

THE FRIENDSHIP TIMES



Viewed from above, Barbara's House is half primed and shows a test patch of the new color up on the dormer section.

BARBARA'S HOUSE REDEDICATION REVEALS RECENT FACELIFT

Barbara's House has just received all new exterior paint with long needed repairs to the siding and porch. This will be a benefit to all of Snoqualmie Street. A rededication and ribbon cutting ceremony will be held on Thursday, October 27th at 2:00 pm. Please join us for this tremendous occasion! To see more recent photos of this project, visit our website: www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org

We have tremendous thanks for the City of Mount Vernon, our Mayor and City Council, for assisting us in attaining project funding through the Federal Community Development Block Grant to initiate and carry out these long needed capital repairs.

WELCOME OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JONATHAN KLINE

Working in the nonprofit sector with a focus on poverty alleviation for over a decade both domestically and overseas, Jonathan brings a breadth of experience to his role as Executive Director at Friendship House.

After leading the Whidbey Homeless Coalition for several years, he joined Skagit Friendship House in the summer of 2022. What he loves most about this type of work is interacting with guests and being able to show them the love and dignity that they deserve.



Outside of work Jonathan can be found hanging out with his family, paddling around the Puget Sound, or hiking through the woods with his two malamutes.

SUMMER CONCERT UPDATE

Sunday, September 4th, the benefit concert was a huge success as we celebrated our achievements in sheltering Skagit residents since 1986.

With your help, we were able to raise \$21,885 in net gained income to provide for our programs.



The days successes were not only tallied by the dollars, we were so pleased by our volunteer turn out and the new audience we were able to meet that the financial joys took a back seat, for a moment. We are grateful for the volunteer participation and can proudly call the largest success point of this event, our gains in network and new interest in service for our programs. Thank you to all who helped make this day a true win for community.



Smiles were on every face, as we celebrated together and raised funds and awareness for Friendship House programs.

We saw over 60 volunteers involved start to finish, including guest speakers who gave of themselves to share their personal testimony of struggle and triumph, with the support of Friendship House.

Many of those volunteers were associated directly with our Presenting sponsors! It is a rare occasion when you see such a commitment from those who are at your side to help put an event together. Special thanks to our donors of raffle prizes as well. It adds a fun level of excitement to be able to give something to those who are giving to support us.



WHAT'S NEXT... A PANEL DISCUSSION IS PLANNED FOR SPRING

Soon to be announced, we will set a date for the Spring Panel Discussion, to be held at Christianson's, inside the Vinery. This discussion will be learning ways to broaden our impact, as a community to address homelessness and affordable housing; finding better ways to integrate services for a more well rounded, supportive experience to the individuals who seek them and looking to grow together as we aim to achieve more in the years ahead.

We expect to reflect on what is working, what can we improve on and how do we manage changes, cohesively. If we resolve to work as a community, we will all achieve greater impact.

To be involved with the outcomes of the panel planning, please complete our panel survey online:
<https://www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org/survey-form.html>

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

At the women's shelter, the new shed build is getting near completion. With help from the LiUNA Local 292 we pulled the 2 leaking portable sheds out and have been able to put up a new, fresh, sturdy overflow shed for sorting and holding of the generous clothing donations that filter through the houses and giving room.

To see recent photos of this project, visit our website: www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org and check out gokagit.com/townnews/building_industry/groups-help-out-with-friendship-house-shed/article for more. This shed build was a group effort for funding by several community partners through grants to procure the needed materials.



We have teamed with incredible volunteers for this build, from our Local Northwest Carpenter's Union and Sisters in the Brotherhood (Sister's for the Sisters) Northwest Carpenter's Sisters who have taken many hours out to help construct this new shed for us. Additional volunteers have also been supportive of this build; including Steve, Neil and Jason. We are ever grateful for the help from all of you and look forward to the finishing touches.

MORE CAPITAL REPAIRS UNDERWAY

Right now, simultaneous with the shed build project, the Women's shelter is having a bathroom relocation/rebuild to satisfy the sewer issue discovered this spring. The residents had vacated the lower living level to make way for concrete upheaval and a full rebuild of the sewer lines. We have learned the overall function of the system is



Building the deck



Prepping for shelves

compromised by the original layout of the lines and to get the proper fall and flow in the lines for the system to function optimally, we need to relocate the bathroom entirely to the other side of the space. We have a plan to move forward and in working with the proper departments have attained required permitting. Now to continue with the work to make the space ready to occupy once more bringing the Women and Children's shelter back to full capacity. Right now, we are utilizing the 2 upper level areas of the shelter to provide limited availability for beds.

