

# PARTNERS in HOPE

Noel House Programs • Rose of Lima House

Newsletter April 2007

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## Advocacy Day at the Capital

### Record number of community activists participate in Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, concerned citizens from all over Washington convened in Olympia for Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day. This annual event, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, brought over 300 activists together to lobby our legislators and rally for social justice. Noel House and Rose House were there advocating on behalf of women who are homeless.

The Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance facilitated the event and educated lobbyists on the four key priorities that need our legislators' support:

- **Increasing the Housing Trust Fund to \$200 million.** The lack of affordable housing stock and skyrocketing costs of housing make it imperative that the Housing Trust Fund reach this level. The Governor has committed \$140 million in the budget. The additional increase needs to be a priority in the House budget.
- **House Bill 1874—Re-entry of Offenders into the Community:** This important bill offers a combination of transitional housing vouchers, mental health and treatment services, and other re-entry support. This focus on services offers new solutions for those leaving our prison systems. The House Appropriations Committee needs to make this bill a priority.
- **House Bill 2279—Fair Zoning for Affordable Housing:** Too often, well-funded, designed and planned affordable housing projects are derailed by a small minority of intolerant voices in an otherwise welcoming community. New projects are blocked by demanding levels of review and input on projects private developers do not have to live up to. HB 2279 puts a stop to this unfair practice. The House Housing Committee needs to move this bill quickly out of committee.
- **Re-insert the Document Recording Fee into House Bill 1115:** Document Recording Fees offer new resources for local communities to address homelessness. Unfortunately, the recording fee as a funding source has been removed from the most recent version of HB 1115, thereby decreasing access to funds that benefit our most vulnerable community members. The House Appropriations Committee must re-insert the document recording fee into the bill.

Make Housing Advocacy Day a part of your life. The Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance provides excellent advocacy tools and great information about legislation, action alerts, and victories gained when we collectively raise our voices. For more information, please go to [www.wliha.org](http://www.wliha.org) and sign up for the WLIHA Alerts.

## 2007 One Night Count finds thousands trying to survive without shelter

On January 26 at 2 a.m., while most people around King County were home asleep, volunteers counted homeless people trying to survive under bridges, in doorways, cars or makeshift structures, and in shelters during the annual One Night Count. The Count was organized by the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness, with support from Operation Nightwatch, the Committee to End Homelessness, and dozens of nonprofit and government agencies across the county. Noel House and Rose House volunteers were among the 735 volunteers that gathered at 2 a.m. at Operation Nightwatch to participate in the count. The questions on volunteers' minds, as they counted people unsheltered were: Where would I sleep if I did not have a home to go to? What would I do if all the shelters were full?

### Preliminary data from the two main sources of data for the 2007 One Night Count includes:

- 2,159 people counted outdoors trying to survive without shelter
- 2,360 people staying in emergency shelters
- 3,304 people staying in transitional programs
- **7,823 total people who were homeless on the night of the count**
- Volunteers found 289 people in new count areas this year. New areas included Renton and Woodinville, as well as parts of Kent, Seattle, Federal Way, and Shoreline. This year, people riding the Metro bus "night owl" routes were counted, as well as people in six area emergency rooms.

