



neighbors creating housing solutions



SPRING 2012

### Mission

Guided by faith, we unite with families and individuals who are facing a homeless crisis and create safe and healthy communities.

### Vision

To assist individuals and families on the Eastside who are facing a homelessness crisis by providing housing and services to help families become stable and self-sufficient.

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#### LEAVE A LEGACY

Contact KITH about how to bridge the gap for the homeless through the next generation.

## Fighting Homelessness Luncheon

### Raises Over \$65,000 for KITH

“After the medical bills from my husband’s cancer (which took his life), we couldn’t afford rent. The hardest thing was telling my son we had to move out of our home.” KITH’s client **Monica** told luncheon guests that she and her son hid their homelessness from school friends, work associates and even family members for two years. They lived “from place to place,” keeping clean and keeping their things in storage, sleeping in the car, and keeping their hope alive.

The Eastside community made hope a possibility for the homeless at KITH’s 3rd Annual Fighting Homelessness Luncheon on March 9 at The Woodmark Hotel. **Carol Nelson** and **Ruthie Smith** presented the first gift at the luncheon, a check for \$5,000 to KITH’s Executive Director, **Jan Dickerman**. The gift is a grant from **Opus Community Foundation** to help fund *Welcome Home*, a one-year KITH rent subsidy and case management program for homeless families.

“I give many talks every year,” Economist **Matthew Gardner** began, “This speech is by far the most difficult I’ve given this year because the economic statistics represent real people, real homeless children, in our community.” Gardner predicted our economy will improve, but reminded the audience that we are doing well compared to many other parts of the country, well enough to consider the needs of others. Jan Dickerman shared the 85% success rate of KITH’s 2011 Transitional Housing program. Jan said, “KITH is in the right place at the right time to make a difference for homeless families.” **C.J. Kahler** and **Lisa Kennedy** of the **Rotary Club of Sammamish** challenged luncheon guests to consider how to help Monica and families like hers in our community.

**Brian Martens** of **Burnstead Construction** was honored as the 2012 Bill Petter Homeless Housing Advocate, for his work to recruit volunteers and vendors who remodeled two apartments at KITH’s Salisbury Court property in March. “I’ve done some research on Bill Petter.” Brian told the crowd, “After learning what kind of impact he had on this community, I am humbled to receive this recognition.” Bill Petter’s grandson **Ben Petter** presented the award. With inspiration from the Bill Petter Angel Matching Fund, this year’s event raised over \$65,000 to support KITH programs helping homeless families.



#### THANKS TO OUR TABLE CAPTAINS:

- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Ken Davidson                | Makayla Powers  |
| Jan Dickerman               | Christine Rose  |
| Marylue Gutow               | Redith Ross     |
| Kirkland Interfaith Network | Lynn Sanborn    |
| Carol Nelson                | Scott Sinclair  |
| Claudia Ollestad            | Bill Vadino     |
| Chuck Oxford                | Jim & Amy Walen |

#### THANKS TO SPONSORS:

- Lakeside Collision Center of Bellevue/ Fixx Auto, The Woodmark Hotel, Julia’s Floral, TekDigital Printing



This is the time for our community to transform how we view and care for vulnerable children and families. The challenges homeless families face are complex and multi-faceted. Becoming homeless thoroughly disrupts life, as stability and routine all but disappear.

Homelessness severely impacts the health and well being of all family members. Children without a home are in fair or poor health twice as often as other children, and have higher rates of asthma, ear infections, stomach problems, and speech problems (*Better Homes Fund, 1999*). Homeless children also experience more mental health problems, such as anxiety, depression, and withdrawal. They are twice as likely to experience hunger, and four times as likely to have delayed development. These illnesses have potentially devastating consequences if not treated early.

To help children have stability, safety, and an opportunity to thrive, KITH is working to effectively meet the housing needs of their families and use housing as a platform for families to connect with the supports they need to pursue opportunity. However, **housing is not enough**. Many times the crisis of homelessness is the first time a family is able to identify and face difficult issues that have been suppressed. Most if not all, homeless families have faced domestic violence, abuse and severe family disruption. KITH case managers are there to help families when the circumstances of becoming homeless leave no choice but to address the issues. Case management is a systematic approach to identifying goals, celebrating goal achievement and increasing one's ability to use learned skills to solve life issues.

