

# THE FRIENDSHIP TIMES

Newsletter of Friendship House, Mount Vernon, WA

## Providing hope to the hopeless

By Tina Tate, Executive Director

Debbie and her 3 children came to Friendship House in May 2016. They have been homeless and couch surfing since 2012. She and her Children were living in Minnesota, but came back to Skagit county to help her ailing family. They found themselves on the street again after Debbie became pregnant and the living situation with her family became unstable. Debbie and her husband are no longer together and she is faced with providing for her family alone.

When Debbie was younger she struggled with alcohol and drug addiction Plus her husband is challenged with mental illness as well as alcohol and drugs. At one point in Debbie's life she had a break down was placed in a mental health facility on two different occasions.

During life's struggles she and her husband faced, Debbie was charged with two separate felonies and her credit was ruined. It has been many years since she used drugs and has her mental health issues under control.



Since Debbie and her children have been at Friendship House she has been able to focus on providing a stable life for her family. Debbie is a hard worker and is trying everything in her power to make a better life for her and her children.

**Debbie is a hard worker and is trying everything in her power to make a better life for herself and her children**



There are a couple of problems that prevent her from finding housing and a job. With her criminal history, poor credit and the rental market being so competitive she is on the bottom of the landlords list of prospective tenants.



Debbie has been able to stay at Friendship House a little longer than the 90 day average stay, but needs to find housing soon. She remains optimistic even though she has not had any success with finding reliable resources.

Your donations gave this family a safe, secure place to stay plus three nutritious meals a day. Their life is much more stable and full of Hope because of you.

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# Hunger to Hope (H2H) Connections

By Jerry Shackette

## *Hunger to Hope connects Apprentices and Area Chefs and Cooks for Project Homeless connect*

An exciting event for foodies was the Farm Food Feud cooking competition staged by the Mount Vernon Farmers Market this summer. H2H Apprentice Tabitha D. had the chance to assist Chef Nick Hankemeier from Fireweed Terrace Restaurant as he competed for the top prize along with alumni apprentice David K who assisted Chef Kumar Sharma from the taste of India. Chef Kumar ultimately captured the first place award.

One of the goals of the H2H program is to connect apprentices with professionals in the local foodservice community. It's a first step in establishing the professional network the apprentices need to start building their foodservice career

Apprentices also enjoyed the recent opportunity To provide lunch to all that participated in this years Project Homeless Connect event presented by Community Action of Skagit County.

Apprentices Cameron M and Tabitha D. joined H2H instructor and kitchen Manager Tom Hoffman in the kitchen at Skagit Valley College to help prepare 1100 meals for guests and service providers at the annual event. This will be the second year that H2H apprentices and Chef Tom have cooked for this event



*For additional information regarding the Hunger to Hope Program, you can reach Jerry Shackette at 360.873.8022 or [jerry@skagitfriendshiphouse.org](mailto:jerry@skagitfriendshiphouse.org)*

## Here We Grow Again!



A recent opportunity opened up to buy another piece of property conveniently located two houses down from our Women's Shelter. It will be used for formerly homeless adults as "permanent housing." This housing will be offered to people staying in our shelters. Plans call for five bedrooms that will house individuals who are on a fixed income. The low rent will include all utilities. The Tenants will have easy access to the Café if they need to utilize that resource. We need to raise about \$70,000 and we are doing a capital Campaign to generate the funds to do the renovations. If you would like to help with this please write Barbara's House on your check. Or call our office at 360.336.6138

## Our Gratitude

Tina Tate, Executive Director

We would like to give a special thank you to the businesses that do work for us for free and reduced rates.



***"What an incredibly generous community we live in. We couldn't do this work without you! Thank you so much!"***

**Thank you to our Hunger to Hope Partners**



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Tom Hoffman, Kitchen Manager

Jerry Shackette, H2H Program Coordinator/Development Manager

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[www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org](http://www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org)

## Transitional Housing

By Tina Tate, Executive Director

For the first time we are housing a whole family in our transitional housing. Terri, her husband and two children will be able to stay for up to one year in our transition program.

Phil, Terri's husband, was in the US Navy for 21 years and Terri worked 16 years in the medical field. Phil's retirement check pays child support for his other children and Terri has had a hard time finding work since being here in Skagit County.

Because of the lack of affordable housing they found themselves living in their car. After three months in the car they began staying at Friendship House, Phil in our men's shelter and Terri and the children in our women and children's shelter. Phil has been working and Terri just got a job recently. They will be able to save for housing and be self sufficient within a year, because of the program.





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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fashion show and Benefit Auction.

Swinomish Lodge and Casino

March 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

Thursday Evening

*En Vogue!*

*Save the Date For*