



## THIRD DOOR COALITION

In retrospect it seems obvious: homes cure homelessness. So often the focus is on feeding programs, jobs, social programs, public assistance, drug treatment or temporary shelters. That’s where my head was as I drove by the ever-growing number of tents by the freeway entrance ramp. Then a voice on KUOW said, “There is a data-driven solution to end chronic homelessness.”

Huh? Can we really end this?

The speaker was Sara Rankin, an associate professor of law at Seattle University and founder of the Homeless Rights Advocacy Project. She spoke of the impossible challenges so many of those who are homeless in our city face—unexpected health challenges, evictions, mental illness, drug addiction, physical trauma—not to mention the ever-rising cost of housing in our city and a shortage of affordable mental health services. She talked about a housing first approach—permanent living spaces with support services, also known as wraparound housing—and provided compelling data to demonstrate its effectiveness in combatting chronic homelessness. Research shows that a housing first approach is far cheaper than what we’re doing now. The cost of funding emergency room visits, police work and a rotating series of temporary shelters can add up to the tune of about \$50,000 per year versus \$18,000 for a housing first approach.

The chronically homeless are those who have experienced homelessness for at least a year, or who have been repeatedly homeless while also struggling with a disabling condition like substance abuse, a physical disability or mental illness. They are the most vulnerable and the most expensive to care for.

The more I learned, the more viable a housing first approach seemed. Seattle already has two national leaders developing permanent supportive housing: Plymouth Housing and Downtown Emergency Services Center (DESC). In other words, we already have programs in place that work. We just need more of them.

So where does the money come from?

I got in touch with Sara Rankin, spoke with homelessness experts throughout the region, and met with community leaders and business leaders. In time we decided to form a group called Third Door Coalition. Our goal is to help end chronic homelessness in King County within a decade through permanent supportive housing.

Third Door Coalition is composed of Seattle-based researchers, business leaders and service providers. Partners include Paul Lambros, the Executive Director of Plymouth Housing; Daniel Malone, the Executive Director of DESC; Professor Sara Rankin; and local business and community leaders.

Our first step is to undertake a feasibility study. Once the numbers are vetted, we will turn to business leaders, philanthropists and foundations to generate capital. We intend to develop a funded plan in early 2020.

Ending chronic homelessness will take more than our efforts alone. Fortunately, other organizations like Facing Homelessness, led by Rex Hohlbein, are doing powerful work toward similar goals. Many other capable organizations are working with the episodically homeless, and governmental organizations are working on expanding affordable housing and transitional housing. While the challenges are significant, progress is being made.

I am proud to be a part of Third Door Coalition and increasingly believe that we can come together as a city and a region to do something both radical and compassionate: provide permanent supportive housing for those most in need of our compassion.

— Matt Galvin, Co-owner

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# PLYMOUTH HOUSING



## BUILDING HOPE, TRANSFORMING LIVES

Searetha Simons is currently on Plymouth Housing's Board of Trustees as a resident representative and a volunteer at the organization's Essential Supply Center, but it didn't start that way. By her own account, Searetha had a pretty normal childhood. She was a Bluebird, then later a Camp Fire Girl. She acted in plays. When Jimmy Carter was running for president, she was a Junior Democrat. Then trauma struck, followed by drug use and addiction. At age 50, Searetha, homeless at the time, was arrested and spent 85 days in jail. "That's when I hit bottom," she said.

She told herself she needed to turn her life around. But as an addict with an arrest record, and without a permanent home, that wasn't an easy prospect. Searetha was one of 3,500 adults in King County classified as chronically homeless. This subset of the homeless population is the most difficult to house and often the most vulnerable.

**“There are no quick fixes. This is a long-term commitment.”**

Many rotate through emergency rooms, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. Some, like Searetha, wind up in the criminal justice system. It's a tough cycle to beat without a roof over your head or knowing where you'll find your next meal.

