



INTERFAITH CONNECTION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

THE HOPE OF “HOME”

Many of us fondly recall the film *The Wizard of Oz*, and Dorothy’s words as she clicks her ruby slippers together and repeats, “There’s no place like home” until she arrives back in her bed with a loving family surrounding her. While there really is no place like a warm, safe home, surrounded by the love of family, Interfaith Coalition provides some of the things that home means to many families experiencing homelessness.

Together, all those who support Interfaith Coalition provided in 2017:

- Housing and hope to 106 children and their parents working to leave homelessness.
- CAST (Coffee and Sandwiches Together) and 130 volunteers served over 12,000 meals and provided hygiene items, hats, socks, and conversation to people living on the edge.
- Kids Need Books delivered over 14,000 donated books through school and rural food banks, migrant worker camps (through Hope Lutheran), and the winter coat drive.
- Project Warm-Up crafters knit a little love and hope into every hat and scarf, and over 2,000 of these items were distributed. Over 3,000 coats also gave warmth and hope through the Winter Warmth Drive.



Happy customer of a Project Warm-Up knitted hat

- Holiday Joy Drive provided Christmas gifts to 86 families, a total of 263 individuals.

These efforts provide not only food, warmth, and shelter, but also physical and emotional safety for adults and children. We provide support for families to remain intact and grow together.

As one of our guests said,

“Thank you so much for this opportunity. We have all of our kids with us. They are so happy to be here and spent the whole weekend playing hide and seek and just hanging out together. This is such a blessing.”

- Mother of a family of six in Interfaith Housing

And the case management that we provide, through our partnership with Opportunity Council, gives families the opportunity to build lives of health and sustainability. This builds sustainability across the whole community.

Perhaps the greatest thing that our efforts provide is HOPE. It’s funny that “hope” is only one letter away from being “home.” While creating “home” will never be as easy as clicking our heels together, we have faith that our good, combined efforts toward ending homelessness will provide HOME.

FAMILY PROMISE GIVES HOPE TO MORE LOCAL FAMILIES

It is wonderful to share stories about families who have found hope again through Interfaith housing, but we don't share how painful it is to turn families away because we don't have enough homes for all who are struggling. Family Promise will help us be able to say "Yes!" more often.

In January, Sarah Lane joined us as the Director for Family Promise of Whatcom County, and she has been connecting with volunteer coordinators and congregations, training with the national Family Promise organization, overseeing the remodeling of the day center, and getting things ready for our doors to open. We plan to welcome our first families beginning April 2.

Family Promise could not happen without the generous commitment of our host and support congregations, and we offer our heartfelt gratitude to:

Host Congregations

- Church of the Assumption
- Northlake Community Church
- The Firs Retreat Center
- First Christian Church
- Hope Lutheran Church, Lynden
- Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
- St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
- Garden St. United Methodist Church
- Christ Lutheran Church
- First Congregational Church
- Sterling Drive Church of Christ
- Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Support Congregations

- Christ the King, Bellingham
- Center for Spiritual Living
- United Church of Ferndale
- Zion Lutheran Church, Ferndale
- St James Presbyterian Church
- Iglesia de Dios Church
- Roosevelt Community Church
- Hope in Christ Church
- Christ the King, Sudden Valley
- Blaine United Church of Christ
- Bellingham Friends



Want to help?

Individuals, family groups, businesses, book groups, organizations - you ALL can make a difference! Your financial donations bring hope and support. \$185 provides care for one child for seven days. Volunteering at the Family Promise Center (which is open every day of the week), helping provide a meal, working one 2-hour shift at a host congregation, helping procure supplies, volunteering in the office ... you can be part of this amazing effort.

Call or email Sarah at
360-734-3983 or sarah@interfaith-coalition.org





AUCTION

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 24TH
5:30 P.M.**

Join us for a fun and inspirational evening. Our annual Hope Action is our biggest fundraiser of the year. With you as a partner, we can transform the lives of our neighbors in need of a fresh start.

Tickets: Buy your tickets now to bring hope to our community! See the form below, order online at www.interfaith-coalition.org or call our office at 360-734-3983.

Donate Auction Items: Can you contribute an auction item – vacation getaways; handmade quilts, artwork or crafts; sports or theater tickets; gift certificates – they all make fabulous donations. Please contact us with your ideas and donations.

Sponsors: We're proud to thank the following business and individuals as partners in our work and sponsors of our 2018 Hope Auction:

GIVING HOPE:



GIVING DIGNITY:

- Cascade Dafo
- CB Wholesale
- McEvoy Oil
- PeaceHealth
- RMC Architects
- Rice Insurance
- SPIE
- Bob & Diane Becker
- John & Karen Fasler
- Paul & Kathy Lovdahl
- Barbara Mathers-Schmidt & Bob Schmidt
- Doug & Lynn Wight

GIVING RESPECT:

- 2Roofs Real Estate
- Bellingham Cold Storage
- Carmichael Clark, Attorneys
- Community Food Coop
- Lithtex NW
- Mills Electric
- Totally Chocolate
- Laura & James Harker
- Brenda & John Riseland

INTERFAITH COALITION HOPE AUCTION TICKET ORDER FORM - PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THE INFORMATION BELOW.

\$65 - INDIVIDUAL **\$100 - GOLD LEVEL** - includes additional contribution to Interfaith Coalition. Please indicate the desired number of tickets in the appropriate box above. Please mail or return your check for the total amount (no cash please) to the Interfaith Coalition office at **910 14TH STREET, BELLINGHAM, WA 98225**

I'M UNABLE TO ATTEND SO I AM SENDING A CONTRIBUTION

Phone:

Email:

Preferred Seating:

Standard Dinner (GF) Vegetarian Dinner

Name:

Address:

City:

Zip:



**INTERFAITH COALITION
OF WHATCOM COUNTY**

910 14th St.
Bellingham, WA 98225

Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
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Bellingham, WA 98226
Permit No. 212

SAVE THE DATE:
hope
AUCTION
SATURDAY,
MARCH 24TH
5:30 P.M.

More info inside!

SAVE THE DATE!

CHOIR FEST: Join us for a joyful concert of spiritual music from diverse congregations throughout Whatcom County, as well as a combined choir of all singers!

Sunday, February 25, 3:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, 2401 Cornwall Avenue, Bellingham.

A good-will offering will be taken for Interfaith Coalition.

HELP US SAVE A STAMP: Help us save postage by getting future newsletters by email. Send an email to newsletter@interfaith-coalition with subject title "Yes, I'd like to save postage."

**LIKE INTERFAITH COALITION
OF WHATCOM COUNTY
ON FACEBOOK!**

