



**NEWSLETTER: MARCH 2020**

## Leadership Announcement

We are pleased to announce that Alisa Chatinsky has accepted the role of Executive Director. As you are aware, late last year, The Sophia Way embarked on a search for a new executive director but we were unable to find a candidate that would be the best fit for the organization. Alisa, who was then our then interim ED, agreed to stay on through the opening of the new permanent shelter in late summer while we continued our search.



With Alisa as the ED, the organization will continue to stabilize our programs, operations, and fund development areas, while strengthening relationships with our government, foundation, and corporate partners. The team, processes, and procedures continue to morph — being more effective administratively, programmatically, and financially to prepare us for our move to the permanent shelter and day center with our ultimate goal of moving more women into housing. Over the next year, we will develop a strategic plan to best utilize our resources — Sophia's Place extended-stay shelter, the new Kirkland Shelter for Families & Women; and build a succession plan to assure the long-term viability of The Sophia Way.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for all you do to fulfill our mission to end homelessness for women.

With gratitude,

Maya Subramanian  
Board President

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# Addressing the Coronavirus Outbreak

We want to address the current situation with the coronavirus. Every day brings new developments related to the virus, and the uncertainty can be unsettling. We were sad to learn about the first deaths attributed to the coronavirus in Washington this weekend, and about the growing number of other cases that have been confirmed in King and Snohomish counties. Our hearts go out to those who've been impacted.

Please be assured that The Sophia Way is closely monitoring the situation on a daily basis. Our top priority is always the safety of the women we serve, our volunteers, and our employees. We are following the recommendations of public health officials in our daily operations.

We understand that everyone is in a different place when it comes to what is best for you and your family. Though it has been emphasized by health professionals that the risk is similar to the flu, we are exercising caution at this time.

## **Useful links**

[Public Health - Seattle & King County](#)

[WA Department of Health](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

## A Different World

Read Blog



An estimated 2,147 individuals were living in vehicles according to the 2019 King County Point-In-Time count. Read about the challenges faced by this population and how The Sophia Way's Outreach Program supports them.

## Housing First

***Angela arrived in Seattle in hopes of a better life, but faced some challenges before finding true happiness. She talks about her journey.***

I came here in 2018 to live with relatives I had not seen since I was two. However, I was soon forced to move out as there were some issues between us. I did not know anyone in the city. Also, I needed to have surgery for a medical problem. Fortunately, I found the emergency shelter of The Sophia Way and was able to get the help I needed.

After surgery, I got a place at their extended-stay shelter. It changed my life. I was able to keep my hospital appointments and recovered fully. My case manager helped me get my driver's license. I took



classes to improve my skills and knowledge in different areas. After four months, I moved to their transitional housing. This was a huge step and gave me hope for my future. A few months later, I met the love of my life. We got married in mid-February and are now in the process of buying a house.

None of this would have been possible without The Sophia Way providing me shelter, counseling, and giving me access to resources. The staff and my case manager were wonderful. I hope my story will be an inspiration to the women I met at Sophia's Place.

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## New Shelter Update



*Our Kirkland shelter continues to grow and take shape! The Sophia Way team visited the site recently.*

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***Thank you for supporting our mission to end homelessness for women in our community.***

**GIVE**

**NOURISH**

**VOLUNTEER**

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### **Our Office**

The Sophia Way  
11061 NE 2nd Street  
Suite 223  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
Ph: 425.463.6285  
Email: [info@sophiaway.org](mailto:info@sophiaway.org)  
9 AM to 5 PM

### **Day Center**

Sophia's Place  
(Behind St. Luke's Lutheran  
Church)  
3032 Bellevue Way NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004  
Ph: 425.896.7385  
8 AM to 3 PM  
Bus route: 249

### **Emergency Shelter (Until May 2020)**

Temple B'nai Torah  
15727 NE 4th Street  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
Ph: 425.463.6254  
8:30 PM to 7:30 AM  
Bus routes: 226, 245, B Line