



NEWSLETTER: JUNE 2020

How Are You Feeling?

Dear Friends,

Like many of you, we are processing what is happening on the Eastside, in Seattle, and across the nation. We are deeply concerned that in our community and our country, there are places where people are not treated equally; that systemic racism exists in our communities. Perhaps you are sharing our feelings of anger, shame, grief?

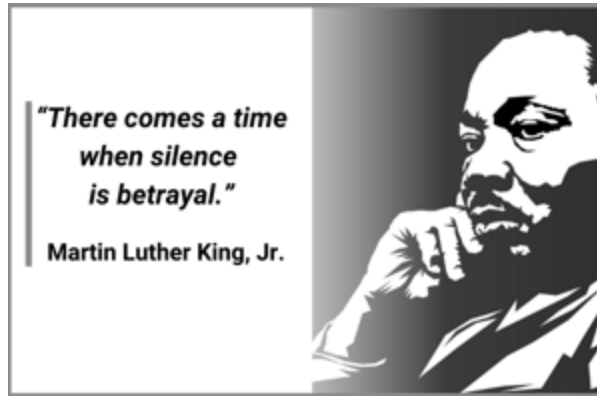
More than 45% of those we serve are women of color. Many are mothers and grandmothers. I cannot fathom having a conversation with my children about how to respond to a police officer when they are confronted. It breaks my heart that every day, mothers must have this discussion with their children. As an organization, we stand together to protect the rights of everyone regardless of the color of their skin. We will make our shelters trusted, safe places for all – clients, staff, donors, and volunteers. *We will not be silent. Together with you, we will work to make lasting changes that benefit everyone in the community.*

How do you feel about what is currently happening in our country? What actions have you taken or do you plan to take? Do you have resources to share with us to help us end systemic racism?

Your voice is important to us. Please feel free to [reach out](#) and share your thoughts.

With respect, gratitude, and courage for a better future,

Alisa Chatinsky
Executive Director



Program Updates

You are part of a big-hearted community!

These months of the pandemic have made us both anxious and scared, but there is so much good that has come from this crisis.

You have shown us the strength of our community. **You have stepped up and stepped up again.** No matter how often we've asked, you have been there financially, with in-kind supplies to keep the shelter safe, and nutritious meals. Women sheltering with The Sophia Way are resilient. Shelter staff have the deepest

compassion for the women. There has been joyous laughter by the women and the staff – but there have also been days of quiet despair, struggles with isolation, frustrations about abnormal physical distance, and worry for the future. While you have also likely experienced many of these same emotions, **you continue to make it possible for women to receive the care and support they need.**



The construction of the **Kirkland Shelter for Families & Women** is progressing and it is expected to open in September. It is hoped that we will be able to move from the Red Lion directly to the new facility. We await word from public health about how the pandemic will affect our capacity and will provide updates as we learn more. Our shelter, named *Helen's Place*, will give women 24/7 services and resources vital for their health and safety.

Lastly, we are especially appreciative that the **Bellevue City Council** recently approved a generous allocation from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for The Sophia Way. With the monthly expenses of our hotel-based shelter costing an additional \$120,000 per month over and above our budget, the CDBG funds along with **King County, City of Kirkland, Seattle Foundation, Biella Foundation, Tableau Foundation and the community's generosity** gets us closer to making up the deficit cause by the coronavirus. We are deeply grateful.

Serving with Love

[Read Blog](#)



The relationship between the **Muslim Community Resource Center** and The Sophia Way is built on a foundation of shared values, warmth, personal connections, and serving women with grace, dignity, and love.

Shelter Diary

The Sophia Way shelter staff share the positives and challenges of sheltering through the pandemic.

[Read Blog](#)



The Kirkland Shelter for Families & Women



The shelter is getting closer to being ready!

Thank you for supporting vulnerable women in our community.

Give women the shelter, care, and resources they need.

Learn about the many way you can get involved.

[GIVE](#)

[GET INVOLVED](#)

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Office

Currently closed

The Sophia Way
11061 NE 2nd Street
Suite 223
Bellevue, WA 98004
Ph: 425.463.6285
Email: info@sophiaway.org

Shelters

Currently located at

Red Lion Hotel Bellevue
11211 Main St
Bellevue, WA 98004
Phone: 425.896.7385
*Our shelters are at capacity and we are unable
to accept new clients at this time.*

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