

# Elizabeth Gregory Home's Under the Yellow Umbrella



Spring 2010

## MARY JO YOUNG'S STORY

Mary Jo Young is soon getting ready to graduate from Elizabeth Gregory Home. She got approved for permanent housing in early March and she is waiting on the current tenants of her house to vacate so she can move in to her house. Mary Jo who became homeless due to a mortgage scam had never thought life would become so unpredictable.

"I was living with my parents and I was ready to move out and live on my own, but my father's death made me stay as a support for my mother. After a few years when my mother passed away, I found myself taking care of my uncle. At that time I was working different jobs and going to school. My sister and I were living together when life took this turn. From being a self-sufficient woman, I was scared to face life and its uncertainties. I knew I was going to be okay but not knowing what was going to happen next was the worst fear I had ever had. Luckily for me I found EGH and I did not have to be on the streets" she says.

Mary Jo works 3 days a week as a secretary at Grace United Methodist Church. She tries to see her sister twice a week. A typical day for Mary Jo would be:

- ~Wake up early in the morning
- ~Make breakfast
- ~Clean her room
- ~Go to work /run errands on her days off
- ~Attend EGH meetings
- ~Make & have dinner
- ~Talk to her room-mates, watch TV / movie
- ~Go to bed early



MARY JO @ EGH

When we asked her how she feels about leaving Elizabeth Gregory Home and moving into her own place she says, "For the first time in my life I will be out on my own. I am looking forward to it. I will miss my friends at Elizabeth Gregory Home. EGH was a life-saver for me. Without EGH I would have been on the streets. I mean, I do have friends but EGH made me an independent woman. I love how everyone at Elizabeth Gregory Home – Residents, staff and volunteers all care about each other. I feel cherished when I am around friends from EGH. All the same, I can not wait to move into a place of my own."

Mary Jo wants to thank each one of you that have thoughtfully contributed to Elizabeth Gregory Home. She says "You never knew who was going to be helped by your contributions especially at this time when there are so many women on the street. But you believed in Elizabeth Gregory Home and gave us your kind gifts. Thank you very much and I can vouch that your contributions are going to a good cause."

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



I am honored and humbled to have been chosen to help carry on the important work of Elizabeth Gregory Home. In my first two months here, I have been impressed by the incredible commitment that I observe each and every day from the staff and volunteers who give so generously of themselves, and from the women who meet every adversity that comes in their direction and continue to carry forward with gumption and dignity. After so many years working in this arena, there are few statistics that impress me anymore. The scope of homelessness keeps expanding, the numbers keep growing and the successes feel fewer and farther between. But one stat that continues to floor me is the ever growing number of women who have graduated from EGH and on to independent housing of their own. Even in the midst of financial challenges and cutbacks, EGH continues to graduate women from the program almost every month. So far, fifty-eight women and counting! What an astounding and heartwarming thing this is. As we strive to create the funding to bring back formal on-site case management in our program, Kanti continues to spend each morning providing case support in the Day Center, self-taught as a graduate of the program herself, as effective (or more so) than any case manager I've had the privilege to work with. Pastor Ron finds room in his busy schedule to make a daily difference with his caring presence in the center and volunteer psychologist Katie Gienapp continues to meet one-on-one with each of the residents every week, providing case support as well. And the women keep filling out housing applications and navigating the labyrinth of the social service network to find the keys to a stable and independent life beyond the world of emergency services. I hope that I'm able to honor all their hard work and help bring a more solid financial footing to EGH, and I hope that EGH can play a role in bringing together a broad network of organizations to work together more closely to provide more services to these women who continue to meet us more than half way in the effort to bring wholeness to our community. Most of all, I'm hoping that you will continue to join us, support us and to be a part of making a better world for all of us.

-Sinan Demirel

## Wish List

Toilet paper  
 Paper towels  
 Kleenex  
 Laundry detergent  
 Dish soap  
 Garbage bags  
 Towels  
 Postage stamps  
 Bus tickets  
 Sugar  
 Seasonings  
 Pens  
 Scotch Tape  
 Scissors  
 Markers  
 Safeway bags  
 Ziplock containers  
 Ziplock bags  
 Gently used Pots  
 Gently used Pans  
 Can Opener  
 Craft Supplies  
 Hand & Body Lotion (used OK)  
 Shampoo (used OK)  
 Safety Pins  
 Hair pins  
 Cosmetics  
 Vitamins  
 Aspirin  
 Full Length Mirror  
 Book Shelf  
 Summer Clothes  
 Women's underwear  
 Bras, all sizes  
 Socks

## Under the Yellow Umbrella

### Lois Moe Paints for Elizabeth Gregory Home

Lois Moe, age 94, sits in a sun-filled living room, paints and brushes on a table and an easel ready with canvas for her next painting. Original art work hangs on the walls; remembrances of her family, her music, her life surround her.

