



NEWSLETTER: JULY 2020

## The Spirit of Summer

Dear Friends,

It is a very different summer than those of years past. However, we continue to look for the sunshine and blue skies to uplift our spirits to better cope with the pandemic and systemic racism that plagues our nation.

The Sophia Way hosted a [healing vigil](#) in June, inviting our friends from Congregations for the Homeless (CfH) and Friends of Youth to safely stand together against police brutality and share a collective voice for equality. It was a restorative evening bearing hearts and prayers for our country to become anti-racist. Special thanks to Pastor Patty of First Congregational Church, Eric Ballentine of CfH, and Nabrath Sheriff of MAPS/ MCRC for their inspiration, and our own Dietra Clayton for organizing this meaningful evening.



You are helping us operate the shelters and day center from the Red Lion hotel until we are ready to move to **Helen's Place**, a new permanent shelter in Kirkland. Nearly complete, the 19,000 square foot facility will offer a day center and emergency shelter on the top floor, with the New Bethlehem Project offering shelter for families on the ground floor. The next 60 days will be spent completing construction and landscaping, purchasing, and installing equipment and furnishings to complete the space. With only \$150,000 left to complete the \$10M project, we hope you will consider [becoming a supporter](#) of our capital campaign to provide the shelter, safety and stability women need to overcome homelessness.

With the uncertainty of the past few months, The Sophia Way looked long and hard at our fall event, pivoting to an inspiring virtual fundraiser set for Tuesday, September 15. You will have time to "meet" with your friends before the event, learn about the resilient and brave women that stay with us, and hear about the impact of your generosity. Mark your calendar today for **Sheltering from the Storm** and let us know [how you would like to be involved](#).

While we have not been as successful moving women to permanent housing during the pandemic, we still have powerful success stories to share. [Amara](#) is one, and you can learn more about her story below.

We say it often because it is true, we are deeply grateful for your support. Your financial donations, gift of supplies, and nutritious meals, continue to lift the spirits of the women and staff every day.

With sincere appreciation,



Alisa Chatinsky  
Executive Director

## Amara's Story

[Read Blog](#)

[Donate](#)



A wife, mother and, veteran...homeless after 67 years. Amara had not planned to be homeless, but it is a narrative that is playing across the United States today. Amara's story has a happy ending because of the support of generous donors like you who made it possible to get the help and care she needed.

SAVE *the* DATE

 The Sophia Way

**SHELTERING**  
from the  storm

Virtual Fall Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Meetup 11:45 to 12:15  
Program 12:15 to 12:45

Information and registration: <https://sophiaway.org/sheltering>

**How can you participate?** Step up, become a sponsor or host, invite your friends, secure your seat for an empowering hour to hear about the important work we do to end homelessness in our community.

[Click here](#) to let us know how you would like to be a part of **Sheltering from the Storm**.

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## United for Change Vigil

As the movement against systemic racism, police brutality, and racial injustice continues to grow and be supported, The Sophia Way held a vigil to give people experiencing homelessness the opportunity to process their feelings and make their voices heard. On June 18, The Sophia Way was joined by partners from Friends of Youth and Congregations for the Homeless to safely take a stand and express their feelings. Special thanks to our own Dietra Clayton, Director of Client Services and Shelter Programs for spearheading an empowering evening.



Click the image to hear community members share their thoughts and support for all people. Their words were moving, powerful, and inspiring!

## Helen's Place – *Opening Soon!*



What would you like to learn about Helen's Place? Send us your questions.

[info@sophiaway.org](mailto:info@sophiaway.org)

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Thank you to those who donated to make our dream a reality!

Just \$150,000 to reach our goal. [Make your gift](#) today.

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*Thank you for supporting women in our community.*

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

Learn about the many ways you can  
support with your time and talent.

[GIVE](#)

[GET INVOLVED](#)

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**Office**

***Currently closed***

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**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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