HOSPITALITY HOUSE highlights

August 2024

WALK FOR WOMEN

BECOME A SPONSOR

Are you a local business owner? You can support women experiencing homelessness right here in your community by becoming a sponsor! Your sponsorship will:

- **Keep homeless women safe each night by meeting their basic needs** – shelter, food, and clothing.
- **Provide stabilizing case management** designed to help our residents find affordable housing and employment .
- **Benefit your business through positive community recognition.** Sponsorship levels offer everything from a personalized social media post to your logo on our event website.

Register, become a sponsor, and donate by scanning the QR code to the right or by visiting:

REGISTER TODAY

September 14, 2024, 10 AM
Merrill Gardens @ Burien
151st & 5th Avenue

- Register online for $25
- Download our sponsor form, track your sponsorships, and watch your efforts multiply!
- Build a WALK team! Ask your friends and family to walk with you in support of Hospitality House!
- Can't join us? Make a donation!

https://auctria.events/2024Walk4Women

Keep reading to learn how 2 Hospitality House residents put down roots in Burien–with YOUR help!

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Becoming Burien Residents

Celebrating the Success of Janene & Deanna

Janene showing off her new view

Janene came to Hospitality House newly sober and in search of a fresh start. She had been homeless for years, struggled with addiction, had been living in a tent, and was unable to maintain stable or healthy relationships. After her son's unexpected passing, Janene decided she needed to make a change and start working on all aspects of her life.

While at Hospitality House she opened up to staff about her struggles & developed healthier coping mechanisms. Each week she excitedly met with her Case Manager to boast her progress of all the things she had accomplished, which was always more than what was expected. She took advantage of everything Hospitality House has to offer. Janene loved seeing our volunteer service providers for chiropractic care and grief counseling, & never let staff & volunteers forget how grateful she was for the things most of us take for granted, like regular meals, or having access to Tylenol when you have a headache.

Despite doing everything right, her progress was halted while waiting for approval to move into a permanent unit right here in Burien. She waited patiently for good news, & passed time by familiarizing herself with the community she's grown to love. Janene frequented the Thursday Farmers Market to pick up her favorite caramel cake, and visited the library often. She began gardening in the Hospitality House courtyard, cutting some roses & planting them with a piece of potato (she explained to staff it would help them grow). Janene said, "these cuttings aren't much now, but they'll be beautiful roses one day with a little time and care."

Janene & Olivia (Program Manager) after the lease signing

Much like her roses, Janene blossomed and transformed during her stay at Hospitality House. Her hard work and patience paid off, & Janene moved into her own apartment where she has determined to fill her space with as much animal print as possible!
Janene credits Hospitality House with saving her life, but we know that she's she's the one who put in all the hard work to make it happen. Still, she likes to ensure that our community is recognized for the work they do. For every meal you've cooked, she says "thank you." For every blanket she's used to keep warm, "thank you." No matter the donation you've provided, whether it was your time, your energy, your monetary donation-Janene tearfully and wholeheartedly says, "thank you."

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Deanna proudly jingles the keys to her own apartment

Deanna was unsheltered before coming to Hospitality House and was struggling with years of chronic homelessness before finally finding stability. She had never been on a lease or had her own apartment, and wasn't sure how to even begin the process.

When Deanna became a resident, she was struggling with both her physical and mental health. She gave up hope of ever finding housing due to her disabilities making her unable to work. Still, Deanna met weekly with her Case Manager to find something that would be able to meet her needs and provide her the stability she so desperately needed. Deanna was consistent with her work ethic and kept pushing through her own barriers.

Pushing through the physical pain her disability brought her, she would complete every stability related task her Case Manager assigned. Deanna also decided to make herself a priority for the first time in her life. She loved to read, & would frequent the Burien library to pick up books from her favorite authors like John Grisham and Neil Gaiman. She enjoyed sitting in the Hospitality House courtyard on warm days with a book in her hand. Staff would sit with her during breaks, and enjoy Deanna's absolutely unmatched sense of humor. Even on her hardest days, Deanna's smile and laughter would make you think she never had a care in the world.

When weeks passed without news on progress of her housing application for an apartment, Deanna broke down in tears while speaking with staff and said, "I'm gonna be homeless forever. I'm gonna have to go back on the streets. I give up." This wasn't Deanna-this was fear and exhaustion. Staff looked at Deanna and replied, "it's not over until you have a place to call home."

Even after this, Deanna kept on going, and it paid off! She found her own apartment in permanent housing! After hearing of her approval, she danced & squealed, and told our staff that she was going to come visit Hospitality House often just so we could tell her to "go home," since this was something she was never able to do before.

Deanna lived unhoused in the Burien area for years, but now she proudly calls herself one of your neighbors. She even spent her birthday this year for the first time in her very own home.

Deanna is all smiles as she signs her first ever lease

We are so proud of Janene and Deanna's accomplishments, and Hospitality House is honored to be part of their stories. We wish them both all the best in their new homes!