



Georgia's House

4846 Auto Center Way
Bremerton, WA 98312
www.gmweaverfoundation.org

March 2012

"Helping individuals to become self-sustaining without the worries of shelter for themselves or their families"

VOLUNTEERS

Georgia's House is still in need of volunteers to serve all shifts. The shelter is open 24 hours per day, 7 day per week, and we must have volunteer / staff on site at all times.

Shifts are normally five hours, but there are the overnight shifts that are longer but less stressful as the ladies are normally asleep and the house is quiet.

To be a volunteer, one must have a listening ear, open mind and heart and be willing to accept our clients for who they are. If interested, call Mary Chapman, our volunteer coordinator, at 360-479-9020 or drop by the office for an application.

"You can make mistakes, but you are not a failure until you blame others for those mistakes."

-John Wooden-

Annual Report

By Leann Weaver, Executive Director

Happy New Year to One and All!!

2011 was a year of growth and new beginnings for the folks at Georgia's House. Most of you remember the day we opened the doors to Georgia's House. It was a beautiful semi-sunny day on April 18th, at 5:00pm in the afternoon when a dear friend and former pastor of Georgia's Rev. Larry Eddings, gave the doors to Georgia's House the blessing of Peace, Protection and Good Will. The ribbons to the doors were cut by Mayor Patti Lent and County Commissioner Charlotte Garrido.



According to the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) a program used by most human service agencies in our county; during the period April 2011 to December 2011 Georgia's House was able to offer shelter to 3% of the homeless population of Kitsap County, a significant achievement for a newly opened shelter. Our staff of volunteers have provided safe haven to 63 women and 35 children with all the love and attention afforded a family member, which is how we see our clients. They are members of the Georgia's House family and will remain so as long as they allow us to be a part of their lives.

Georgia's House is a shelter for low-income displaced women and children. Clients are not limited to those women experiencing homelessness; there are those who are suffering with drug addiction and domestic violence. It is a temporary home for residents...not just a roof, but a home with caring staff/volunteers from the community who provide structure, compassion, guidance and support.

We have enjoyed some memorable moments: in July we had our first newborn; in the early fall we moved one of our residents into the new Bay Vista housing; we had (27) residents move into permanent housing; (11) with the help of case managers and staff were able to reconnect with family and have taken the opportunity to work on building those relationships; (5) were transferred to inpatient treatment programs; (1) was accepted into the Youth Academy and is working hard to earn her GED; and unfortunately, we lost (18) who were discharged due to issues of non-compliance with the program.

We want to thank everyone for their continued support, without it we would not have been able to provide the services needed for our clients. The response by the community has been overwhelming; the community has reached out and provided us with needed supplies as well as financial donations. We are currently not receiving any funding from the state or the federal government, so we are totally dependent on the community to ensure Georgia's House remains the asset it has proven to be this past year.

ITEM	INCOME	EXPENSES
Grants	\$ 10,000.00	
Directors contribution	\$ 10,450.00	
Individual	\$ 29,081.00	
Fundraiser	\$ 2,083.00	
 Total Income	 \$ 51,614.00	
 Renovations		\$ 15,912.00
Business Expenses		\$ 3,321.00
Building & Equipment Repairs		\$ 884.00
Operations		\$ 12,286.00
Client Assistance		\$ 223.00
Insurance		\$ 334.00
Volunteer Incentives		\$ 530.00
Payroll	(first 3 months)	\$ 10,407.00
Travel & Meetings		\$ 989.00
 Total Expenses		 \$ 44,886.00
 Net Income	 \$ 6,728.00	

As our supporters, we want to keep you informed of the activities taking place at Georgia's House. The women coming to Georgia's House are referred primarily by Kitsap Community Resources (KCR); we also receive clients on an emergency basis from Harrison Hospital and other agencies in the community. Each client is assigned a case manager who works with her weekly, helping to set goals and finding ways to achieve those goals. Everyone is working on something here; this is not the hotel where clients can come and relax for 90 days, which is the maximum time allowed at the shelter. They are out looking for housing, some go back to school or are students already, some are participating in drug programs, but the ultimate goal is to help each client relocate either with family or in a place of her own.

We have weekly house meetings on Saturday evening where the women get together with shelter counselors and talk about the events and/or barriers which may have occurred during the week. Discussion is in a group setting that allows all ladies in the house to offer advice and help each other with problem solving skills while working on their own social skills.

In November, we joined together with Bremerton Rescue Mission to host the First Annual Dinner, Dance & Silent Auction, and it was a big success. Featured was a new band out of South Kitsap called "Dreamy Johnson and the Foundation Band", who provided an array of jazz music which gave those in attendance the opportunity to dance and socialize. We were able to raise \$4,000.00 towards the sprinkler system we hope to have installed before the end of June 2012. The shelter is currently operating on a temporary permit with the city which has recently been extended until June 2012. In order to keep Georgia's House open and operating as a permanent shelter in the Kitsap Community, we need to install a sprinkler system. The bids for the sprinkler system range from \$8,450 to \$11,250, depending on the pressure from the water supply. If the pressure is low, we would be required to install a tank to ensure the sprinkler system functions properly.

Over the past ten months we were fortunate to recruit 23 volunteers; they come to us from such places as Paratransit (who provides the space for Georgia's House), the U.S. Nimitz, Naval Hospital, Bremerton Rescue Mission, Olympic College, and the Department of Emergency Management. We also have a few volunteers from the community who have jumped in to help. One of our greatest assets is the Volunteer Coordinator, Mary Chapman, who devotes four days a week to the shelter ensuring all shifts are covered by sending emails or making phone calls.



Volunteer Toni, USS Nimitz



Volunteer Dee, Paratransit



Mary Chapman

We want to thank all those who have joined the work force at Georgia's House. Without your devotion and dedicated service to the women and children we serve; all the milestones you help to create at Georgia's would not have been possible.

NEW GOALS FOR 2012

This coming year we are hoping to expand the services we provide to the clients coming to Georgia's House. We are currently looking at a facility where women completing the program at the shelter may move to transitional housing. This is a form of housing to teach the women responsibility and allow them to adjust to independent living; they will be required to pay a minimal amount for rent, while being provided with minimal supervision. Clients will still be required to work with their case managers but less frequently. They will be required to continue setting goals that will help them to become self-sustaining entities in our community.

Love is the generous affection which aids the precious one whom God adore!

-Pastor Ed Denton-

Silverdale United Methodist Church

Thank you for sharing God's love and affection to the women and children of Georgia's House!!

Shelter Needs:

This same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from his glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus. Philippian 4:19

Shelves or small wall cabinets

Kitchen chair cushions

Towel Racks

Crib sheets and pads

We have a community pantry where clients coming into the shelter without food can prepare meals for their families. This food is also for those needing items to supplement their supplies. We are in need of can goods and other food items.

Consumables...

Laundry soap & fabric softener

Paper plates, plastic spoons, forks

Bottle water, soft drinks, and juice boxes

Coffee, creamer, sugar

Salt & pepper

Toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash

Shampoo & conditioner

Feminine pads & tampons

Trash bags—all sizes

Dish Liquid

Diapers (3, 4, 5, 6)

Printer ink cartridges (HP 901)

HP Color LaserJet CP1215

Letter size copy paper

Desperately Needed:

Storage Shed

Volunteers (Night Shifts)

All donations can be dropped off at the shelter or you can call the office 360-479-9020 and we will make arrangements to pick up items.

Thank you from the Residents for your continued support!!!

Weaver Foundation
Georgia Mattson Memorial Shelter
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