

Elizabeth Gregory Home Celebrates First Holiday Season

Many exciting events have occurred at Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH) over the past several months. In fact, you probably wouldn't recognize us from your September open house visits. The day center, sans washer and dryer, is completely finished and being used on a regular basis for EGH community meetings, volunteer led activities, Thursday arts and crafts night, case management and a host of other activities. We are so grateful for the time and talents of Clint Pehrson, Sue Tong and many others for designing and decorating such a beautiful center for our residents. The Elizabeth Gregory Home apartments are also fully furnished now and we are filled to capacity with 9 residents. Our donated washer and dryer have led a full life and we are currently seeking donations of a gently used or new pair. Please contact Jamie Lee, (206) 720.0262x2 if you have a set in need of a good home.

The women of EGH had a beautiful Thanksgiving dinner thanks to the generosity of many community members who saw our volunteer listing on Craig's List and contributed several turkeys and trimmings. A very special thank you to ULC member Katie Gienapp for her generous donation of a Safeway gift card which enabled the residents to purchase items and make special dishes to carry on their own family traditions. The women cooked and ate the holiday meal as a community, which will hopefully spark a new tradition for many holidays to come at Elizabeth Gregory Home.

Each EGH participant meets with a case manager one-on-one for weekly goal planning, referrals and advocacy. Life skills classes are being held on budgeting, computer skills, and vocational and employment training. A Master of Social Work (MSW) student from the University of Washington has begun her practicum at EGH and will work 16 hours a week supplementing case management services and developing our community mentoring program. We are fortunate to have Kerin Holt come onboard. The University District Service Providers had the opportunity to tour EGH several weeks ago and were impressed by not only the dedication of ULC members but the arrangement of the apartments and quality of services delivered to our residents. University nonprofits are eager to collaborate with Elizabeth Gregory Home by referring their clients to our program.

With the holiday season upon us, please remember the homeless women at Elizabeth Gregory Home. Consider starting a new family tradition of volunteering this season. We are looking for volunteers to assist in a variety of holiday events from hosting a holiday party to helping EGH staff sort, wrap and distribute gifts coming in from ULC and other church giving trees. We are also in need of canned goods, non-perishable food items and holiday treats for Christmas meals. For more ideas on how you can make a difference in the lives of homeless women this season please visit our website at www.elizabethgregoryhome.org or our wish list at www.seattletimescompany.com/wishlist. Donations of food, gloves, hats, socks and warm sweaters may be dropped off at the EGH barrel in the ULC foyer or at one of our community partners hosting an Elizabeth Gregory Home holiday drive. The list of community drop-off sites may also be viewed on our website.

On behalf of Elizabeth Gregory Home residents, staff and board of directors, we thank you for your ongoing support. Because of you 9 women, who otherwise would be on the streets this season, are celebrating the holidays in their own homes. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and God's blessings in the coming New Year.

Happy Holidays,

Kimberly Jackson
Executive Director