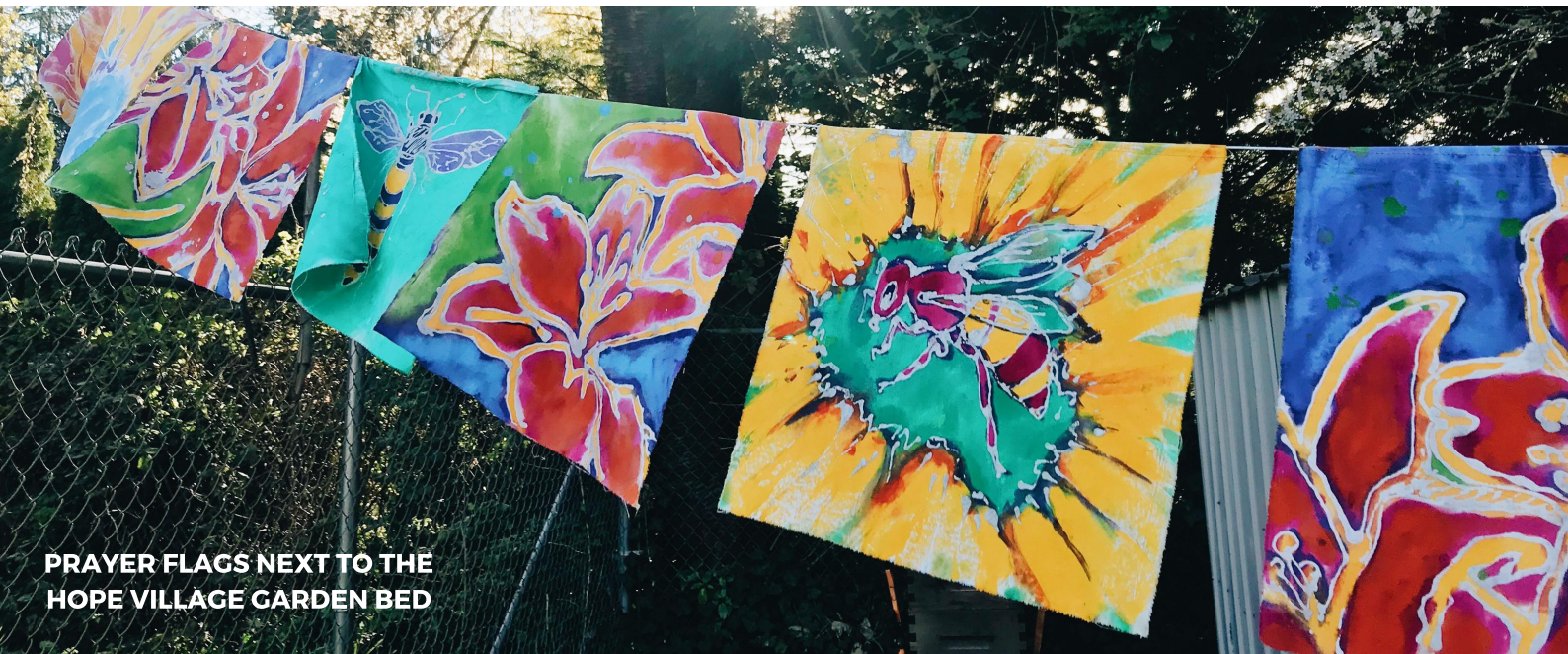


THE VILLAGE

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ON THE HAPPENINGS OF HOPE VILLAGE:
A MINISTRY OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WHICH SHOWS
FAITH IN ACTION AS A TINY HOUSE VILLAGE, PROVIDING TRANSITIONAL
HOUSING + SUPPORT TO PREVIOUSLY UNHOUSED FOLKS.



PRAYER FLAGS NEXT TO THE
HOPE VILLAGE GARDEN BED

WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE

Hi Everyone!

I would be remiss if I did not start out this newsletter by mentioning how incredibly grateful I am for the continued support and kindness extended to Hope Village.

In the past month, we have received many donations for operational costs, meals for the guests, assistance cleaning the village, and other support for the current guests. Indeed, "it takes a village" to keep Hope Village running smoothly.

-Shelby Shier, *Hope Village Coordinator*

WHAT'S NEW?

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Welcome

02

Current happenings at
Hope Village

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Become involved!

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Guest Engagement

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FAQ's on Homelessness

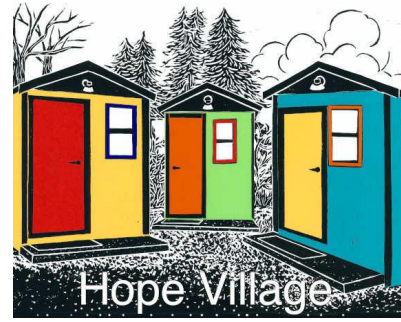
WELCOMING NEW GUESTS TO THE VILLAGE

In the last newsletter (June, 2020), we shared how we were getting ready to welcome new folks to Hope Village. Kamryn, the LIHI (Low Income Housing Institute) case manager, Sue Harris (the Garden Coordinator), and I conducted 12 different phone interviews in June. We then welcomed four of the interviewees for a second round of interviews + a chance to meet them in person. From there, we welcomed two awesome guests to join the community. We repeated this process mid-July and welcomed three more guests to Hope Village! The Village is now the most full that it has been, with a total of 8 stellar guests. We have guests ranging in age from 18-62 and learning how to honor and encourage everyone in unique ways.

We welcome referrals for guests from outside sources such as: Community organizations + non profits, churches, and self referrals. If you know someone looking for a temporary place to call home, while seeking support and services, please send them our way!



