



INTERFAITH COALITION

Partners in faith. Changing lives.

Get Involved

Make A Donation



We believe...

In the season of love and miracles
Acts of kindness
Sharing our abundance with our neighbors
Inspiring children with hope for a better life



Just like a December of long ago, all of you who are Interfaith Coalition **host** families who need shelter, **celebrate** a child's milestone birthday, and **witness** new life coming into the world. *Here's how you helped, this past week...*



First-time Volunteer Lights Up the Night!

Winter is the night-time of seasons, when temperatures drop to 32 degrees and darkness comes early. But last week, volunteer **Chris Calverley** brought light to neighbors living on the streets of Bellingham. Chris served hot coffee, sandwiches and smiles at the

CAST post (Coffee and Sandwiches Together), outside Opportunity Council.

Chris described his first CAST experience: "It was truly an amazingly satisfying experience to serve tonight. Very emotional. **We served some 45 people.** Thanks for allowing me to participate." Led by the incredible **Mary Ann O'Hara**, CAST is one way Interfaith Coalition volunteers like Chris serve folks in need.

At Interfaith, we believe everyone deserves a hot cup of coffee... and a smile. In this night-time of seasons, here's to the crew who casts light.

Birthday and Baby Shower Come to Family Promise

We want birthdays--especially children's birthdays--to be memorable: lit with candles, served with cake, and filled with love. But when a child is experiencing homelessness, a birthday can be memorable in different ways.



Last week, one of our Family Promise guests became a teenager! And, this deserving child received cake with confetti frosting, thirteen candles, along with decorations and favors, thanks to "birthday bags" made up by the **Girl Scout Troop at Assumption Catholic School**.

Baby Shower

At Family Promise, we're also welcoming new life, so we hosted a baby shower. Wednesday evening, Interfaith friends, volunteers and staff gathered with mom-to-be, her three children (thrilled to welcome baby in January), and grandma.

"The best thing about the shower? You couldn't tell were the hosts and who were guests," said Interfaith Executive Director Laura Harker. **"At Family Promise, we become one family.** We all support each other in equal ways."

This season, we thank our *guests* who show those lucky to be *hosts* the meaning in December.

Above, the brave and the bright of Family Promise! Left, Family Promise Case Manager Marikka Matheny, and right, Family Promise Coordinator Carolyn Roy.

Giving That Makes Sense (and Brings Hope)

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.

Make Your 2019 Gift Now—and Save Taxes

Without a doubt, the one deductible expense over which you have the most control is your charitable giving. If you want to itemize deductions for 2018, consider doubling up on your planned charitable giving this year and skipping your usual giving in 2019—ensuring that your generosity will result in tax savings.

Gift spotlight: Heather and Tom have been giving \$6,000 each year to help underwrite programs of Interfaith for which they have a deep passion. But the total of all of their itemized deductions will not quite get them over the \$24,000 standard deduction for couples. So, they decide to make their 2019 gift to us in addition to their usual 2018 gift, both in the amount of \$6,000. In their 24 percent federal tax bracket, **making next year's \$6,000 gift now will enable them to realize almost \$1,440 of tax savings** they would have forfeited if they were unable to itemize this year and next.

Most importantly, here's our why, the reason we ask for your support.

"I believe in the mission of tackling poverty in our community. I believe in diverse faith communities working together. Interfaith Coalition does these two things by

"mobilizing hundreds of volunteers from these communities to work side-by-side and achieve results that are much greater than the sum of its parts."

—Nathan Dwyer, Board Member, Interfaith Coalition



910 14th Street
(St. James Presbyterian Church)
Bellingham, WA 98225
Main Office: 360-734-3983
Family Promise Office: 360-676-6207
E: info@interfaith-coalition.org

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
We are often in the office past these hours
and on Fridays, but please call
360-734-3983 to confirm.

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