Plymouth Housing helps break this cycle by providing homes and comprehensive support. "We believe in housing first," said Paul Lambros, Plymouth Housing's Executive Director. "When people are dealing with medical issues, substance abuse and mental health issues, there's no way they can get help while living on the streets."

Plymouth Housing was founded in 1980 by Plymouth Church in downtown Seattle. Homeless people often slept on its doorstep. Initially, congregants provided shelter and eventually formed a nonprofit that grew to provide housing with wraparound services. Today, Plymouth has 14 buildings with over 1,000 apartments. Permanent supportive housing is not intended as a step to something else. Success means that residents are not falling back into homelessness. By this measure, Plymouth's success rate is 94 percent.

"We are filling gaps in the social safety net—helping people who have slipped through the cracks in our society and have trouble accessing mental health care, drug treatment and health care," said Paul. "When people are without homes, their basic needs are often met by acute systems, resulting in more time in hospital emergency rooms, jails and temporary shelters. For the cost of three days at Harborview or three weeks in King County Jail, Plymouth provides a full year of housing and supportive services."

In 2013, Searetha moved into Plymouth's Pat Williams Apartments in the South Lake Union neighborhood. Residents of the Williams receive focused, daily support on their journey out of addiction. "It's the place I call home," Searetha said. "And my granddaughter gets to spend time with me."

Leo Shriver, a Plymouth Housing case manager, said, "There are no quick fixes. This is a long-term commitment. It has to be the right fit and the right time, but anybody can be helped with the right resources."

Plymouth Housing recently announced it has raised nearly \$50 million of a \$75 million capital campaign. Combined with funds from the city, county, state and federal governments, the donations will finance the construction of eight new buildings in the Seattle area. Premera Blue Cross, Swedish Health Services, Providence St. Joseph Health, Amazon, Microsoft, Steve and Connie Ballmer,



Photo credit: Elisabeth Vasquez Hein

and the Wyncote Foundation donated \$5 million apiece, the Norcliffe Foundation provided \$4 million, and many other individuals contributed \$1 million. When completed, the new buildings will add another 800 supportive housing units. The addition is sorely needed as Seattle struggles with a boom in its population of chronically homeless individuals.

"We are compassionate people here in Seattle," Paul says. "We have great wealth. We should be able to deal with this issue as a community."

Searetha is a shining example of Plymouth's success. In 2016, free of her addiction, she moved into Sylvia Odom's Place, an environment that affords residents more independence. It also freed up space and staffing resources for individuals beginning their journey out of homelessness. "Life has made a big turn," she said with a smile.

## DOING OUR PART

**Cathedral Kitchen** Every weekday afternoon, the long tables that fill St. James' dining hall, located in Cathedral Hall on Seattle's First Hill, are set elegantly for 180 people. As the doors open, the long line of people in need of a meal file in for a nutritious, multi-course dinner.

Cathedral Kitchen serves nearly 40,000 meals each year. This high level of production takes over 110 volunteers a week and food donations from far and wide. In addition to supporting the kitchen financially, every third Thursday of the month, Pagliacci Pizza provides the meal. This is a tradition dating nearly ten years now.

[stjames-cathedral.org/outreach/kitchen.aspx](http://stjames-cathedral.org/outreach/kitchen.aspx)



**OSL** is a progressive nonprofit that provides nutritious meals to those struggling with hunger in our community. Founded in 1989, they started by handing out 30 organic sack lunches a day, hence the original name OPERATION: Sack Lunch. Eventually, they changed their name to OSL. In 2018, they served over a million free meals throughout the Seattle area.

Food rescue is a big part of OSL's operation. They provide Pagliacci with designated food safe bins and pick them up several times a week. Abid Choudhury, Data Administrator for OSL, says, "The pizzas we get from Pagliacci are wonderful, and the assortment gets the clients excited as they point and choose which slice they'd love to get."

