

Dear Friends,

Each and every day we witness the determination, strength, and caring that women display and share throughout the community. We celebrate International Women's Day every day at The Sophia Way!

We endeavor to uphold the values of our founder, Helen Leuzzi, who started the organization with a vision to give unhoused women a safe place to shelter and rebuild their lives.

We honor and recognize the lived experiences of the women participating in our programs as well as those supporting services and care. Inspiration surrounds us as resilient and brave women seek new beginnings.

Your compassion and generosity means that women have shelter and safety on their journey to a place to call home.

Resilient. Loving. Determined. Courageous. Caring. Every day, we celebrate the many qualities, skills, talents, and leadership of women in our community.

With gratitude,



Dietra Clayton  
Managing Executive Director



Zee Peters  
Executive Director  
Development & Engagement



Sophia Hernandez  
Executive Director  
Finance & Operations



# Community Conversations with Bellevue Mayor Lynne Robinson



Mayor Lynne Robinson spoke openly and sincerely with us and the community on February 16.

She shared the City's community goal areas and acknowledged that affordable housing for all is a foundational challenge for the city. Bellevue has recently set a goal of creating 70,000 new units of housing by 2044 to accommodate the anticipated 35,000 jobs that are coming.

*"That's going to take a lot of work, a lot of partnership, a lot of planning."*

[Watch the recording of the event](#), including the Mayor's talk and her responses to questions from the community.

## Stories of Hope

### ***"Great things are happening in my life"***

Viola initially came to the Day Center before getting a bed at Sophia's Place *Extended-Stay Shelter*, and then moving to Nicky's Place, transitional housing. Viola needed to pay off debt. With the support of her case manager, she created a plan that paid the debt and she built savings too. Within a few months, Viola achieved her goal of being debt-free. In a year, she was also able to save enough to rent her own apartment. Today, Viola is in a good place and stays in touch with her case manager.



### **A new beginning**

Laura was living in her car at a safe parking program after leaving an abusive partner. She was sad and lonely, and began drinking heavily. Over many meetings with our vehicle outreach coordinator, they connected and Laura was motivated to meet a counselor and begin treatment. Laura is now three months sober. She is happy and eager to be moving into a place of her own soon.

# Upcoming Events



Join our Executive Team for a virtual hour of conversation. They will share updates about programs, volunteering, and the transition to distributed leadership.

March 30th | 9 - 10 am

[REGISTER](#)



A wonderful community provides home-cooked meals to nourish women at our shelters! You'll hear from meal donors and have the opportunity to share ideas.

March 9th | 11 am to 12 pm

[REGISTER](#)



## Employment Opportunities

We value diversity and are committed to supporting employees with competitive salary and benefits, training, and opportunities for professional development. Join us! [View current openings](#) and please spread the word.

## Your support helps women thrive

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