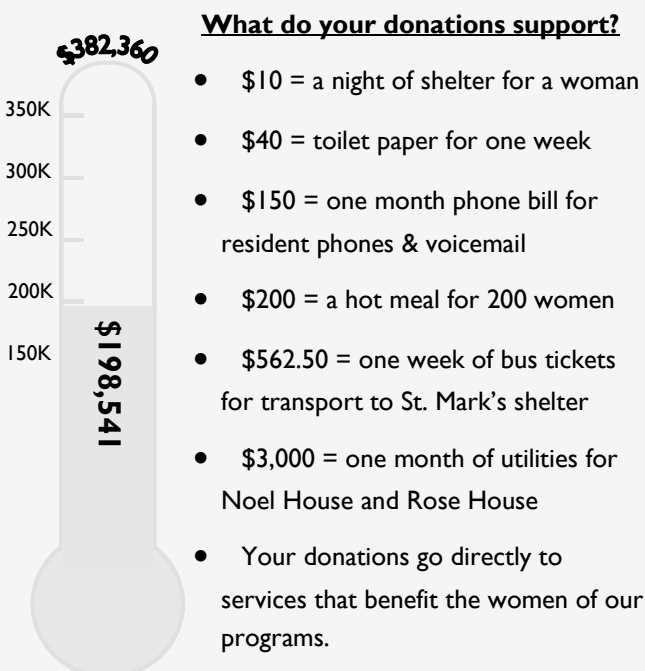


A sidewalk should *never* need to be a bed.

For more information, please visit the Seattle King County Coalition for the Homeless at [www.homelessinfo.org](http://www.homelessinfo.org).

## Help us reach our goal

Partners in Hope has an annual budget of \$1.07 million which helps us provide shelter and support to over 1,700 women every year. We rely on you to help us raise \$382,360 of this budget. Please make a difference —Donate today!



## Donate Online @

[WWW.NOELHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.NOELHOUSE.ORG) or [WWW.ROSEHOUSE.ORG](http://WWW.ROSEHOUSE.ORG)

Thanks to the wonders of technology—and our parent organization, Catholic Community Services of Western Washington (CCSWW)—you are now able to donate to Noel House Programs and Rose of Lima House ONLINE. For your convenience, a **Donate Now** button has been added to our websites. Just three quick clicks will lead you to Network For Good's website where you can designate your gift to Noel House and Rose House.

Donating online is easy, just follow the Donate Now buttons!



**STEP 1:** Log onto [www.noelhouse.org](http://www.noelhouse.org) or [www.rosehouse.org](http://www.rosehouse.org). Click on DONATE NOW.

**STEP 2:** Keep following those buttons! Once you reach CCSWW ([www.ccsww.org](http://www.ccsww.org)) click DONATE NOW.

**STEP 3:** One more click, DONATE NOW, takes you to Network for Good.

**STEP 4:** Fill out the donation form. Most importantly, remember to type Noel House and/or Rose House into the designation field so CCSWW knows which of their programs will be receiving your very special gift.

**Is it safe to give online? Yes!** Network for Good uses industry-leading Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) technology to keep your personal information as secure as possible. Network for Good helps to protect your information by working with partners that provide a secure and safe environment for credit card donations.

## Noteworthy News & Opportunities from the Volunteer Coordinator

### Volunteers needed for our Spring Cleaning Extravaganza!

Spring is a time for new beginnings—a time to clean those cobwebs out from under beds, scare the dust bunnies back into their burrows and wash windows to let the blue spring sky shine in. Roll up your sleeves, grab the dust buster and prepare yourself for some intense spring cleaning.

Noel House and Rose House are looking for dedicated volunteers who are ready to get dirty in the name of getting our shelter and housing program squeaky clean — just like brand new!

#### Want to help?

Our Spring Cleaning Extravaganza will be held on Sunday, April 15 from 11am to 2pm. To RSVP, please call our Volunteer Coordinator at (206) 956-9366 ext. 2 or email [kirsten@noelhouse.org](mailto:kirsten@noelhouse.org).

### Volunteer Hours Served in 2006

Volunteers across all Noel House Programs' shelters served an estimated 32,000 hours in 2006.

**Thanks for your care & commitment!**

### RAPID RESPONSE: Join the Team!

Our Rapid Response Team is helping us better serve our residents and effectively manage the shelter's supply needs. For two years now, our Rapid Response Team has been a great resource for meeting our most urgent needs. **We extend our profound thanks to all team members.** Here's how it works: when we need an item ASAP we will send team members an e-mail. Members acquire the requested items and drop them off at Noel House or Rose House.

**You can be a member of the Rapid Response Team** by e-mailing [kirsten@noelhouse.org](mailto:kirsten@noelhouse.org) with Rapid Response Team in the subject line. Please include your name and mailing address as well as your e-mail address. We promise to not SPAM your in-box! Please be assured that we do not sell, loan or otherwise share your personal information with anyone.