[oslserves.org](http://oslserves.org)





# JUST SAY HELLO!

Here are a few more of our favorite organizations that help the homeless

## FACING HOMELESSNESS

In a city facing a large homelessness epidemic, it is easy to form negative stereotypes about those living without homes. In 2010, Rex Hohlbein started Facing Homelessness: a movement created to alter the narrative surrounding homelessness and help the homeless community with supplies, shelter and compassion. Rex believes just saying



Photo credit: Rex Hohlbein

hello can make a difference, and it does. By saying hello to one man living on the streets, Rex started a movement that has since turned into a successful nonprofit organization helping to reform homelessness in Seattle.

Using social media to post photos and stories of the homeless in Seattle, Facing Homelessness reminds us of the beauty of people living on the streets. “Every single person that is outside has a profound reason for being there,” Rex says. “And in our busy, busy lives, we have rushed past those profound reasons. This is what I would like for all of

us to know. No one chooses to be homeless. No one.” The connections Rex began building in the community started with the Window of Kindness, where supplies are given to people facing homelessness. This has led to the development of community, companionship and conversation.

Facing Homelessness also tackles issues of homelessness through The BLOCK Project, a community-based project that provides housing to those in need. These sustainable houses are integrated into communities in the backyards of homes. BLOCK homes foster community and connection between social classes and help to bridge the gap between them. “The bulk of people who are outside are suffering from various levels of trauma, but are perfectly capable of living in communities,” Rex says. “In fact, they will heal faster and integrate faster if they are living in communities.” It truly takes a village to make an impact, and Facing Homelessness provides opportunities for people to help however possible. For those not able to volunteer, donate or participate in The BLOCK Project, Facing Homelessness encourages simple acts of kindness. Something as small as sharing a smile can make a huge impact. Other ways to get involved include carrying small items such as socks in your car to give to those in need, or purchasing gift cards in small amounts to provide access to shelter, bathrooms and food.

Together, we can make a difference in people’s lives. Rex believes “If we’re going to end the suffering of homelessness, we’re all going to have to slow down and get involved in some way.” To learn more about Facing Homelessness, visit their website at [facinghomelessness.org](http://facinghomelessness.org) or their Facebook page at [facebook.com/HomelessInSeattle](https://facebook.com/HomelessInSeattle).

## PATH WITH ART

Transforms the lives of people recovering from homelessness, addiction and other trauma by harnessing the power of creative engagement as a bridge to community and stability.

[pathwithart.org](http://pathwithart.org)

## FARESTART

Helps people in need transform their lives by offering training for food industry jobs. More than 90 percent of graduates land jobs.

[farestart.org](http://farestart.org)

## OPERATION NIGHTWATCH

A unique organization that provides hot meals, shelter, warm blankets and street ministry to Seattle’s homeless.

[seattlenightwatch.org](http://seattlenightwatch.org)

## REACH

An independent outreach organization that builds relationships with homeless camp residents and helps connect them with services.

[evergreentx.org/about-reach](http://evergreentx.org/about-reach)

## SEASONAL PIES

### WILD MUSHROOM PRIMO

Wild fungi (and those who hunt them) are a breed apart, refusing to be domesticated. In the forests and slopes of Western Washington, some of gastronomy’s elusive treasures hide in plain sight—if you know where to look. Foraged and Found Edibles supply us with a flavorful medley of wild mushrooms for this seasonal pie. We roast them in herbs and combine them with onions, mozzarella and provolone over an olive oil and garlic base. After baking, we sprinkle the pie with parmesan and fresh parsley.

Available the month of October.

### CHANTERELLE PROSCIUTTO PRIMO

As the leaves turn yellow in the forests, golden chanterelles sprout underfoot. Some rush to photograph the autumn color, others brush the fallen leaves aside to pluck the mushrooms. Foraged and Found Edibles brings us baskets of chanterelles for this seasonal favorite, which we partner with La Quercia’s prize-winning prosciutto. The delicate meat and the earthy mushrooms rest on a bed of creamy mozzarella over an olive oil and garlic base.

