

## Upcoming Events



European Travel: Getting the most out of every mile, minute and dollar

Thursday, Oct 20th at 7:00 PM  
Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood

Tickets: \$35/\$25 students  
Purchase online at our Events page or by calling 206-357-3138.

**Auction 2012**  
"Up Up and Away"  
Saturday, March 10th  
at the Museum of Flight

More info coming soon to our website.  
[www.compasshousingalliance.org](http://www.compasshousingalliance.org)

## Compass Housing Alliance

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

### Join Us Online

#### NEW ONLINE PORTAL

Donate, create a profile, manage your contact information, check giving history, and more!  
[community.compasshousingalliance.org](http://community.compasshousingalliance.org)



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## COMPASS News

October 2011



A LUTHERAN ORGANIZATION

## Welcome HomeStep!

This was a big summer for our agency. On July 1st, we officially welcomed HomeStep to the programs of Compass Housing Alliance.

HomeStep, formerly a program of The Church Council, is a transitional housing program that serves 44 families in scattered site apartments and 33 single adults in six houses. Four-hundred individuals are served on an annual basis. HomeStep has been well regarded as a key player within the homeless service delivery system, particularly the homeless family system.

We are excited about this because it allows us to:

- Increase our capacity to serve homeless families with children.
- Strengthen our standing as a provider of services to homeless families.
- Continue the HomeStep Self Managed Housing Program as a valuable transitional housing program for single adults in our community.

And, it was all a natural fit; HomeStep had already been partnering with us by placing clients in Compass Housing Alliance housing units. They have great case managers and children's and young adult advocates. We're pleased to welcome them all to the Compass family!



If you wish to be removed from this newsletter list, or to update your address, please email [Llund@compasshousingalliance.org](mailto:Llund@compasshousingalliance.org).



October 2011

COMPASS  
HOUSING  
ALLIANCE

77 S. Washington St.  
Seattle, WA 98104

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 1143  
Seattle, WA

## Leaves of Remembrance



One of the leaves embedded in the sidewalk



Day Center Coordinator Steven Curry

On August 16th, The Homeless Remembrance Project installed and dedicated 26 new leaves commemorating the lives of homeless people who have died. Fifteen leaves were placed in front of Angeline's, a day center for women, and 11 now grace the sidewalk in front of our Adult Service Center on 3rd Avenue.

At the dedication ceremony, there were tears and laughter as friends gathered to remember those who passed. We were reminded that there is much work to be done to keep our neighbors from dying on the streets.

## Remembering a resident

On August 5, 2011, Bergan Place lost a resident who had been living in our community for three years. She kept herself fairly well isolated and did not know many of the other residents, but had a close relationship with the staff as she had many needs. Marty was 61 years old and had worked hard to become a Nurse and then a Physician's Assistant, practicing for about 10 years. She became ill in 2007 and was never able to get back to work, which was a major disappointment for her. Because Marty lived an isolated life, she was left with no close friends or family. It fell on us at Bergan Place to handle all of her items and the final details of her life.

Some positive things have come from her passing: we are able to donate many of her items to organizations and individuals in need. Her hospital bed went to a 91-year-old woman who was in desperate need of a hospital bed but did not have the funds. SMART (Single Mothers Acquiring Resources and Training) is opening a new facility for single mothers, and they will receive some of her items to help furnish and decorate 8 bedrooms available for temporary housing. I have also collected several bags of clothing to go to an organization that helps larger size women dress for new jobs.

I believe that Marty touched many lives in positive ways while practicing as a PA. Sifting through her life in the last seven weeks I have found boxes full of medical text books, helpful handouts she could use to educate patients, and many notes she had taken showing her dedication to her practice. It deeply saddened me that she had passed unacknowledged. I could not let her death go unnoticed. We had planned to make stepping stones during our annual barbeque at the end of August, so we used that as an opportunity to have her memory live on here at Bergan Place. As a community we incorporated some of her personal items into the stones. Single earrings, pretty glass hearts and small stones now live in our gardens in memory of a woman who did great work for others for the majority of her life. At the end, life was tough for Marty; she was in pain physically and mentally. I like to think that she has now found some peace. Even though this has been a challenging time for us at Bergan Place, I feel that we have learned many lessons and are stronger as a community.

Mishele Bang  
Bergan Place Site Coordinator

## Statistics = Real Lives

The Census Bureau reports that household income -- in Washington State and across the country -- declined in 2010, while the percentage of people living in poverty increased. **More than 47% of single women who have a child under the age of five are living in poverty in our state.** This is just one startling statistic that speaks to the need for safety-net programs and affordable housing.

More people than ever are seeking the services that Compass Housing Alliance provides -- from hygiene services to safe affordable housing. We need your support; more importantly, the men, women and children we serve need your support. **Please make a gift.**



## TIPS Intern makes for a fun summer!

This summer, Northlake Grove community welcomed an intern from Teens in Public Service (TIPS). TIPS fosters future leaders committed to their communities by connecting teens with internships at non-profits. Our intern, Deepika Sharma, spent every Tuesday through Friday with the kids at Northlake Grove.

Deepika worked with children ranging in age from 5 to 13. She led activities such as hiking, arts and crafts, sports and days at the park. She was enthusiastic about her job and said that the energy from the kids made her excited to be there every day. For her, the best part of the summer was the friendships she developed with the kids. Thank you, Deepika and TIPS, for a wonderful summer!



Deepika with the Northlake Grove kids

Thanks to the following groups for their awesome donations of school supplies: Peace Lutheran Church, Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, First Lutheran of Bothell, Northlake Lutheran Church, and US Bank. Because of you, the kids living in our affordable housing programs got to start the school year fully prepared!

## Help with the Holidays

Help provide meaningful gifts for the homeless men and women of Compass Housing Alliance

### What we need this year:

1. **Cash Donations** - the best way for us to provide support and essential items during the holiday season and throughout the year.
2. **\$5.00 Gift Cards** - to Subway, McDonald's, Starbucks, grocery stores etc.
3. **New Backpacks or Duffle Bags.**
4. **New Sweatshirts** (L, XL, and XXL sizes are most needed).
5. **New Hats and Gloves** - dark neutral colors are preferred.

Please deliver all gifts to 77 S. Washington St., Seattle, WA **by December 15th**. For questions or ways to support families and children: Kristi at [kweber@compasshousingalliance.org](mailto:kweber@compasshousingalliance.org) or 206-357-3108.

### Other Current Donation Needs

- Bath towels (new or gently used)
- Twin sheets (new or gently used)
- New men's shower shoes
- New Socks
- Pillows
- Quilts

It is important that all used sheets and towels be laundered before delivery. Thank you!

## Day of Caring 2011

Thanks to the AMAZING groups who cleaned, painted, installed new kitchen cabinets, did yard work and helped us out any way they could. On September 16th, 17 groups of volunteers through United Way Day of Caring went to 17 of our sites and took care of business! We are so grateful to them for making it easier to serve and house our clients in clean, welcoming spaces!



Above: This group from Microsoft (the CMG Global Marcom Strategy team) raised funds to replace disintegrating kitchen cabinets, paint, buy furniture, and make over the staff office at Hammond House women's shelter. Then they arrived on Day of Caring and did all the work themselves!



Left: Painting crew at Bergan Place. They bought all of the supplies and painted all three floors in one day!