Of the families that KITH is serving today, 75% are homeless for the first time. Our goal is to assist those families in a meaningful way to prevent recurrent homelessness, find community connections and ensure stability for the children. A hallmark of this work is the recognition that a stable home is the foundation all families need to provide children with the opportunity to become healthy, productive adults. Children gain self assurance, receive an education and learn to problem solve.

Your involvement and support for KITH makes transformation possible for the vulnerable children and families we serve, and for our community. Thank you for caring.

*Jan Dickerman*

**Jan Dickerman, Executive Director**

## Letter from the Director

### Thank You

Happy Mother's Day. Thank you for your gifts helping homeless mothers keep hope alive for their families. We're pleased to share with you that Monica, who spoke at KITH's luncheon (see article and photo on page one), recently made the Dean's List at the community college where she's finishing her degree. Gifts made in May will help KITH continue to assist homeless moms (and dads) to make positive life changes.

## Mom Creates a Legacy

An anonymous donor recently informed KITH that she has been updating her estate plans and has designated a bequest to KITH in the amount of \$50,000 in her will. She's passionate about KITH's mission, has been a KITH donor for almost three years, and has great confidence in KITH's leadership and the future of the organization.

She said she plans to continue to contribute annually, but invited her children to consider the tax implications and impact of a bequest. They agreed that while this bequest "would not make a big difference" to their families' financial well being, it could have a significant impact on KITH's ability to serve homeless families. "My children are catching on to my desire for a legacy that outlasts our family," she said. "Seeing them catch this vision is the greatest gift ever – to me!"

If you have included KITH in your estate plans or would like information about legacy gift planning, please contact [christiner@kithcares.org](mailto:christiner@kithcares.org) or call Christine Rose at 425-576-9531 ext. 104.

## Thanks to our 2012 KITH Supporters!

### Platinum (\$10,000+)

 EvergreenHealth

**The Windermere Foundation  
Rotary Club of Sammamish & District 5030**

### Gold (\$5,000+)



*Lakeside*  
COLLISION CENTER OF BELLEVUE

**Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club  
Holy Family Parish  
Holy Spirit Lutheran Church  
Opus Community Foundation  
Toyota of Kirkland/Toyota USA**

### Silver (\$2,500+)

**Wahle Family Foundation**

  
**WOODMARK\***  
HOTEL • YACHT CLUB • SPA  
ON LAKE WASHINGTON

\*Significant in-kind support

# FEEDING THE HOMELESS:

## Making KITH Community Supper Happen

“This is my only meal today!” and “If I couldn’t take food home, I would have nothing to eat tomorrow...” These are two comments Redith Ross has frequently heard at the KITH Community Supper, a free meal for those in need of food support offered each Tuesday from 6-7:00 PM at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland. “When guests tell me how much they need and appreciate Community Supper,” Redith said, “It reminds me how important this work is, and why I’ve chosen to volunteer.”

From 2002 to 2007, Redith helped to coordinate a Kiwanis group to host Community Supper. Host groups plan and purchase food, set up tables and chairs, prepare a meal for anywhere from 40 to 80 guests, and clean up after the meals. The Kiwanis also have traditionally planned an annual holiday party for the children at Community Supper. In 2007, Redith started to recruit and schedule all the host groups. Groups need to have 8-10 volunteers, high school age kids are welcome to serve if accompanied by adults, and groups must have the physical strength to set up and take down tables and chairs.

Inspired by the Kiwanis holiday party, Redith has been instrumental in bringing more special programs to Community Supper. “Our guests rarely have celebrations in their lives. It’s more than they can afford. So it’s very special when we can add a party to Community Supper.” She’s a gifted recruiter and facilitator. “I love meeting people. I must meet at least twenty new people every year at

Community Supper. I really enjoy meeting with the host groups and enjoy interacting with our guests.”

Host groups serve once or several times a year. Community Supper is open to all. “We don’t take reservations and we don’t limit guests’ attendance. There are never leftovers,” Redith reported. “Especially moving to me and to our host groups is the joy of the children.” This spring they’ve come to Community Supper dressed in their frilly best, or in little ties and sweaters and brought their biggest smiles for free family photos provided by volunteer Leslie Fouche.

Mark Tillman, a Kirkland real estate broker, joined Redith as an event facilitator starting in 2008 and Laine Loveland became a facilitator in March 2012. They make sure Community Supper is a positive experience for everyone: the children eat, study and play in the spaces provided, host groups observe the church’s facility use requirements, and the supper goes well for all.