On our list of thanks, we must respectfully show gratitude to Skagit County in selecting this facility project for an allocation of REET funding.

story continued on next page

For the full story and to see all the community support that has already helped us get to where we are with this project to date, please check out our Happenings page at:

skagitfriendshiphouse.org/happenings, where you will learn of the organizations who have volunteered to help us gain traction with this.



Stephanie shows off her stance as she celebrates with her friends for Jack hammering the new bathroom, to be rough plumbed next.

THANK YOU ANDREW & STEPHANIE

The floorplans required for the City planning departments' review in consideration of our permit for this bathroom relocation project were drafted, edited, and edited again for resubmittal as we got the final specs on paper for this large project. We must give a huge thank you to Stephanie Crane, of Mount Vernon for her delivery of these plans on our behalf.

Stephanie's amazing volunteer work has allowed us to move forward. We owe it to her and Andrew Vander Stoep, who connected us to so many of the key volunteer groups helping us to complete the work, under budget. Andrew even introduced us to Stephanie!

Thanks for the support in getting us to this point, each of you~

The target to have the basement all refreshed for resident occupancy again before the cold weather hits, is a critical one.

If you have a talent that may be of help in the coming weeks to put this bathroom back together, reach out. And to stay informed, visit our website often and join our e-news list.

HOLIDAY SERVICES & NEEDS

We serve Brunch and Dinner on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Brunch is from 10am-12pm and dinner is from 3pm-5pm. This year we are offering sponsorship opportunities to provide more ways for our community to get involved with these special meals.

We are promoting a **feast level** sponsor option at \$500.00 and a **trimmings level** at \$200.00.

All sponsors for the Holiday meals will have website presence and social mentions while our Feast level sponsors will receive personalized holiday photo posters as a keepsake.

Please email or call for more, 360-961-8434

jen@skagitfriendshiphouse.org



Volunteers and Hunger to Hope Students prepare meals at Cafe

CURIOUS ABOUT WAYS YOU CAN VOLUNTEER?

We are thankful for all the clothing donations that have been coming to the Friendship House. As a result, it is with great excitement that we are in need of some volunteers to sort and hang the clothing for our clothing closet, giving room. If you have a couple hours a week or just a couple hours for one week, we could use some volunteers for this need.

Or if serving people food is more to your liking we do have opportunities for individuals to volunteer and serve Lunch or Dinner at our Cafe and/or serve meals at the Skagit First Step Center in Burlington.

"I love learning the different cooking skills and feeding the public. It makes me feel like I'm doing an important service for the community."
~ Jade



Sack lunch Volunteer serves from the Van in Mount Vernon

We are always happy to train for backup Sack Lunch Drivers as well. This is a terrific opportunity for a short shift, to help fill in when others need a day off their weekly routine, especially during the summer months.

If any of these opportunities have piqued your interest, please contact Mollie Hoare, our Volunteer Coordinator by phone or email. 360-336-6138 ext. 110

mollie@skagitfriendshiphouse.org

"Working through the Friendship House program got me exactly what I wanted. If you really make it your own, it will make a difference!"
~ Vivian, past resident

ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO SEEK OUR SERVICES WHEN IN NEED

For **#skagitshomeless** who struggle with housing and food security, Friendship House is a locally based **#shelter** that feeds, clothes, shelters, and **#supports** sober individuals and mothers with children through our two core shelter facilities, our public Café and giving room. We offer many additional services to help ease the pain of loneliness to those on the streets who are not participating in our shelter housing; including laundry access and showers, lunch and dinner meals.

Hear from one fellow who found out about us from a café meal service poster. "I didn't know about Friendship House until I saw a dinner poster in a public bathroom. I went and enjoyed a meal and learned more about the services provided there. This brought me back for showers a few times, before I decided to try the program in the Men's shelter. As a resident, I attended an onsite job fair at the Café one day which led to full time employment for me!"

Four years later he still works there today and is living in permanent housing by his own means...but if he hadn't seen that poster... ?

We need you to help the community stay informed. You can share our work with your local social clubs, congregations or other groups you network in. Invite us to come present to your group, or plan a visit with us for a tour so you can encourage others to seek support when they are faced with a need.

A simple dinner can become life transformative!



bulk mail
postage paid


return address blurb here



IF YOU WISH TO CONTRIBUTE

Please use the enclosed envelope to make a donation or pledge
OR
you can visit our website and donate online at:
skagitfriendshiphouse.org/donate-money
Thank you for supporting our mission.

Survey for panel discussion



Your opinion counts. So please take your time and tell us what you think.

Mentioned in our What's next article inside, you can make your vote count by going to our event page and take the survey there online. We are inviting speakers to the panel discussion soon, so don't wait, make your opinion count today:
skagitfriendshiphouse.org/survey-form