Thank You, Ruth!

As President of Elizabeth Gregory Home’s Board of Directors, I’ve had the privilege of peeking behind the curtain at our hard-working staff. Front and center has been our Executive Director, Ruth Herold. For over ten years, Ruth has worked tirelessly to fulfill EGH’s mission of providing a safe refuge and compassionate care to women experiencing homelessness. Her leadership and steadfast enthusiasm have propelled the organization from two paid employees in 2012 to our current staff of eleven, as well as growing a budget that is approaching $1 million.

Ruth retired as of December 15th. We recently celebrated Ruth including announcing that when the new kitchen/dining area renovation is completed, it will be named the “Ruth Herold Community Room” in her honor.

The EGH Board of Directors is currently working through the hiring process for Ruth’s replacement. In the meantime, EGH will be led by our talented management team comprised of Michele Martin, Operations Manager; Michelle Wick, Program Manager; Helene McOwen, Day Center Manager; and Mary Duncan, Development Officer. Mary will also assume the part-time role of Acting Executive Director until a new Executive Director is hired.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we wholeheartedly commend Ruth for her outstanding service and stewardship of the organization and commitment to fostering Elizabeth Gregory Home’s core values of respect, inclusion, community and empathy.

Roger Morris
Roger Morris, Board Chair

A Fond Farewell

As I reflect on the past ten years at EGH, my heart is full of gratitude. I have cherished my time working alongside amazing and caring staff, volunteers and board members who are committed to strengthening our organization and treating the women we serve with respect, compassion, and dignity. It truly has been a great honor.

Although it seems that there is never a “good time” to leave something that you love so deeply, this is the time that makes sense for me and my family, and it is a time when Elizabeth Gregory Home is robust and healthy. I am confident that a talented new leader will be found who will build on our strong foundation dedicated to meeting the needs of women experiencing homelessness.

My life has been enriched by connecting with fellow supporters. Like many of you, I will continue to be a champion of Elizabeth Gregory Home’s mission now and into the future.

With deep appreciation, Ruth
What is Success?

At EGH, our vision is that “Homeless and at-risk women have the power to transform their lives.” We see our clients as the experts in their own lives and we believe in supporting their right to self-determination. Each day, I meet with women to learn about their needs and to help them find resources that help move them toward their goals.

I’ve met with some women who were very quickly ready to move into transitional housing. With other women, I’ve worked to help them find job placements. These are the success stories that we so often highlight.

But for many of our clients, success is not immediate housing or employment. For some, success may mean just getting through the day, finding a place to sleep, a hot meal, and a phone to use. When you’ve been living a fairly isolated life, it can be difficult to navigate systems that require you to interface with others in order to meet your most basic needs. But the women we serve do learn to navigate these systems successfully, and these successes—sometimes more difficult to measure—are the building blocks to a transformed life.

Many of our clients have suffered the impacts of substance use disorders, domestic violence, and/or mental health concerns. Some have been unhoused for a number of years and are continuously living in survival mode. Most have experienced the trauma of living unhoused and are in need of support that extends beyond basic shelter. EGH sees our clients through a trauma-informed lens and recognizes that healing takes time. There isn’t always an immediate path out of homelessness, so EGH’s role for these women is to be a place where they can rest and be safe while identifying next steps. We prioritize knowing our clients as individuals because at EGH we believe that relationship building is essential to good service delivery.

EGH Program Manager, Michelle Wick has a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work, is a licensed Substance Use Disorder Professional and is currently working toward a Master’s Degree in Social Work.

More than Just a Fountain

One of the six key principles fundamental to a trauma-informed approach is “Empowerment, Voice, and Choice.” In many ways, women who have experienced homelessness have felt loss of choice and control in their lives. Something as simple as a water bottle filling station provides empowerment to our women as they can obtain a basic human need on their own schedule. Easy access also encourages hydration, which supports health and self-regulation.

Special thank-you to Jeff and Ann Berner for donating funds for our drinking fountain/water bottle filling station that was installed in November.

EGH’s Wishlist

You can purchase much-needed items for the EGH Day Center and Transitional Housing and have them sent directly to Elizabeth Gregory Home. Through AmazonSmile Charity List, you can purchase kitchenware, clothing, hygiene products, and beyond. All you need to do is sign up for an AmazonSmile account and begin purchasing items through our AmazonSmile Charity List. Once purchased, the items will be sent directly to Elizabeth Gregory Home—it’s as easy as that!

To learn how, visit www.eghseattle.org/donate-items

Simply click, purchase, and send!
Women of Worth (WOW!)

The holidays can be an especially difficult time for those experiencing homelessness. For many, the holidays represent time with family that they no longer see, gifts they no longer give or receive, and peace and joy they may feel is beyond their reach.

To bring some light to the Northwest’s dark December and to remind women that they are seen and cared about, we annually celebrate our clients as Women of Worth (WOW!). Through activities during the “12 Days of WOW!” we provide themed days with giveaways (such as backpacks and gloves for “Traveling the Winter Wonderland”) and activities (such as cookie decorating for “Merry & Bright Days at EGH”).

These small gestures can mean a lot to someone who is living on the edge of society. We offer a huge thank you to our volunteers and donors who make these days special for our clients!

A Call for Target Gift Cards

At times, our clients are in immediate need of products that EGH does not have on hand. Whether seeking an item such as an umbrella or hand warmers, a $10 gift card to Target can save the day! A bonus for our clients is that there is a Target store within walking distance of EGH’s Day Center.

We welcome donations of Target gift cards in any amount!

Construction Update: We’ve Got Walls!

Despite the pandemic slowing permitting processes and creating supply chain issues, we’re excited to finally have walls! While the final installation of kitchen appliances won’t occur until this spring, we’re planning to occupy the common space in the beginning of February.

With new paint and new flooring, the Ruth Herald Community Room will be a safe, warm sanctuary for women this winter!
Save the Date for our Virtual Event!

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.** for Elizabeth Gregory Home’s annual spring fundraising event which will be held online.

During the *Evening of Light: The Path Forward*, you’ll hear inspiring stories from women who have experienced homelessness and their journeys to healing, hope, and home. You’ll have the opportunity to join others in our giving community to invest in critical programs and services offered at EGH for women experiencing homelessness.

For sponsorship opportunities and to keep up-to-date on the event, visit: [www.eghseattle.org/evening-of-light](http://www.eghseattle.org/evening-of-light)

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**Generous Spirit**

Members of the Rotary Club of the University District of Seattle visited the EGH Day Center bringing dozens of brand new, warm winter coats for our clients!

We are so appreciative of Rotary’s commitment to service, investment in our community and generous spirit.

*Thank you!*

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As we move into the winter months, women experiencing homelessness in our community need our help. By making a gift using the enclosed envelope or online (eghseattle.org), you are sustaining our work and demonstrating your commitment to community. We couldn’t do it without you!