

Christmas 2005

Dear Friend of Family Renewal Shelter,

As 2005 draws to a close, we pray that you and yours are well and anticipating a wonderful Christmas season. As we look back we rejoice in the many families we have been able to help and the great progress we have made this year. At the same time I have to admit that in many ways this time has been our toughest in many years. Due to some extreme challenges, which included a high level of danger from obsessive and threatening domestic violence perpetrators we needed to change the way we do business to strengthen our safety, so we have been unable to do the fundraising that is a critical to sustain our work. We are experiencing a large budget deficit and need to ask you to please consider helping us now. **2006 is the 20th anniversary of Family Renewal Shelter. Please help us to make it the best ever by helping us to catch up.**

Some local charities were not affected by hurricane relief funding but we were. Fuel cost increases have also had a tremendous impact as we have four facilities, provide transportation to clients and move tons of donations and building supplies each year.

I am greatly encouraged by the fact that you, our wonderful supporters have always responded generously during those times in our history when we have experienced a short term downturn in funding. That's what we expect this lean time to be, short term and temporary. But, right now it is of concern.

A special thanks to our tireless and faithful staff and volunteers, whose hard work and sacrifice help so many. Grateful thanks also to you, our generous partners who give of your treasure so that others might have a real chance at a life free of abuse and want.

We realize that you have a choice in who you support. We do not take your generosity for granted. If everyone who reads this newsletter will give generously now I believe we will be able to continue to accomplish great things in 2006 and beyond.

Our prayer is that you will experience all the peaceful joy possible as we celebrate the birth, life and sacrifice of the Prince of Peace.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

In Christ for Life,

Keith Galbraith
Executive Director, Family Renewal Shelter

Merry Christmas from all of us at Family Renewal Shelter!

All of the moms and kids have helped with decorating and cooking to turn the shelter into a warm and cozy haven of lights and yummy holiday smells. The Christmas music plays non-stop. The children are making their lists and moms are checking them twice.

We spent hours outside the other day making not one but four snowmen complete with hats and gloves. We are having so much fun here that it is sometimes easy to forget what kind of house this is. The eyes that are smiling today may have been filled with fear and pain only days or weeks before. The kids go to bed wondering what kind of fun is planned for tomorrow, not if they will be scared and afraid tonight.

A child's life should be filled with joy, laughter and expectation of a bright tomorrow - not just at Christmas, but every day of the year. Your help allows these courageous mothers the chance to give their children that future. Thank you so much! We couldn't do it without you!

Juliana
House Manager

"I pray that love will rule and reign and I pray that time will heal the pain of this world as we learn to trust and care. This is my Christmas Prayer."

Bebe Winans

"My Christmas Prayer"

Why give gift cards?

We're so grateful to everyone who supports our efforts to share joy at Christmas with gifts of presents, food and so many other things for the women and children.

This year we are asking our friends to consider giving gift cards. Here's why. Gift cards are much appreciated because they allow a freedom that most of our residents have not experienced. Women are able to get what they really need and want for themselves and their children as well as experience the joy of shopping that we all take for granted.

Any excess gift cards that we might receive at Christmas will be used for birthdays and other special occasions throughout the upcoming year. Thanks so much.

Here's how you can help today!

Support

1. *Fill out the enclosed card and return the enclosed envelope with your Christmas or year-end gift.*
2. *Online. Go to our website (www.domesticviolencehelp.org) select "donate" and follow the directions –OR go to www.networkforgood.org, type in FAMILY RENEWAL SHELTER, WA, and follow their directions. Our website is still under construction; networkforgood.org has a lot of good information about our shelter. Both options are **secure**.*
3. *Donate through United Way of Pierce County WA Donor voice program, FAMILY RENEWAL SHELTER #2420, or give through the WA State Employee Combined Fund Drive.*
4. *We also provide opportunities for major gifts, donations of land, vehicles, and other real estate property as well as bequests. We also need many volunteers.*

On November 29th, KOMO News presented an inaccurate report on commercial fundraising by a thrift shop that supports FRS. We have written to KOMO and requested a retraction. Call Keith at 475-9010 if you have any questions.

(Continued from outside)

I can't believe how much you do for all the people who enter your program. I will remember it, not as a shelter but as a home I will never forget. As my daughter and I were moving to our new place, you packed bathroom supplies and groceries for us and told me to make a list of anything else we needed and even to call at Christmas time. What could top all of this? Telling me I could call anytime if I ever needed to talk. Thank you Family Renewal Shelter. Love, Marta and Sylvia



6832 Pacific Ave
Tacoma, WA 98408

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christmas Greetings!

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Dear Family Renewal Shelter:

Today is December 26th, 2003. I wanted to thank you all for making sure that this Christmas was the best one I ever had! I felt like a kid who is loved and treasured! Thank you for being caring people who make a huge difference in the lives of people like me who have given up on experiencing the “normal” things in life.

Love, Anna & the kids

Thank you for a new beginning. You have brought life back into my life. Stacy

(continued inside)

FRS is a 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt charity founded in 1986. Our Federal tax identification number is 91-1347741, and we are registered with the state of Washington Charities Division. They can be contacted at 1-800-332-GIVE. We are funded by private contributions from businesses, community service organizations, individuals, and churches. All of our services are free and no monies come from government funding.

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