



Immanuel
COMMUNITY SERVICES

1215 THOMAS STREET, SEATTLE, WA 98109 - (206) 622-1930

WINTER 2016



Home Sweet Home

Congratulations Rafael!! A longtime Hygiene Center guest, Rafael recently moved into his own apartment. Rafael had been on the streets in the Cascade Neighborhood since he arrived in Seattle in 2004. Struggling with drug addiction, he found it hard to hold a job and navigate the social services & housing systems. Last summer, he decided he wanted to make a change and got clean. So, when he got the call telling him an apartment was going to be available soon, after four years on the Seattle Housing Authority waiting list, he was ready to start his new life! ICS was able to help Rafael set up his new apartment with donated towels, blankets, pillow, sheets and kitchenware. Rafael applied for a job and has an interview coming up soon.

Good Luck Rafael!

"The Immanuel Lutheran Hygiene Center has been a "God Send" for me over the 11 years here in Seattle. A place where I can clean my clothes, take a shower and relax. No other place really in Seattle does that. The "Gym" like we like to call it, helps me start my day. When you're homeless, it feels good to have a shower and clean clothes to start your day. So I just want to say Thank you!"

- Rafael Avilucea



We Won!!!

On January 21st, Immanuel Community Services was named the "**Non-Profit of the Year**" for 2015 by the SLU Chamber of

Commerce! In addition, ICS Executive Director Patty Turnberg was named "**Changemaker of the Year**," an acknowledgment of her tireless work on behalf of our neighbors who are hungry, homeless, and in recovery. We are deeply honored by these awards and encouraged to keep up the good fight. Thank you SLU Chamber of Commerce, and thank you to everyone in the community who voted for us!



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

Lucky me! I had a wonderful two week vacation in Costa Rica and then returned to learn that the SLU Chamber of Commerce had voted Immanuel Community Services as the Nonprofit of the Year for 2015! What pleases me most about this is that more and more people are learning about our work...and more people are supporting what we do here in this little white church.

I am sure there are still people who walk by every day and don't know all that goes on in here. There's not much in the way of signage—no neon lights. Just an occasional food bank line or people's belongings on the sidewalk (which we try to discourage).

But to be recognized for what we are doing inside these walls... That's wonderful. Thank you to all of you for your interest and support. Now I have a favor to ask of you... The next time you and your family or friends are having a discussion and the issue of homelessness comes up, listen carefully to what people are saying and thinking, and try to help us dispel some of the myths about homelessness.

Most of you are aware that the recent One Night Count identified an increase in the number of folks who are homeless in Seattle. Unfortunately, there are still those who believe that if Seattle provides too many services, we will only encourage people to move to Seattle and reap the tremendous benefits... of sleeping outside in the rain, digging through trash cans for food, and having nowhere to go all day to get out of the rain. Sounds like a real vacation, doesn't it?

Let's please NOT forget some factors that contribute to homelessness... job loss, illness and medical bills, mental health issues, domestic violence, and, as we know all too well, addiction. And don't forget... high rents! Couple these factors with the onslaught of well-educated, well-paid young people who actually ARE moving here because we happen to have a beautiful city, which makes the demand for housing go up — and the prices go up. Finding affordable housing is mission impossible. If you lose a job, you can't pay rent... and that's it. You are out on the street. And it is hard to find and keep a job if you are homeless.

So when you chat with your friends about homelessness in Seattle, please correct them if they feel that this city is

offering too much to those who are homeless. Instead, encourage a discussion about some of the causes of homelessness and tell them about what ICS is doing to help those who are homeless!

I am always open to giving people tours... and we always need volunteers! Maybe this year YOU will give us a call and come help us serve Community Lunch or work at our Food Bank. Come on down... and bring your friends!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Patty Turnberg
Executive Director

Current ICS Board Members

- Kevin Johnsen, **President**
- Ann Wolfe, **Vice President**
- Noelle Smithhart, **Secretary**
- Addison Smith, **Treasurer**
- Paul Ehrlich
- Diakonda Gurning
- Juanita Merrifield
- Jonathon Nichols
- Siri Quigley
- Jewell Tice

Thank you for your service!

Food (Bank) For Thought

During our recent Food Bank annual audit—which we passed with flying colors!—we learned a couple of important facts about food security in Seattle:

- **Food bank attendance** is **down 6%** from last year
- In that same period, **the poundage of food donated** to area food banks has **decreased by 12%**

This means that food donations are *not* keeping pace with hunger in our community. How can you help??

Support your local food bank! Organize a food drive, volunteer, or donate online at www.icsseattle.org!