A KITH Board member since 2009, Redith chairs the Community Supper committee and continues to recruit and coordinate host groups. “We’d love two more people to assist Mark and Laine. We always welcome groups who are interested in hosting and people willing to provide special programs. It’s a great volunteer team experience. The 2013 calendar will likely be filled by October.” Interested volunteers or volunteer groups may inquire by calling 425-576-9531 ext. 101 or email [kith@kithcares.org](mailto:kith@kithcares.org).



### Volunteer Profile

*Redith Ross*

### Volunteer Info & Opportunities

#### COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

**PROGRAM** – During April, **National Volunteer Month**, we’d like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all our amazing volunteers. You are making a difference for our community. Thank you for caring!

#### CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- **7 Hills of Kirkland** – day of event (May 28) and food prep (May 24-27)
- **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner Committee** – meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays, 7 PM, KITH office
- **IT professional** to assist KITH’s Tech Support Team
- **Website & Social Media professionals** to assist KITH’s Social Media/Marketing Team
- **Painters/plumbers/contractors** to assist KITH’s Property Maintenance Team with Phase II of Salisbury Court remodel
- **Receptionist/Administrative Assistants/Screen Line Volunteers**

For more information, please contact [kith@kithcares.org](mailto:kith@kithcares.org) or call 425-576-9531.

*Volunteer Voice*



### Remembering JEAN JAYNE

A weekly KITH Community Supper and Homework Helper volunteer for twenty plus years, Jean passed away January 25, 2012 at 91. Jean loved spending time with the kids at Community Supper and was delighted to volunteer for KITH. Jean will be greatly missed for her quiet, caring demeanor and consistency, both as a volunteer and as a KITH supporter. She is survived by son Charles Jayne (Shannon), grandchildren Jason Jayne (Amy) and Kayla Jayne, and two great-grandsons, Micah and Jonah. All of us at KITH are grateful for Jean’s generous support of KITH. Thanks to all her friends who made gifts in her memory.

### RALLY YOUR FRIENDS and support KITH as part of:



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neighbors creating housing solutions

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**KITH LEADERSHIP**

Jan Dickerman,  
Executive Director  
Ron Olsen, President,  
Board of Directors



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SPRING 2012

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Memorial Day • May 28, 2012  
Kirkland Marina Park

## 7 Hills of Kirkland

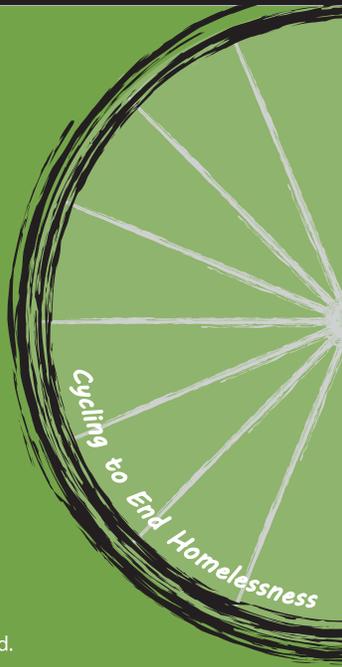
Presented by EvergreenHealth



neighbors creating housing solutions

www.7hillskirkland.org

Proceeds support KITH services for families in need.



### Join us for these 7 Hills of Kirkland weekend events:

**Friday, May 25**  
**5:30 - 7:30 PM**

7 Hills Welcome Reception at Evergreen Healthcare with Bill Thorness, author. Copies of Bill's book, *Biking Puget Sound*, will be available for purchase.

**Saturday, May 26**  
**7:30 AM - Noon**

3rd Annual Kirkland Kiwanis "Pancaking to End Homelessness" Pancake Breakfast at the Peter Kirk Center

**Monday, May 28**  
**7 AM - 4 PM**

7 Hills of Kirkland Cycling to End Homelessness at Marina Park

### Tea & Thanks

**May 30 & October 8, 11:00 AM**

A fun, casual hour helping KITH's Volunteer Program Administrator to personally thank all our amazing event volunteers. Nice handwriting helps! Email [volunteer@kithcares.org](mailto:volunteer@kithcares.org).

### Coffee, Tea & KITH Community

**June 29 and October 26, 11:00 AM**

During this informal coffee hour you'll meet Jan Dickerman and a KITH Board member and learn more about KITH programs and services. No charge, no request for donations. For a reservation, email [christiner@kithcares.org](mailto:christiner@kithcares.org).



Save the date

## Annual Dinner

October 7, 2012