Lois is an artist, a musician, a teacher, a business-woman and contractor, a designer, a mother, a generous and loving friend. On Valentines Day in 2008, she graciously began making prints of many of her watercolor flower paintings and launched the Elizabeth Gregory Home note card project. She paints cards for each season of the year, has them printed, and prepares them herself for EGH to sell.

Lois was born in Albany, Oregon on December 29, 1916, one of five children. Her father, a minister, struggled to support his family, and finally turned to carpentry as the Great Depression began. An uncle moved the family to Seattle, where Lois began her school years.

Art has been part of her life since she was an elementary school student at John Hay on Queen Anne Hill. At age eleven, she was accepted into the Children's Free Creative Art School sponsored by the Music and Art Foundation located on Capitol Hill. Each Saturday she went there by streetcar from her home, receiving personal, helpful advice from the school's director, Mark Tobey, who became a world-famous modernistic artist. One of her art pieces won an award at a scholastic exhibit and was shown at museums across the country including the Seattle Art Museum.

After taking night classes in fashion illustration while she was in high school, Lois sketched women's shoes for Frederick and Nelson newspaper ads, with aspirations of a career in fashion designing. However, she also sang on radio programs at Fischer Radio Station. This led to other paid singing engagements, and she reports, "Not only was this exciting but it paid well!" She gave up art for a time, and focused on her music. She sang popular music on the radio and in many other venues. Later she sang in a church choir and joined the Seattle Chorale. She played the piano and was an accomplished accompanist.

After she married in 1940, she helped her husband with the home he was building for their family. She selected colors and paint and designed innovative features for the home. Subsequently, they constructed four speculative homes that sold easily and brought her into the business world.

In the early 1960's, Lois volunteered at the Handicapped Center, using her art skills for projects for the members. They displayed some of the members' work at the Seattle Center's Art Center. As a result, she was asked to share her art and music with Special Education students who had physical disabilities at Lowell School. She enjoyed this challenge for 13 years, working with children from kindergarten through high school.

Lois's oil paintings hang in homes throughout the Puget Sound area, given as gifts for birthdays and holidays. She sketches on trips, and paints flowers from her garden. In 2002 she began designing and painting personal Christmas cards, which now are treasured and often framed by the many recipients.

Lois concludes, "Making these cards for Elizabeth Gregory Home has been and still is a wonderful experience for me. I am so blessed to be able to continue."

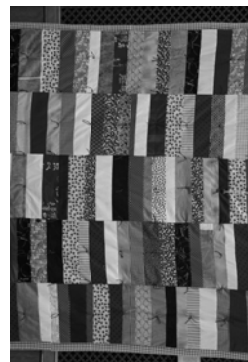
### Lois's Art



### Handmade Gifts of Beauty

The love and caring spirit of the women from **Shoreline Covenant Church Quilting Ministry** has been evident since their initial gift of hand-sewn quilts in September of 2006. A quilt was on the bed of each resident when we opened our doors in October. Every woman who has graced the doors of Elizabeth Gregory Home's transitional program has been gifted with one of these beautiful quilts. They are used by our women while in residence and taken with them when they leave to go to homes of their own. Graduates to permanent housing from our Day Center Program also receive a quilt. These have become a cherished possession to over 65 women. The quilters, led by **Daune Mackensedt**, have also made quilts to be used for raffle and auction fundraising by our agency. We thank each of them for their labor of love in producing these wonderful gifts and for their on-going support in other numerous ways.

### Quilt



# Under the Yellow Umbrella



## EGH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

We have welcomed **Sinan Demirel** as the Executive Director of EGH. During his first two months, he has drawn upon his connections throughout the private and public sector to begin forming partnerships that could bring sustainability to EGH. We thank **John Poole** who has donated many, many hours of his time and talent to review the financial books of EGH and complete our 990 forms. Three new people have joined the EGH Board: **Rick Israel**, who is an owner of Complete Office, **Melinda Giovengo**, who is the ED of YouthCare and **Kelly Pornour**, who is an agent of Windermere Realty. **Carol Bridges**, former President of the EGH Board, has returned to serve on the Board. We welcome them all to this role and responsibility during these challenging times. **Annamarie Sibborn**, a member of the Board for 2 years, has agreed to serve as our Treasurer. We also are inviting people who would like to serve in an advisory capacity on EGH Board to contact us. We are so appreciative of the way that so many people are stepping up to plate and providing the leadership that supports the mission of Elizabeth Gregory Home.

