

Home Lines: The News from Second and Bell

Noel House Programs Rose of Lima House

Fall 2012

Noel House Opens Additional Shelter to Meet the Needs of Homeless Women

“I slept on the streets when I had to sell my car,” explains Noel House shelter resident Dina. “That was one of the scariest experiences of my life. I would sleep under a tree during the day and do my best to stay awake at night. Always terrified. One night, two men assaulted me. A few weeks later, two girls jumped me and knocked out my tooth, broke my glasses. I am lucky to be alive.”

Noel House Programs exists to meet the very basic needs of women experiencing homelessness. Stories like Dina’s remind us of how dangerous it can be for women who do not have a safe, secure roof over their heads each night.

This past April, Noel House Programs answered the call for more shelter beds when we experienced an increased demand for safe places to sleep after the winter response shelters closed. [Winter response shelters are operated by the City of Seattle and King County from October 1st through April 15th.]

In addition to welcoming six women to sleep each night in the TV room at Bakhita Gardens, Noel House Programs partnered with Catholic Community Services to operate an on-demand, 30-bed shelter at the Randolph Carter Center in the Central District.

Between April 22nd and September 30th, Noel House Programs opened the additional shelters 92 nights and served an average of 31 women per night. Had we not opened these shelters, the women in need of a place to stay would have been sent into the night with no more than a bus ticket because all the regular shelters spaces were full.

The women who reside at Noel House in Bakhita Gardens were gracious in welcoming homeless women to sleep in their TV room. “Of course we welcome women to stay here,” stated Lindsey, a formerly homeless resident who lives at Noel House. “Every woman who stays in this building has been in the same situation. You can’t imagine how scary it is out there, not knowing who to trust or when things will get better. It feels good to give someone going through what I went through a place to stay. I only wish I could do more to help.”

Thank you to all of our generous supporters, volunteers, and committed allies who invest in the lives of our most vulnerable community members. Addressing the need for more shelter is a year-round endeavor. Below are some ways that you can help keep women indoors every night of the year. No matter how warm the weather is, it is never safe to sleep on the streets.

Ways to support year-round shelter

Contact Seattle City Council Members: Share with them how vital year-round shelter is for homeless women. Go to www.seattle.gov to contact our elected officials.

Volunteer at a Community-Based Shelter: Our volunteer-run shelters are always in need of compassionate community members to provide hospitality to homeless women. Contact Noel House Supervisor Cynthia McGee at 206.456.3107 for more information.

Donate: Your monetary contribution helps keep homeless women alive and off the streets. Please use the envelope provided or go to www.noelhouse.org to make a gift today.

Community • Opportunity • Growth

Noel House Programs

118 Bell Street
 Seattle, WA 98121
 Phone: 206-441-3210
www.noelhouse.org

Eileen McComb

Program Director
EileenM@ccsw.org

Sharon Poole

Community Liaison
SharonP@ccsw.org
 206-456-3013

If you or someone you know is in need of shelter, please contact the 211 Community Information Line or Noel House at 206-441-3210.

Rose of Lima House

118 Bell Street
 Seattle, WA 98121
 Phone: 206-456-3487
www.rosehouse.org

Quanetta West

Program Director
QuanettaW@ccsw.org

Scarlett Williams

Resident Services Manager
ScarlettW@ccsw.org
 206-456-3455

Rock Bottom Restaurant: A Thanksgiving Day Tradition

We have heard from many of the women who access Noel House Programs or reside at Rose of Lima House that they rarely, if ever, get to go out to a restaurant. That is one reason Thanksgiving Day at Rock Bottom Restaurant is an event women start talking about weeks before the holiday.

Rock Bottom Restaurant provides transportation from shelters and low-income housing programs to their downtown Seattle restaurant, where everyone enjoys a traditional Thanksgiving meal free of charge. Our community has grown to love this gathering since the restaurant served its first Thanksgiving meal in 2007.

“This is a day centered on dignity and celebration, served up with a side of warm hospitality,” emphasizes the team of staff that organizes the event. “More important than anything else, the guests feel honored and cared for by gracious community members. That’s what the Thanksgiving gathering is all about.” Indeed, the women marvel every year at how warm and included they feel at Rock Bottom. Staff politely refuse paying customers, explaining that the entire restaurant on Thanksgiving is devoted entirely to the guests they have invited from human service agencies.

Announcement of this year’s Thanksgiving meal at Rock Bottom literally received cheers from one community member. “I love the Rock Bottom!” she exclaimed. “The food is gorgeous, and the staff is so nice. You can dress up or go in casual clothes. One of the staff always dresses up like a turkey, which gets a great laugh. I can’t wait!”

