

Dear Friends,

We continue to have hope for all good things this year. Although the pandemic is far from over, and there is still unrest in our country, we are optimistic – there seems to be renewed commitment at many levels to help everyone in our nation thrive.

When I recently visited Helen’s Place, I saw women safely interacting with one another in a stable environment, cared for by compassionate staff. It continues to give me a deep appreciation for our local governments, foundations, businesses, and individuals who made our new 24/7 shelter a reality. I can’t imagine women not having the safety and stability of Helen’s Place during this tumultuous time.

We are pleased to welcome two champions to our board of directors. Bellevue City Council member Janice Zahn with her experience and thoughtful approach brings great value to The Sophia Way. Dave Hamilton, CEO of Delivery Express brings a wealth of business acumen in his role.

A few months ago, I shared that we were completing a strategic framework to guide The Sophia Way in the coming years.

I am pleased to tell you, we are nearly ready to share our plan that includes a refreshed mission statement and values, along with a new vision statement.

We have much to look forward to in the year. Please continue to stay safe and stay healthy.

Warm regards,



Alisa Chatinsky
Executive Director



5 Ways to Gift a Smile!



1. Call someone you haven't spoken to in a while
2. Cook a surprise meal for a special someone
3. Read a story to a precious young one
4. Send flowers to a friend
5. Tell someone you thought about them

Resilient

Belinda came to Sophia's Place Extended-Stay Shelter in May 2020. At that time, the shelter was operating at the Red Lion Hotel. Belinda had one goal – to move into housing within six months (the period of time she could stay at the shelter).

But, first, she had to pay off some debt. Within three weeks, she had found a part-time job. Belinda did not have a car and undertook a grueling three-hour commute every day to and from her workplace. So she added another goal – to buy a car.

Belinda soon found a full-time position that helped her build savings. And, every day, she continued searching for an apartment. No matter how tired she was, she would spend time looking up what was available and affordable. That dedication paid off as a few weeks later Belinda found an apartment within her budget. She applied, was approved, and moved into her own place. Two weeks later, she was able to get a car from community partners, Auto Angels.

In just three months, Belinda had reached both her goals – and amid a pandemic! Belinda is an inspiration for what you can do when you persevere and are resilient.



Upcoming Event



Celebrating the Strength of Women

Tuesday, March 2 | 4 to 5 pm

[Register](#)

“Do not let anyone ever tell you who you are. Do not be burdened by someone else’s assumptions of who you are. Do not be burdened by their perspectives or judgment.” ~ Vice President Kamala Harris

Our upcoming event will celebrate the strength of women. We invite you to join us to hear powerful stories and discuss ways we can help women thrive.

- Hear from Janis and her case manager, Katie
- Meet two high school community advocates

Participate and celebrate strong women in your life!

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