## RECENT UPDATES

### Beatle Mania Sing-A-Long

"All You Need Is Love" was proven once again at the Second Annual Beatles Sing-A-Long benefit for Elizabeth Gregory Home. Over 100 people attended and were singing out and dancing to raise money and friends for EGH. Former resident and board member Geraldine Slack told her personal story. Special thanks to music director Brian Maschhoff and musicians Jim Hunter, Rich Hinrichsen, John VanZanten, Dwight Beckmeyer, Elizabeth Dimond, and Rani Weatherby. Thanks to Sue Tong for designing the atmosphere of the event and for the women of Elizabeth Gregory Home for making the posters that adorned the hall with messages of hope, peace, and love. Thanks to Michelle McCully for designing the web page, tickets, and publicity. Thanks to Josh Pehrson for projecting the lyrics and John Oakley for running sound. Thanks to everyone else who helped make this event possible!

### An Evening at Northwest Totem Cellars

We drove up a winding road to a Woodinville hilltop where nestled among evergreen trees is the beautiful home and small family-owned winery of **Kate and Mike Sharadin**. Mike is the winemaker. Kate invited women to a "Girl Power" ladies night out to benefit homeless women and those in transitional housing served by EGH. The wine tasting, delicious vegan foods prepared by Kate, and the barrel sampling of a new wine, were enjoyed by a group of twenty women. The story of EGH was told, and experiences were shared by a program graduate and a board member whose personal outreach established a women's group to support EGH on an on-going basis.

The evening was a great opportunity to spark interest in our mission with a new group of interesting and interested women. Thank you, Kate, for opening your home and winery for a fun evening and for your creative fund-raising idea! Our association with Northwest Totem Cellars goes back to May of 2008 when they donated a private wine-tasting party for ten people. This became one of the popular raffle prizes at our Second Annual Spring Dinner event. They have been friends of EGH ever since, continuing to offer this item annually. We are most grateful for their support.

### Appeal Goal

We sent out an appeal letter in mid-February and your response has been amazing. Although not meeting our stated goal, we have received well over \$30,000 to provide for the sustainability of EGH with major donations from several individuals, organizations, and churches. Thank you everyone for your confidence and support in what EGH is attempting to accomplish in enabling women to move from homelessness to a permanent place to call "home."

### Holidays at EGH

Volunteers from Mars Hill Church came to decorate the EGH Day Center. Two separate groups of 6 & 8 volunteers made the EGH Christmas tree look bright and pretty. Thanks Christina for bringing your very innovative team. Thanks Rhonda & Alice who helped carry the Christmas tree into the day center. Thanks Pastor Anne for collecting all the gifts for our clients. The women loved their gifts!! Thanks Rebekah, Alice and Sandra for all your expert holiday gift wrapping. Thanks Larry for the yummy turkey and other goodies that you made for the Thanksgiving Day meal.

### Cub Scouts help EGH

In February of this year a Pinewood Derby race for Cub Scout Pack 100 raised over \$200 for EGH through their concession sales. The Pinewood Derby is a Scout tradition where the boys make their own cars out of blocks of pine-wood and race them on a wood track. Alex Putnam, a member of Den 1, and his parents Dean & Mari Putnam are long time supporters of EGH. A resident of EGH joined Mari in selling the concessions and both enjoyed watching the races. Thank you to Den 1 and Pack 100 for your support.

FOR PICTURES VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

[www.elizabethgregoryhome.org](http://www.elizabethgregoryhome.org)



1604 NE 50th St  
Seattle, WA 98105  
P 206.729.0262  
F 206.729.1011  
www.elizabethgregoryhome.org

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## Return Service Requested

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Fourth Annual EGH Benefit Dinner**

*May 2nd - 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

*Lake Union Café*

Join EGH for its 4th Annual Benefit Dinner at the beautiful Lake Union Cafe.

**HEAR** the success stories!

**CELEBRATE** the women!

**PLEDGE** your support!!

#### **University District Street Scramble**

*April 25th - 9:30 a.m.*

*University District*

Thirty checkpoints are marked on a map of Seattle's University District. On foot or bicycle, visit as many as you can in 90 minutes or 3 hours. By adding \$10 to your registration fee, Meridian Geographics will donate \$20 to EGH. Register by mail, online, or at the event. Starting point is the University Heights Center, 5031 University Way NE.

#### **Board of Directors**

**Ron Moe-Lobeda, President**  
**Darleen Atik, Vice-President**  
**Nona Taylor, Secretary**  
**Annmarie Sibborn, Treasurer**  
**Frank Gregory**  
**Rich Hinrichsen**  
**Eleanor Weisenbach**  
**Carol Bridges**  
**Rick Israel**  
**Melinda Giovengo**  
**Geraldine Slack**  
**Kelly Pornour**

#### **EGH Administrative Staff**

**Sinan Demirel, Executive Director**  
**Kanti Mani, Program Director**  
**Zach Wegermann, Day Center Supervisor**  
**Katie Gienapp, Volunteer Psychologist**

#### **AARP Enrollees**

**Mukami Coleman**  
**Patricia Quaring**  
**Cristiaan Carrera**  
**Mark Ackerman**  
**Emma Watts**