Shout Out to Whole Foods South Lake Union!

The Whole Foods Market Bag Refund Program has raised a total of **\$279.35** for Immanuel Community Services! Thank you to our friends and neighbors at Whole Foods for your support!



ICS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two new staff members at Immanuel Community Services. Shawna McMahon joins us as a Case Manager working primarily in the Hygiene Center, and Keith Yeadon joins us as an Intern from the Transformational Leadership Program at Seattle University.

Shawna McMahon: Shawna is no stranger to the ICS Hygiene Center. Last year, through the Mental Health Chaplaincy, she worked with our guests in the Hygiene Center, providing companionship and support services. Before that, she managed the Safe Environment Program of the Archdiocese of Seattle for eight years, was a chaplain at the UW Newman Center, and worked and volunteered at Denny Place Youth Shelter for ten years.



In her free time, Shawna is a Deployment/Logistics Specialist for EMPACT Northwest, an international disaster relief organization, and she travels at least once a year to Nicaragua to volunteer at Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, a home for orphaned and abandoned children.

Shawna holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Washington and a Master of Arts from Seattle University. A Seattle native, she loves hiking, exploring Mount Rainier, playing with her super-adorable nephews & niece, and is a lifelong Seahawks fan!



Keith Yeadon: Keith is Immanuel Community Services' new intern, coming to us from Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. Keith is a graduate student in the Transformational Leadership program. Keith grew up in southwest Washington. He and his wife, Jeanne, have two sons. Tim and his wife Kara are in Seattle, and Ken and his wife Sonya live in Chicago.

Keith's has worked for DuPont and Agfa as a Manufacturer's Representative selling hardware and software to the printing and publishing industry. He has an MBA from City University of Seattle and an MA in Theology and Culture from Northwest University in Kirkland.

Keith and Jeanne moved from Redmond, WA to Lower Queen Anne in December 2014. They were shocked to find men living in the alley behind their apartment building, and a woman sleeping in the stairwell of the commercial building next door. Keith's internship objective is to gain practical experience in the operation of a faith-based non-profit as it provides services for the homeless. The goal is to understand how to help people move out of homelessness.

Welcome to the team, Shawna and Keith!

2016 One Night Count

By Keith Yeadon

Through the late evening of January 28, 2016, and into the early morning hours of the next day, 4,505 people were categorized as homeless in King County. They were found outside sleeping in parking garages, vehicles, doorways, city parks, bushes, bus stops, and alleys. Some were walking, and others were found riding late night buses. The number of people living in vehicles increased 41% and those living under roadways increased 45% over 2015. Overall, **homelessness increased by 19%** between 2015 and 2016.

The Summary of the 2016 Unsheltered Homeless Count in Selected Areas of King County does not offer any reason for the 19% gain, nor does it suggest what could happen in future years—but the numbers therein show a sobering trend. The 2016 19% spike is significant, but homelessness in this area has been increasing since 2012—and there has been a 74% increase in homelessness in King County in those five years.

What does the future look like for Seattle and the South Lake Union area? In November 2014, developers were advised that an additional 6,000 residential units would be needed in Seattle for incoming new hires in the next few years. This is one aspect of a gentrifying trend, the net effect of which is that low-income earners are displaced because new housing is priced out of their reach. This consequence of gentrification is described in Brendan O'Flaherty's 1996 book, *Making Room: the Economics of Homelessness*. He wrote, "I will argue that income inequality is behind the increased homelessness in North America. Income inequality went up the most in those cities with the most severe homelessness. In cities where people get most of their housing from richer people, a smaller middle class means a smaller supply of housing for the poor."

For many of our neighbors living at the subsistence level, as an increasing percentage of their income is spent on housing, they will need to fill in the gaps with food banks. Those that become homeless will require many services to stabilize their lives. Those trapped in addiction will need help to guide them through their recovery. As homelessness increases in our city, Immanuel Community Services' work in South Lake Union becomes ever more critical as we struggle to provide adequate support to those in need around us.



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Seattle, WA 98109

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ICS WISH LIST

Items:

- Small desk with drawers for Hygiene Center
- Plastic document files to protect clients' papers from rain
- Water cooler for office
- Canned items for Food Bank

Volunteers:

- Monthly Community Lunch volunteers
- Hygiene Center Breakfast volunteers
- Food Bank volunteers for week-end pickups and food sorting



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 13th

12:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Parish Hall

Immanuel Lutheran Church
1215 Thomas St., Seattle, WA 98109

Call **206-622-1930** with any questions!