Carolyn Looks Forward to Resting at EGH on Sundays

Carolyn is a 72-year-old retired teacher. “I thought my retirement years were supposed to be a time to relax – but then I became homeless. I never expected to spend them sleeping in my car and lugging around my belongings from shelter to shelter,” Carolyn said.

“After living in my car for so long, I really wanted to find a place of my own. Last year, I ended up renting a room in a big old turn-of-the-century house in the Central District for $500 a month.”

A City of Seattle rent-subsidy program helped Carolyn pay her way. But her building was so run down that City building inspectors documented 75 code violations. (See Vernal Coleman’s article in the Seattle Times: “Out of Homelessness, Into a Hovel.”) As a result, Carolyn and all other tenants were evicted.

“I went back to sleeping in my car after the eviction,” Carolyn said, “but then my VW Beetle was impounded. Now I’m staying at a shelter and I come over to Elizabeth Gregory Home on weekdays.”

Sunday is reportedly the worst day to be homeless. Shelters close between 6:00 AM and 8:00 AM, putting people out on the streets with all their belongings. Homeless women like Carolyn often spend 5 – 7 hours on Sunday mornings riding a bus while waiting for libraries to open at 1:00 PM.

“If Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) was open on Sundays, it would mean everything to me and other women who are homeless,” Carolyn said. “I could eat breakfast, shower, do laundry, and take a nap. As a senior, I really need a place I can go where I can rest.”

Carolyn was beyond excited to learn that Elizabeth Gregory Home’s Day Center will be open on Sundays beginning this January. She said, “I am hopeful that the New Year will bring good news about the housing that I have applied for. I would love to have a place of my own to rest and maybe get a pet. I try to stay optimistic and rely on the good people at EGH to help sustain me until I find a home.”

[Editor’s note: Throughout 2018, EGH has been fundraising for the additional $60,000 it will take to open the Day Center on Sundays in 2019. Although short of that goal by $12,000, we will start this sixth day of service in January. If you can help us bridge this gap, please donate what you are able. With heartfelt appreciation for your consideration, thank you!]
A Grateful Heart: a hard-working, earnest, and committed staff and board of directors; inspiring and dedicated volunteers; a beloved partnership with University Lutheran Church as both landlord and guiding beacon; and donors who committed resources that enabled us to serve the growing needs of the homeless women we welcome through our doors.

There is also much to be excited about in what’s ahead in 2019 for EGH! First, we are in the throes of planning a commercial kitchen in the space we began leasing last January. A visionary team from Adams Architecture, John Adams and Alyson Bechtel, are guiding us through the process. Once plans are complete, we will be reaching out for financial support for the project, including in-kind offerings, pro bono services and financial assistance. As you read this, if you have suggestions of resources, please contact me (rherold@eghseattle.org); I would treasure your input!

The other wonderful news is that we will launch our sixth day of service provision beginning the first Sunday in January. Many women are eagerly awaiting our warm, welcoming, safe haven where they can access nutritious meals, laundry facilities, clothing and showers - all so basic, yet so essential - on a Sunday. We are in the process of hiring additional staff, but of equal importance will be seeking volunteers. If you are interested in assisting, opportunities abound! For additional information, please contact our Program Manager, Christine Carr, at ccarr@eghseattle.org.

The following quote aptly describes the reason why those of us who work or volunteer at Elizabeth Gregory Home often describe our experience as a gift and privilege.

“At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.” – Albert Schweitzer

May your light shine brightly and hope surround you this season and throughout the New Year.

Peace,

Ruth Herold
Executive Director
Save the Date!

13th Annual Spring Benefit Dinner
Sunday, March 17, 2019

Our new location is the
University of Washington, Husky Union Building (HUB)!
4001 E Stevens Way NE, free parking on Sunday

Please join us for EGH’s 13th Annual Spring Benefit Dinner

Our theme this year is Somewhere Over the Rainbow, because there’s no place like home.

Tickets are $75 each with tables of eight available for $600 each.

We hope to see you there!

Please mark your calendar!

Women of Worth Party
A Special Party for EGH Women

The annual Women of Worth (WOW) party will take place next week. Last year, the party was packed with women excited about celebrating the holidays and reconnecting with friends. Every woman will be gifted a hat, scarf and glove set, share a special meal, and get a gift card.

Thank You!

Special thanks to donors and volunteers who helped to make this a very special day for women who are experiencing homelessness and rely on EGH to meet their basic needs.

EGH staff member Valerie, (L), and volunteers Debbie (C) and Carrie (R) helped make it a wonderful day of fun and care.
When Planning Your Estate, Please Remember Elizabeth Gregory Home

When reviewing your estate plans, please consider making a provision in your will for Elizabeth Gregory Home. Thank you!

For more information, please contact Elizabeth Stevenson (206) 729-0262 ext. 1006 or estevenson@eghseattle.org.

Most Needed Items

Thanks to you, we are able to provide hygiene and clothing items that women who rely on EGH’s Day Center need. Our top needs this quarter are:

- Backpacks
- Waterproof Shoes
- Sweaters and Jackets
- Rain Coats and Ponchos
- Single and double flat sheets

Thank You!

GO PAPERLESS

Email us at info@eghseattle.org and type “Go Paperless” in the subject line.

Employer Matching Gifts

You May Be Able to Double Your Gift to EGH Through an Employer Matching Gift

Many Seattle area employers match contributions made by their employees to nonprofit organizations. To learn if your company has a matching gift policy, please ask your HR representative. Below is a list of some Seattle companies that match gifts made to charities:

- Adobe Systems Inc.
- A T & T
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Fnd
- The Boeing Company
- Cambia Health Solutions
- Kaiser Permanente
- Hewlett-Packard
- Intel
- Microsoft Corporation
- PGE
- REI
- Safeco Corporation
- Starbucks
- Symantec
- T-Mobile
- U.S. Bancorp
- Starbucks
- Symantec
- T-Mobile
- U.S. Bancorp
- Wells Fargo
- Umpqua Bank

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- Symantec
- T-Mobile
- U.S. Bancorp
- Wells Fargo
- Umpqua Bank