One of our new guests in front of their house



CURRENT HAPPENINGS

We have two wonderful guests moving into an apartment mid August. We are sad to see Lynne + her son Jacob leave, but joining in excitement for this hopeful new season of life. We have a list of household items that we are gathering for them- see below to sign up! Lynne has been an absolute treasure in the garden and has constantly given time to tend to all the plants.

Eric has also been putting in many hours at the Garden of Weedin', a ministry of WPC. The Hope Village gardens beds are overflowing with beautiful produce for the guests. Thanks to Sue, a faithful volunteer, we will have a nutritionist come to Hope Village in August to help the guests learn how to cook the fresh produce that is growing in the garden, while also explaining basic kitchen knowledge.

John, a HV guest, donated a grill for BBQ'ing and the guests have enjoyed meals in the garden.

We are looking forward to organizing events this fall, but pausing gathering in person for the time being.

WAYS TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT HOPE VILLAGE

Hope Village is honored to be supported by many organizations in our community, as well as individuals who feel passionate about ending homelessness in Thurston County and beyond. Our deepest thanks is extended to everyone who believes in our mission and comes alongside us to provide frequent tangible support for our guests + operational needs. If you are interested in providing aid to our mission, here are some steps to take.

1

Sign up to receive emails when support is needed, such as: Toiletries for the guests, current grocery needs, resources that would benefit the guests, and current event. Email: hopevillagecoordinator@wpcoly.org to get on this list!

2

Join us in prayer for Hope Village. Items to hold in prayer: Discernment + compassion in welcoming guests to Hope Village, success for our guests, the health + well being of our guests!



HV GUEST, JOHN, PLAYING CORNHOLE IN THE GARDEN

3

Volunteer!

Email: hopevillagecoordinator@wpcoly.org to sign up for any of these opportunities.

Current volunteer opportunities include:

- Volunteer to be a driver for guests to get to important appointments. *
- Volunteer to be part of Shower Ministry, a ministry that serves Hope Village and the Wheeler Community by offering shower services. *
- Help with maintenance on the tiny houses on an as needed basis. We are looking for carpenters + electricians that can help us install some updates to the houses!
- Bring a meal to the Hope Village guests! More on that below.

*In person volunteering is happening on a case by case basis as folks feel comfortable in light of COVID 19

GUEST ENGAGEMENT + LOVE IN ACTION

Many people have shown continual interest in not only supporting Hope Village + the guests in donations, but also support in the form of engagement and emotional support. Below, you will find a few ways to engage in communication and support with some of the guests.

LAUNDRY SERVICE

We are looking for volunteers or churches to be paired up with a house to provide regular laundry service for a guest. One load of laundry would need to be picked up once a week from the village and delivered within a day. This could be a great way to build connections with guests and meet a tangible need.

MEALS AT HOPE VILLAGE

Would your church or organization like to share a meal with Hope Village guests? Contact Shelby to set up a time! We have a lovely outdoor space for plenty of physical distancing.

We also have a grill in the garden—bring a meal to grill and share with the guests if that suits your fancy.

More of a dessert person? Great! We have a fire pit that would be excellent for s'mores.

MENTORSHIP

Some of the guests may benefit from one on one connection or some assistance working on resumes, job applications, or mapping out their goals. Set up a time with a guest for coffee in the garden or community area and get chatting! For example, one of our new guests has started her own non profit and would like some assistance developing her ideas. You can reach out to Shelby if you would like to be connected to any of the guests.

HOUSE WARMING GIFTS

Want to bless a guest when they move out? Sign up for our support list! You can deliver the desired items with a note or word of encouragement.

It should be noted: some of our guests are quite shy and some of them are more outgoing. Not all guests desire engaging with the community, but some have expressed the desire to foster relationships with members of our community.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT HOMELESSNESS

Why do people become homeless?

The lack of affordable housing and insufficient income are significant contributors to homelessness. When a temporary financial or life crisis occurs, it can result in a person's becoming homeless. The numbers of homeless follow the broad economic trends of the past decade: a rise during the recession, a drop during the economic recovery and a recent rise that correlates with sharp rent increases in Thurston County.* *(2018 Thurston County Homeless Census p.5)

Where do the homeless find refuge?

According to the 2018 Thurston County Homelessness Census, the homeless in our area found refuge in an emergency shelter (40%), transitional shelter (22%), out of doors (20%) and vehicles/RVs (17%). An example of emergency shelter is Union Gospel Mission. An example of transitional shelter is Hope Village

What support services are available to the homeless that help them address underlying issues and find stable housing?

The Thurston County Homeless Housing Program provides funding for non-profit organizations, local municipalities, for-profit developers and faith based organizations which can apply for this funding. Eligible activities include emergency shelters, overnight youth shelters, rental vouchers, furnishing of dwelling units, outreach services, services assisting persons leaving state institutions, and emergency eviction and prevention programs. The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services provides an array of programs to address financial, behavioral, rehabilitative, children's and other needs that can help individuals and families. Among the many local organizations that assist persons from becoming or remaining homeless include the Salvation Army, Union Gospel Mission, Interfaith Works, SideWalk and City Gates. These organizations provide advocacy, financial, spiritual, counseling and recovery support to the homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Questions and Answers derived from a document put together by WPC,
Resources: National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Coalition for the Homeless,
Invisible People, City of Olympia Homelessness Resource Page, Thurston County Homeless
Housing Program

Questions + Comments?

Please contact Shelby Shier, Hope Village Coordinator, at:
hopevillagecoordinator@wpcoly.org