CraftWorks Foundation, the charitable arm of Rock Bottom Restaurant, boasts a long tradition of serving holiday meals across the country. “In 1996, CraftWorks opened a restaurant called the ChopHouse in the historic Union Pacific building in downtown Denver,” explains Katy DeJonge, National Events and Programs Manager. “The purchase of this building displaced 100 homeless individuals who had been using the abandoned building as their home. The ChopHouse staff felt the need to provide for these individuals and invited them into our restaurant for Thanksgiving. This inspired many of our restaurant teams to host events in the communities where their restaurants serve.” Each year, these holiday celebrations host well over 10,000 people across the country.

Rock Bottom Restaurant is located at 1333 Fifth Avenue in downtown Seattle; their website is www.rockbottom.com/seattle. Please thank them for giving the women in our community a memorable holiday season every year.

Much-needed items to make our community great!

Noel House Programs:

Laundry soap
 Twin size flat and fitted sheets
 Feminine hygiene products
 Toiletries

Rose of Lima House:

Shampoo and conditioner
 Soap and lotion
 Twin size flat and fitted sheets
 Toilet paper

Our Daily Bread: Building Community through the Meals Program

Every Wednesday afternoon, a hard-working group of residents gear up to facilitate our Bell Street Food Bank. The Food Bank welcomes the 90 women who live in Rose of Lima House and Noel House at the Bakhita Gardens as well as the 41 women who reside in our sister program next door, Dorothy Day House. Two teams of resident volunteers set up a store in the Bakhita Gardens conference room and invite women to shop for fresh produce, meat and dairy.

“I love having a Food Bank where I live,” says Cindy, a regular Food Bank shopper. “It’s hard for me to go to a Food Bank on the bus since I have physical disabilities. I get healthy food each week I didn’t even know I liked!”

Just as rewarding is the generosity and compassion of the resident volunteers. Every shopper is warmly greeted and encouraged to take her time finding the things she likes. The women clearly enjoy this prime opportunity to support and contribute to each other’s health.

The Food Bank operates on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. If you are interested in lending a hand, please contact Sharon Poole at 206.456.3103.



Brynda and Chef Paul take a break from Wednesday night dinner prep.

Generosity Yields Abundance

Thanks to the Johnson-Haefling Foundation, Noel House Meals Program is flourishing in exciting new ways! Our breakfast and dinner programs--serving 40 women every day of the week--are supplemented with healthy proteins and dairy products.

“I remember when we didn’t have this many food choices,” says May. “It’s a big relief to start the day feeling better.”

Additionally, 12 women who call Noel House home have received Food Handler’s Permits. The women use their permits to seek employment, rotate the food available based on expiration dates, and assist with the safe preparation of the daily community meals.

Some of the women volunteer to cook community dinners that are shared with the Rose of Lima House community. “Sheila’s Loving Kitchen” is a regular Monday night event: Sheila and her friends plan and prepare a meal their fellow residents describe as “food for the soul--healthy and delicious!”

The women with Food Handler’s Permits encourage other residents to take advantage of the opportunity to learn safe food handling practices. They bring to life our mission to provide safe, comfortable refuge for all the women in our community with every meal that they prepare.

A special thanks to those in our community that make our Meals Program thrive:

Chef Paul Michelson comes weekly to prepare meals to be served throughout the week. The women look forward to spending time with his as much as they enjoy the wholesome meals he creates. Paul has done a lot to influence the level of care and courtesy the women extend to each other.

Food Bank Manager, Cay Shoemake, has volunteered with Noel House for 15 years and has been leading the Food Bank since its inception in 2011. When thanked for bringing her humor, compassion, and grocery bags to the Food Bank, Cay’s response is, “I get every bit as much as I give.”

We’re grateful to the amazing women who live at Rose of Lima House and Noel House for their contributions! It’s been rewarding to see the growth of community through their graciousness and commitment. Thank you!



Noel House Programs Rose of Lima House

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Wednesday, October 24th

Flying Fish Restaurant
300 Westlake Ave N

An Evening to Benefit

Rose of Lima House



SALMON SUNSET

Enjoy a beautiful salmon dinner and celebrate **Rose of Lima House's** second year as a permanent housing program for **formerly homeless women.**

Dinner seatings are at **6:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.**

To R.S.V.P.: Call Quanetta at (206) 456-3452 or quanettaw@ccsw.org with the number of guests and choice of first or second dinner seating.

Seating is limited; a minimum suggested donation of \$100 will be requested at the event.