must succeed. Thank you for your generosity in the past. Because of you we have been serving women in transition for nearly 1 and 1/2 years. If you feel so moved, please make a contribution of faith to help Elizabeth Gregory Home. You can rest assured your gift of hope will be used to fan the flame of happiness and self-sufficiency which burns inside each woman we serve. Thank you for your belief in these women. And thank you for your time, talent, tithes, and prayers for EGH. We feel them every day. They are what keep us going.

With thanks,

Kimberly Jackson
Executive Director

A special thank you to Half Priced Books for their
donations of books to EGH!





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ON 3/29 & 3/30 JOIN US AT BARNES & NOBLES
@ U. VILLAGE FOR A BOOK FAIR FUNDRAISER
PROCEEDS FROM ALL YOUR SALES GO TO EGH
WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR SAVE THE DATE
CARDS!



EGH Giving Made Easy!

Now you can simplify your donation to EGH by putting it on your VISA or MasterCard. Contact Jamie Lee at (206) 729-0262 to make a quick and valuable gift

Cash or check contributions may be mailed to:

P.O. Box 45310 Seattle, WA. 98145

Remembrances

In Memory of Jerry Doble:

Delores Callahan

In Memory of Vernon Work:

Thelma Dorris

Margaret Pough

In Honor of Bob and Yolanda Houze:

Don and Tonya Hackney

In Honor of Alice Peterson:

Joan and R. Kim Peterson



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