Available the month of November.

### PEAR PRIMO

Did you know Washington State is the top grower of pears in the country? Late in the year, they make their way to the market, and we buy the plumpest, ripest pears available. Not much complements pears better than creamy, piquant gorgonzola and walnuts, but we’ve found mushrooms and red onions make the pizza even more fulfilling. Mozzarella and fontina on an olive oil base round out this memorable seasonal pie.

Available most of December.

### ROSEMARY POTATO PRIMO

What could comfort the heart more on a cold, dark evening than rosemary-roasted potatoes and tender, marinated chicken? If that sounds tasty, then this wintry seasonal will brighten your spirit. In addition to the rosemary potatoes and slightly sweet chicken with a touch of heat, we add red onions, parsley, mozzarella and kasseri cheese over an olive oil base seasoned with red pepper flakes. This pie is finished with fresh parsley after bake.

Available late December through mid-January.

— NOW AVAILABLE —  
VEGAN CHEESE!

We’re happy to announce we now offer vegan cheese at all of our stores! We found the perfect dairy-free mozzarella substitute from Bellevue-based Good Planet Foods. It looks like cheese, melts like cheese, has a texture like cheese, and tastes like cheese. Try it today!



MEET FIVE PLYMOUTH RESIDENTS



98%

OF PEOPLE WHO  
ARE HOMELESS  
WOULD MOVE  
INTO SAFE AND  
AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING IF  
AVAILABLE



MARIE JOINED 2015

Something people might not know: That I've done work installing siding

Favorite Seattle spot: Olympic Sculpture Park

Favorite band: The Beatles

Favorite type of pizza: Hawaiian

What makes you laugh: My dog

Hobbies: Volunteering at the food bank

Favorite subject in school: PE



DAN JOINED 1996

Favorite movie: *My Man Godfrey*

Secret talent: I tell stories

Favorite Seattle spot: Pike Place Market

Favorite band: Metallica

Favorite type of pizza: Hot!

What makes you laugh: Funny people

Hobbies: Facebook

Favorite subject in school: Once I started to understand it, calculus



IN THE SPAN  
OF 3+ YEARS,  
PROVIDING  
HOUSING FOR KING  
COUNTY'S MOST  
VULNERABLE  
RESIDENTS  
OFFSETS AN  
ESTIMATED

\$7  
MILLION

IN PUBLIC  
COSTS



DUKE JOINED 2004

Favorite movie: *The Shawshank Redemption*

Favorite Seattle spot: Union Station

Favorite band: The Moody Blues

Favorite type of pizza: Hawaiian with pepperoni and sausage

Hobbies: Playing guitar, writing

Favorite subject in school: Art, writing poetry



BRUCE JOINED 2016

Favorite movie: *Sleepless in Seattle*

Secret talent: Driving trucks

Favorite Seattle spot: Anywhere near the water

Favorite band: Jimmy Reeves

Favorite type of pizza: Pan crust meat lovers

Hobbies: Fishing, country dancing, experimenting in the kitchen

Favorite subject in school: Pottery

IN 2018



3,552

PEOPLE WERE  
CHRONICALLY  
HOMELESS

DATA POINTS  
TO A LACK OF  
AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING AS  
THE PRIMARY  
ROOT CAUSE OF  
HOMELESSNESS



MARIO JOINED 2003

Favorite movie: *Cheech and Chong*

Something people might not know: About my artwork

Favorite Seattle spot: All of Seattle

What makes you laugh: People

Hobbies: Drawing

Favorite subject in school: English and algebra

PIKE & SUMMIT STORE OPENING IN DECEMBER!

Our new location on East Pike St. between Crawford and Summit on Capitol Hill will be a homecoming of sorts, as it is located on the ground floor of the building that has long served as our headquarters. The restaurant will feature a slice bar, beer and wine, and seating as well as a test kitchen and training facility. It will also showcase the neon Pagliacci sign from our original University Ave store.



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