

Dear Friends,

Last month, we had the year's first Coffee with the Executive Team. We love that it gives us the opportunity to share about our programs, outcomes, and the challenges faced by the women we serve. We also love how engaged our community is with The Sophia Way's mission.

One of the questions we were asked was, '**What are the areas where community members can help with your goals?**'

-- **Be aware and informed, and make sure you speak up in the community.** That is a huge support for us. Attend your local city council meetings. Spread the word about issues facing those experiencing homelessness. In doing that, you will amplify our mission to be a place of hope and change for women.

-- **Support the development of low-income and affordable housing in our community.** The availability of housing is what helps the women we serve get into housing they can truly afford. Low-Income housing is paying rent that is 0% to 30% of what you earn – many of the women we serve live on social security (about \$800) which means they need this type of housing option. Affordable housing can be defined as what 'you' can afford. There isn't enough low-income or affordable housing in our region, let alone the Eastside. Please advocate for those unhoused and those who want to live on the Eastside but don't have the economic resources to stay here.

-- **Your financial gifts allow us to operate our shelters and retain staff with better pay.** Giving your time and talent helps us to stretch every dollar. Reach out to our team and understand where you can plug in – once you start coming in and seeing the direct impact of your support, you will not want to stop!

2023 is The Sophia Way's 15th year of operations – we've experienced growth and change and, in the last three years, faced immense challenges through the pandemic but have come out stronger.

Thank you for standing with The Sophia Way, ensuring that we can provide all of the services and resources required to effectively operate our shelters and provide the care needed for the women seeking our support.

With gratitude,



Dietra Clayton
Managing Executive Director



Zee Peters
Executive Director
Development & Engagement



2022: A Good Year!



128 women housed!

We are thrilled that we exceeded our goal of housing 100 women. We remain steadfast in finding women a

place to call home in 2023.



Our community gave their time, talent, and treasure!

42,209 nourishing meals donated.
6,091 volunteer hours given.

\$214,610 in donated goods.

Stories of Hope



Tracee moved back to the Eastside after losing her job in Alaska. She came to Helen's Place seeking a safe place to stay. Her case manager helped her with job applications, and shortly she got a job as an Uber driver. Within three months, Tracee had saved enough to rent an affordable apartment. With guidance from her case manager, Tracee developed a plan to keep her financially stable. She is now thriving!

Having a sizeable debt made it difficult for Janie to rent an apartment. She came to the Day Center at Sophia's Place seeking help. A case manager connected Janie with agencies that helped reduce the amount, and The Sophia Way supported her in paying the balance from the Client Assistance Fund. Janie was then approved for an emergency housing voucher and found an apartment in Kirkland.

Events



Thursday, March 9 | 4 to 5 pm

[Register](#)

Please join us for our virtual Community Conversations with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA).

Alexis Mercedes Rinck and Mallory Van Abbema from KCRHA will share an update about KCRHA's 5-year plan and key focus areas. There will be time to ask questions.



Join us for this virtual event!

Wednesday, May 17 at noon

[Register](#)

Your support helps women thrive

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The Sophia Way

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