

Upcoming Events



Auction 2011 **Sky's The Limit** March 12, 2011

Interfaith Advocacy Day **in Olympia** Thursday, March 17, 2011

Updates are posted on our News&Events Page at
www.compasshousingalliance.org

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February 2011

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COMPASS News

February 2011



A LUTHERAN ORGANIZATION

Happy New Year From the Director

It is hard to believe we're already almost two months into 2011. The year 2010 was very productive despite tough financial times. Compass Housing Alliance faced decreasing revenue and increased demand for services. We have stretched our financial resources and improved our infrastructure to support our growth and to reach out to and respond to the needs of people who have come to Compass Housing Alliance seeking help with the challenges they face.

The merger of the Compass Center and LATCH into Compass Housing Alliance was completed. Staffs have been integrated; accounting, insurance, property management, and Boards have been consolidated. In short, the merger is working well.

New/Improved Properties and Programs

- **The Crown Hill Property** was refurbished and additional tenants and uses were added. Today the buildings are active working spaces, serving our community seven days a week. The Bethel Ethiopian Lutheran Church will worship in the sanctuary on Sunday and have an office in the church building. The church buildings are the site for a Meals Program, a co-op preschool, offices for Home Step and Girls on the Run, 12 Step meeting place, and other activities.
- The 60-person men's shelter was moved to the new spacious **First United Methodist Blaine Center** at 2nd and Denny, a space designed and built as an urban ministry site. The partnership with the FUMC congregation inspires me.
- **Compass Veterans Center-Renton** was completed on time and within budget and was dedicated in October. The Veterans Center is now fully occupied by 38 single adults and 20 families, including 32 children. The building is beautiful and is a safe, secure home for over 90 people.

Upcoming Property Development

- Compass Housing Development formed a joint development agreement with **Gethsemane Lutheran Church** to redevelop the church sanctuary, build new Church office and social services space, and build 50 units of low income housing for individuals and families (The Dekko Place).
- The financing for the **Nyer Urness House**, an 80-unit apartment building to be built in Ballard, was obtained from the City, County, State and Housing Finance Commission. We have applied for a building permit and expect to receive it and begin construction later this summer.
- The **Bethlehem Lutheran** Congregation in Columbia City, after a prayerful discernment process, gifted us their property for future development. The building is now home to Columbia City Church of Hope, a Lutheran New Start Congregation.

A significant accomplishment of 2010 is that the 1550 people served each day were helped in a welcoming, respectful, and effective manner that recognized their personal dignity and affirmed their status as a unique and special child of a loving God.

We are optimistic about our accomplishments for 2011. Thank you for your continued support.

Continuing Support for Homeless Veterans



Veterans Center - Renton

We want to give special recognition to the Blackburn/Aurora VFW Post 3348 for a generous donation to our Veterans Programs made this January. We are so grateful for partnerships with Veterans organizations, especially now that our latest Veterans housing building is complete and occupied. The Compass Veterans Center - Renton opened in October 2010 and all 58 apartments were fully leased by the end of the month.

If you would like to learn how to support Veterans through the VFW, contact VFW3348@comcast.net.

Items We Need

- Travel size shampoo, soap, etc.
- Bath towels
- Men's shower shoes
- Washcloths
- Towels

★ Thank you to everyone who helped us provide Christmas gifts to our clients in 2010! Even with the addition of 20 families and 38 individuals at the Compass Veterans Center - Renton we managed to make it work and provide everyone with a meaningful gift.

InterFaith Advocacy Day - March 17th

We need your help in Olympia. Voice your support for affordable housing and services for homeless and low-income adults and families. Participate in interfaith prayers, hear briefings and attend workshops on legislative issues and the state budget crisis, and meet your legislators to voice your concerns! Because of the diminishing tax revenues and continuing budget cuts, it will be very important for the voice of the faith community to be heard during this session of the legislature. Budgets are a stark reflection of our values. This is a great opportunity for us to make use of our strong voices and make sure that our resources take care of those in need.



Advocacy Day starts at United Churches, 110 11th Ave SE at 8:30 a.m. and moves to the Columbia Room in the State Capitol at noon. Appointments and meetings should be finished by 3:00 p.m. All faith communities are welcome!

Registration is \$20 before March 10. Registration includes an Information Packet, Continental Breakfast, Lunch, and Legislative Appointments. Register online at <http://thewac.org/ifad2011/>

Gethsemane Groundbreaking

On January 14th, we held a groundbreaking ceremony on the 11th floor of the Aspira Apartments, a building that sits on the former parking lot of Gethsemane Lutheran. Construction is now underway on the re-development of Gethsemane and the new Dekko Place apartments, which will have 50 units of workforce housing, some of which will be set aside for people with disabilities.



Evie and Ron Bang, Naomi Bang



Deputy Mayor Darryl Smith



Bishop Boerger helps distribute memento bricks from the church to Gethsemane members



Gethsemane's Jean Anderson

One Night Count 2011

An extraordinary community effort takes place each January in the small hours of the morning: hundreds of volunteers organized by the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness take part in the annual One Night Count of people who are homeless outdoors. Early on January 28th, 2011, nearly 900 volunteers in teams around King County found **2,442 people sleeping on the streets**, under bridges, in their cars, on public transit, in temporary shelters and in makeshift campsites.

Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness (SKCCH – pronounced “SKITCH”!) organizes this One Night Count in partnership with its member organizations, including Compass Housing Alliance. Compass staff play key leadership

roles during the One Night Count. They helped with logistics, hospitality and a hot breakfast for volunteers. The Compass Housing Alliance building in Pioneer Square hosted more than 450 Count volunteers. The Shoreline Veterans Center also coordinated Count teams and served as the Count headquarters for North King County.

SKCCH will publish a complete *2011 One Night Count Report* this spring, including results from the Coalition's survey documenting the unmet need for Family Shelter, and information about the roughly 5800 people who were in shelter and transitional housing on the night of the count. Please visit www.homelessinfo.org to learn about the Coalition's work all year long to make sure that *Everyone Counts*.



Photo by Jake Warga



Auction 2011 - "Sky's The Limit!"



**Saturday, March 12, 2011
6:30 P.M.**

at the Museum of Flight

Tickets available until 2/28 online at our Events page at www.compasshousingalliance.org or by calling 206-357-3138.

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