Safety and Guidance: Nancy’s Story

Nancy works at Elizabeth Gregory Home 20 hours per week. Some days you’ll find her in the dispensary handing out toiletries. Other times, she’s sorting through clothing donations. But whenever she’s working in the EGH Day Center, she always brings a smile or a laugh with her.

Rewind a year ago, however, and you’ll find a very different life.

Challenging Times
In her young adult years, Nancy lived in California and fell into drug addiction. “Most of my adult life was just drugs. I’ve gotten into a lot of trouble.” Although she became clean and sober in 2005 and held a steady job, in 2015 she reverted back to her old life. “I had some hip issues, so all of a sudden I couldn’t work at that job anymore because we have to go up and down ladders, sometimes eight hours a day. I didn’t know where my money was going to come from, so I went back to selling drugs.”

By 2020, she knew that she couldn’t sustain that type of life. “You just hit rock bottom, and you know you’ve got to turn your life around. . . I had to do this on my own.”

Finding Safety
Nancy returned to Seattle and came to EGH where she found help. “They offered me everything. There was food, there was clothing, there was a day center so you weren’t in the street during the day. I knew I had a little bit of time. I could actually stop and think for a minute and just get my bearings together, because I had a safe place to stay.”

Although the pandemic had already set in, Elizabeth Gregory Home’s doors remained open and continued serving clients in the Day Center. In late spring of 2020, Nancy moved into Elizabeth Gregory Home’s transitional house. From there, she was referred to AARP and began working as a paid AARP volunteer at EGH.

Since she started working, Nancy has purchased a car and now lives on her own in an affordable housing apartment.

“Elizabeth Gregory Home has really helped me. I just feel that if someone is out there and needs some help, this is the ideal place to come. They’ll guide you in the right direction.”
The theme for our annual virtual fundraiser, *Building Hope Together*, speaks to what has been, what is, and what will be for Elizabeth Gregory Home.

**Our past year has been shaped by all things pandemic.** As we vigilantly try to stay on top of evolving best practices to thwart a COVID-19 outbreak, hope has been our sustaining morale-boosting ingredient. As Nelson Mandela said: “*Our human compassion binds us the one to the other – not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learned how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.*”

**Our clients remind us daily to focus on the gifts of the present.** As staff, we witness the transformation from suffering to calm as each woman enters our doors. Whether it’s when she breathes a sigh of relief as she props her heavy bags next to a chair, expresses gratitude as she sits down, is glowing after a hot shower, enjoys a cup of coffee and a warm breakfast, or selects garments from our clothing stores.

**What points to future hopes at EGH?** Building out a new commercial kitchen! After a series of pandemic-related delays, we are nearing the start of construction with a targeted completion date of October 2021. We are also forming a list of more program possibilities. . . such as nutrition and cooking classes and an on-site job skills training program with support from food industry professionals. We’d certainly welcome ideas from you in the community!

Thanks to the support of our community, the March 21st virtual fundraiser indeed supported our goals by exceeding our goal of $215,000!

Our hearts are grateful.

Peace,

Ruth Herold
Director, Elizabeth Gregory Home

**NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICER INSPIRED BY EGH SUPPORT-**

Mary Duncan brings more than 25 years’ non-profit experience working on behalf of vulnerable populations in Washington State.

Now as part of the EGH team, she will reach out to donors to report on the impact made by their charitable gifts.

“*Talking with supporters of Elizabeth Gregory Home is so inspirational. I love to hear what motivates donors to invest in our important work.*”

**Connect with Mary:** MDuncan@EGHseattle.org or call/txt: 206-390-7174.

Visit www.eghseattle.org to view a recording of the event.
The Women’s University Club raised $20,000 for Elizabeth Gregory Home after designating EGH as their annual holiday charity.

Ingersoll Gender Center helped our clients feel beautiful with a donation of Thrive Causemetics.

The University District Rotary Club delivered 60 brand new winter coats for our clients and granted us $10,000 for technology and communications additions for the upcoming capital project.

On New Year’s Eve, local caterer Gourmondo brought our clients 40 boxes of tasty berbere spiced chicken meals.

On New Year’s Day, Deep Sea Sugar & Salt raised $10,000 for EGH through a cake auction.

Divas for Dignity donated 1,000 pairs of colorful socks to keep our clients feet warm through the winter.

