

Elizabeth Gregory Home's Under the Yellow Umbrella



Gerri Graduates EGH to New Home

Spring 2009

I came to be homeless due to a domestic violence situation. This led me to couch surf for about 2 years. I began to work with a local emergency shelter for adults in June of 2007, who referred me to Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH), where I moved in March of 2008. After moving in, I had to first address my health issues. This led to me having surgery on both of my wrists. Once I was healed, I started school and began working with DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation). I completed my GED program in January 2009 and started my Health Unit Coordinator program winter quarter. When I graduated from the program in February 2009, I moved into permanent housing.

My self esteem was highly elevated during my stay at EGH. I have been welcomed with open arms and enthusiasm, and made to feel like part of the family. Whatever I needed to be successful, the staff here have helped me in achieving my goals. The Naturopath and Psychologist who volunteered during my time at EGH have been a great help to me. Due to the strong support base that I have at EGH, I no longer feel alone. Now that I have graduated from the program, I will never forget the support I was given, and I will return to give back to the future ladies as much as I was given during my stay here at EGH. I will never be done with EGH.



Geraldine Slack, EGH Graduate February 2009

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Did You Know?

- EGH graduated 28 women into permanent housing since October 2006
- Our case manager found permanent housing for 6 women in the EGH Drop-in Center since August 2008
- 95% of residents reach at least 2 goals in the areas of education, employment, and domestic violence support while in EGH transitional housing



Ongoing Wish List

Toilet paper
Paper towels
Napkins
Bleach
Laundry detergent
Dishwasher soap
Dish soap
Garbage bags
Fabric softener sheets
Cleaning supplies
Pepper
Kleenex
Towels
Wash cloths
Women's underwear
Bras, all sizes
Socks
Women's shoes,
all sizes
Postage stamps
Computer paper
New laptop computer
Bus tickets
Movie passes
McDonald's & Jack-in-
the-Box gift cards
Gift cards to Office
Depot & Staples
Gift cards to Safeway &
Target
Phone cards
Suit cases &
duffel bags



Under the Yellow Umbrella

EGH Advocates at State Capitol



EGH participated in Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day in Olympia on February 24th. Staff attended the gathering Tuesday morning at the United Churches of Olympia. We heard Legislative updates from Nancy Amidei, formerly of the UW School of Social Work, and Nick Federici and Seth Dawson, Lobbyists for Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and Washington State Coalition for the Homeless. Senator Lisa Brown spoke regarding the budget and its needed votes for keeping the Housing Trust Fund at \$2 billion. People gathered their signs and housing paraphernalia promptly at 10:45 a.m. and we started our march to the Capitol. As we marched we chanted, "What do we need? Housing! When do we want it? Now!" We rallied on the Capitol steps and continued to chant, "Save GAU!" (General Assistance to the Unemployable). Afterward, we divided into groups according to our districts and proceeded to visit our Legislator's offices. EGH staff delivered letters to our Legislative Representatives and Governor Christine Gregoire.

EGH past and present residents played a role in making our part in the Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day a success. We were excited to see EGH graduates involved and informing the public of such a needed and worthy cause. EGH remains active in many functions that promote, educate, and help our wish to see homelessness end. We would love to have you join us and providers around the state as we advocate at a legislative level. It is easy and quick to let your representatives know homeless women matter to you! Please email Michelene at mfelker@elizabethgregoryhome.org for more information.

Fundraising Update

Elizabeth Gregory Home recently hosted several successful "fun-raisers" to benefit homeless women in our Transitional Housing and Drop-in Center programs. Your support allows EGH to place 1 homeless woman a month into permanent housing and provide nearly 200 women each month with hot meals, laundry facilities, clothing, and critical case management services. Thank you to all who volunteered at and attended these important events!

September 2008: Art Show in the Garden, \$2,500

October 2008: "Harvest Hustle for the Homeless Walk-a-thon", \$4,000

November 2008: "Play for A Purpose" Casino Night, \$8,000

December 2008: Barnes & Nobles Gift-wrapping, \$500

January 2009: Beatles Mania Sing-a-long, \$1,200



Volunteers Make Holidays Bright at EGH

The holiday season was filled with joy for the women of Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) thanks to many dedicated volunteers. On December 13, 2008 EGH hosted its 3rd annual “**Women of Worth**” holiday party at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in downtown Seattle. Open to all homeless women in our community guests enjoyed arts and crafts, holiday activities, caroling, a door-prize raffle and plenty of good food. Individuals, churches, knitting groups, and providers donated nearly 300 hats, gloves, scarves and socks which enabled every woman to receive several warm holiday gifts. The festive event concluded with a visit from Santa Claus himself, and a wonderful time was had by guests and volunteers alike.

EGH served both Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner to the men and women of the University District tent encampment this season. Hosted in University Lutheran Church’s fellowship hall, volunteers prepared and served delicious turkey, ham, salads, seasonal side dishes and an array of desserts to over 115 homeless individuals. Family members, UW students, EGH residents, staff, and board members and even the staff of an Eastside business partook of the holiday spirit and gave up their personal celebrations to serve meals to those who may have otherwise gone hungry. One guest summed it up best, “This is the best Thanksgiving I’ve had in years. Seeing all the food and volunteers lets you know people really care. I’m glad I came home to EGH for the holidays.”

Residents of our transitional housing program were delighted to find several Christmas gifts and a gift card for each under their tree this year thanks to the generosity of many. **Members of University Lutheran Church** and the students of the **University of Washington’s Newman Center** hosted giving trees, and presents of much-needed clothing, small household appliances, books, stamps and Target and Ross gift cards were given to all. Thank you to all our holiday partners!



Around EGH

- Thank you to **Carol Bridges** for her years of service as President of the EGH Board of Directors. Carol completed her term in December 2008 but continues to volunteer at EGH in many capacities.

- EGH welcomes new Board Members **Rich Hinrichsen, Nona Taylor and Ellie Weisenbach.**

- Lydia Sibborn and the 5th grade classes of View Ridge Elementary School** worked hard this Fall as they organized a food drive and collected cereal, canned goods, pasta, and delicious foods for the EGH Drop-in Center. A big thank you to parents and students alike for helping us serve hundreds of meals to homeless women because of your efforts!

- EGH and Fare Start**, a food service employment training program for homeless men and women, have collaborated to provide ongoing housing for 2 Fare Start students. EGH welcomed our first students in November 2008.



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SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION

Upcoming Events

Join us for a great time as we raise funds to support the women of Elizabeth Gregory Home. Visit our website at www.elizabethgregoryhome.org or call (206) 729-0262x2 for more information or to volunteer ! Macy's discount passes are now on sale. All proceeds benefit EGH!

•**5/16/2009:** Macy's Community Shopping Day, Bellevue Square

•**5/17/2009:** Spring Benefit Dinner at The Lake Union Café

•**7/2009:** EGH Used Book Fair

Donate your recently published used books to EGH.

Books accepted now!

•**8/22/2009:** EGH Night at The Seattle Storm

•**10/3/2009:** EGH Walk-a-thon at Greenlake

•**11/14/2009:** 3rd Annual Casino Night



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