



INTERFAITH COALITION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

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The tallest light on the menorah is called the shamash, which in Hebrew means the *attendant light*. The shamash is the source light that fuels the other eight candles.

At the conclusion of Hanukkah, we want to recognize all of you, the attendant lights for others.

Read about Emilee Stacy, pictured here, and every person who fuels more light at Interfaith Coalition....

"We Are Thankful for Your Love, for Bettering Our Life"

In the past week, you've given baskets of food through your congregations to families in need, prepared gifts for the Holiday Joy program, and donated to our year-end appeal.

Here's a note of thanks, from a single dad and his son, who live in an Interfaith house, a place you make possible.

"Thank you, guys, from the bottom of my heart. On this day, me and my son are thankful for the opportunity of running into you guys and having you all apart of our life—which is full of love and appreciation for the acknowledgement and efforts you guys put into bettering our life.

With a Spirit full of admiration and the abundance of blessings. Dad and son"

Would you like to help warm up this season?

Our Interfaith guests and families could use **electric blankets**. As temperatures drop, these blankets help keep folks cozy. Thank you for being bringers of warmth!

Cozy Cabins and Red Velvet Cake for Family Promise Guests, at The Firs and CTK Sudden Valley!

In late November, when nights got colder and stars became brighter, Family Promise guests bunked in cozy cabins at The Firs.



Families appreciated the private lodging quarters, coordinated by Director of Guest Services **Emilee Stacy** (banner picture above), and the overnight security, provided by host volunteers like Doug Scherer (shown here, who is The Firs' Food Services Director by day).

Christ the King Sudden Valley's volunteer coordinator **Jessica Cannell** gave countless hours of work, during the two weeks at The Firs. CTK volunteers surprised one young guest of Family Promise with a birthday cake in her favorite flavor, red velvet! The birthday girl beamed, saying, "It was really, really great!"

One-on-one daily support for emotional well-being, financial literacy, and birthday cakes—because of you, Family Promise guests receive much more than shelter. They receive hope and real tools for a stable future.



Center for Spiritual Living Members Build Bench for Brighter Days

A fun and whimsical bench is a new perch at the Family Promise Day Center, thanks to members of Central for Spiritual Living. Carpentry was provided by the adults, and the bright colors were painted by children of the congregation.

Thank you for such a thoughtful gift for families to enjoy! The bench brightens the day center's enclosed backyard, making it a more welcoming area for kids and parents.

Year-End Tip from Interfaith Supporter: Give Stock to Save on Taxes

As we celebrate year-end giving, we're running a tip-a-week. Here's how you could deepen the impact and extend the effect of your generous donation.

IFC supporter, Tom, offered insight about his year-end gift: "Mary and I strongly support the Interfaith Coalition's mission to eliminate homelessness and poverty in Whatcom County. As 2018 draws to a close, we decided to gift Interfaith stock shares, (which we purchased 20 years ago and have grown significantly in value over time). Our year-end donation will save us both capital gains taxes and federal income taxes, while allowing Interfaith to serve additional families in need. This gift is a win-win situation for

our family. We can't think of a better way to embrace the spirit of giving during this holiday season."

Gift spotlight: Tom and Mary make their annual year-end gift with stock instead of cash. The stock is now worth \$10,000, and they paid \$2,000 for it a number of years ago. They believe now is the time to sell, but an 18.8 percent tax rate (15 percent capital-gain rate plus 3.8 percent Affordable Health Care surtax) would apply to the \$8,000 of capital gain—resulting in federal tax of \$1,504. Even if they don't itemize, they still realize tax savings of this amount by using the stock for their gift to us.

Tom added one more reminder, from our website:

"Remember, there are other ways to give!

1. Put Interfaith in your will.
3. Make Qualified Charitable Donations through IRAs.
4. Offer discounts on your rental units.
5. Do Amazon Smile donations.
6. Use Fred Meyer Rewards Program."

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We are often in the office past these hours
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