ITEM DONATIONS

We are thankful for the individuals and business who donate items to Elizabeth Gregory Home.

At this time we are temporarily unable to accept donations due to on-site construction at our Day Center during the spring and summer of 2021.

If you would like to collect items to be brought in after construction, items that are needed include:

- women’s underwear, sizes 7 – 10
- sweatpants and sweatshirts (L – XXXL)
- leggings
- reading glasses
- travel-sized shampoo and body wash
Auri Gust is a Financial Advisor for Baird in the Bellevue office. She joined Baird in 2017 because of its unique culture built on the founding principles of integrity, transparency, teamwork and always keeping clients first.

She has comprehensive investment planning experience and is successful in guiding clients through the life cycle of wealth: accumulating, preserving, protecting and distributing.

**Auri is committed to helping improve the lives of her clients as well as the communities they live in.** Auri was a young, single mother and remembers the feeling like it was her and her son against the world for many years. This experience made her an advocate for women, girls, and family empowerment. Also of importance to Auri is improving our natural environment both locally and globally.

She believes that one person alone can have an enormous impact on her community; however, when passionate people – with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives – work together, there’s no limit to what can be accomplished. Auri and Baird are proud to support the mission of EGH.

**Quality Food Centers (QFC) awarded a grant to support Elizabeth Gregory Home’s work of providing healthy and fresh food to local women who experience homelessness.**

“We are honored to play a small role in the great work done by Elizabeth Gregory Home,” said Chris Albi, QFC president.

“QFC has a passion for people and EGH is a great partner that aligns with our purpose of Feeding the Human Spirit.”

Their generous grant will help provide more than 17,000 meals annually at the EGH drop-in Day Center, as well as over 5,000 take-out meals for after-hours consumption at women’s night shelters.

**Keller Rohrback Attorneys Support the EGH Mission**

“The attorneys and staff of Keller Rohrback are honored to sponsor Elizabeth Gregory Home. We support the mission of treating homeless and at-risk women with respect, dignity and compassion.”

*Baird is a privately held, international financial services firm with offices in the United States, Europe, and Asia and more than $300 billion in client assets.*

*For more than 100 years Baird has helped families, individuals, publicly funded entities, corporations, and institutional clients achieve their financial goals across generations and changing market environments.*

*Both Auri and Baird believe their business is improving lives and futures, and that is a passion that extends beyond what they do for clients.*
As a locally-owned independent community bank, First Sound Bank (FSB) provides commercial and private banking services to high net worth individuals, small to medium-sized businesses, non-profit organizations, entrepreneurs, and professional service firms throughout the Puget Sound market.

With more than half of the staff at FSB being women, it gives them great joy to be able to help Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) in offering hope and support to hundreds of single homeless and at-risk women in the greater Seattle area. They pride themselves as a community bank and will continue to do their best every year to support EGH in providing the necessary resources to transform lives.

First Sound Bank: Caring for Community

Mentor Creative Group is a digital agency located in the heart of Fremont. They work on projects ranging from building mobile apps and websites to branding and marketing campaigns. Founded in 2014 by Aaron and Alison Shurts, their mission is to make an impact on the world by bringing visionaries' dreams to life. Mentor thinks that everyone should have a safe place to call home during times of transition. This is one of the reasons why Mentor felt that a partnership with Elizabeth Gregory Homes represents their mission.

Mentor Supports EGH

1st Security Bank is a proud partner with Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) in Seattle. 1st Security has a commitment to serve and support the nonprofits in the Western Washington footprint who lift up and lend a hand to those who are at risk and in need. EGH honors the bank’s core values: Diversity and Inclusion, Active Support of Communities, and the Ethical Treatment of All. 1st Security Bank wholeheartedly champions the mission of EGH to create a welcoming refuge for at-risk women and homeless and strive to support EGH and other local nonprofits to achieve the vision of helping individuals transform their lives.

1ST SECURITY BANK
A Champion for EGH’s Mission

Thanks to our sponsors and donors, our EGH’s 2021 Virtual Gala was a success!

If you have not viewed the event, we invite you to watch the program online by visiting www.eghseattle.org
EGH will be participating in the Tenth Annual GiveBIG on May 4-5!

Please support Elizabeth Gregory Home as part of the community’s biggest giving day of the year. You’ll be able to create your own FUNdraising page to spread the word about EGH and how donations impact the lives of the women we serve.

You can find more information on our website: www.eghseattle.org