## A Call to Artists: Rose House Life Skills Training Program needs your help!

Rose House is looking for artists to be part of our Life Skills Training Program. We invite artists of any medium — paint, sculpture, dance and movement, music, and other artistic forms — to facilitate Life Skills workshops and share your joy for art with the residents of Rose House.

Life Skills addresses the need for fiscal management training, health and safety education, creative and healthy self-expression and community building. Weekly classes are offered to residents to discuss and learn about topics that provide the skills necessary for a successful move out of transitional housing and onto permanent housing.

Subjects have included:

- Financial management
- Job training opportunities
- Healthy eating
- Safety and self-defense
- Conflict resolution
- Effective communication and self-expression
- Living successfully in a community

Life Skills classes also facilitate opportunities for personal growth and enhanced self-confidence through cultural, artistic and recreational activities. The classes have explored numerous forms of creative expression. Beading and painting classes, gardening, calligraphy and a laughter workshop are just a few examples of Life Skills classes which have been lead by volunteers.

If you would like more information about the Life Skills Training Program, or if you are interested in volunteering your time and artistic talent, or can donate art supplies, please contact:

Dannette Allen, Life Skills Coordinator  
(206) 441-1200 or [lifeskills@rosehouse.org](mailto:lifeskills@rosehouse.org).

### Life Skills Wish List

- Art Volunteers
- NEW art supplies, like:
  - \* Oil pastels
  - \* Watercolor and acrylic paint
  - \* Paint brushes
  - \* Charcoal
  - \* Drawing and watercolor paper
  - \* Calligraphy pens
  - \* Journals
  - \* Mechanical pencils
  - \* Elmer's Glue
  - \* Black medium and small point markers



**Thank you for sharing the joy of creativity and art!**

- Please indicate changes in the boxes below and return the address label in the enclosed envelope.
- Remove me from your mailing list
  - Change name or address
  - I am receiving a duplicate
  - I'd prefer to receive the newsletter via email.
- My email is: \_\_\_\_\_

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**PARTNERS** (in) **HOPE**



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**2007 Feedback from Friends:** Thank you for completing the survey mailed out in the February newsletter. The feedback was extremely helpful and much appreciated. We encourage you to share your ideas with us year-round. Please keep-in-touch and keep us posted! Your input is welcomed and encouraged.  
**If you missed the survey, look online at [www.noelhouse.org](http://www.noelhouse.org) or [www.rosehouse.org](http://www.rosehouse.org).**

### *Noel House Wish List*

**Shelter Supplies:**

- Laundry soap
- Lysol spray
- Dish soap\*
- 33 gallon trash bags\*
- Latex gloves (medium)\*
- Toilet paper
- Black ink pens
- Printer paper
- Twin size sheets
- Blankets

**Kitchen Supplies:**

- Ceramic coffee mugs\*
- Powdered drink mix\*
- Jelly/Jam\*
- Coffee creamer\*
- Plastic utensils
- Hot/cold cups (8oz.)
- Cereal bowls
- Tea
- Coffee grinder\*
- Napkins
- Paper plates\*

**Personal Items:**

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Tums
- Cough drops
- Cold medicine \*
- Ibuprofen \*
- Mini locks with keys
- Nail clippers
- Socks (new)\*
- Underwear (new)\*
- Ear plugs\*

**Call our Services Coordinator at 206-441-3210 ext. 200 for the latest and most urgent needs! (\* indicates most needed)**

### *Rose House Wish List*

- Office supplies
- Custodial supplies
- Paper towels
- New iron
- Cereal bowls
- Art supplies (Read the article on Rose House's Life Skills Training Program)

**Can you provide one of these items once a month? Please let us know! 206-441-1200**

From our home to yours, a quote of appreciation to acknowledge the good deeds of our friends:  
"Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls." ~David Thomas