



Every December Gg's House looks back at the year to see what we have accomplished and what we can improve and build on for the year ahead of us..

In 2023, Gg's House continued to serve people or organizations who came to our door or called for help free of charge. At Gg's House anyone that comes to our door we will do our best to help them or direct them to another organization that can help them with their needs. We serve about 400 to 600 people a month that come to Gg's House's door. That number doesn't include the people that are reached by other organizations, schools and food banks we give items to.

On a small scale this year, Gg's House was able to begin a program that Gg's House has been dreaming about for years. The program allows people who have transitioned from life on the street to being housed. Gg's House was able to let 3 of the people volunteer at Gg's House with expectations, guidelines and rules for them to follow. This helps them give back to the program that once helped them. It has help them with social skills, stay on their path, a volunteer position to put on a resume. It gave them a safe place to ask questions and develop skills they haven't learned or haven't used in years. We hope to expand this program once we get a bigger building where we can offer a more in-depth program.

This past year, Gg's House was also able to do more outreach programs. One of the outreach programs was at the Gaston Marketplace. Where Gg's House handed out camping items, seeds, clothing and much more free of charge. During the outreach Gg's House had a laundry soap making demonstration, where people could learn to make laundry soap, take a sample and the instructions to make more at home. Gg's House created Gg's Bucks due to an amazing donor who asked us to help local small businesses with their donation. How the Gg's Bucks worked is for the day of the Gaston Marketplace, Gg's House randomly handed Gg's Bucks to customers who could then use the Gg's Bucks to shop at the Marketplace and after the close of the market, Gg's House paid the vendors that came to return the bucks. Gg's House did the Gaston National Night Out where we gave away items and connected with people. Gg's House has been privileged to attend other organizations events, show our support and learn about the programs we refer people to and share ideas.

### **Changes came to Gg's House this year!**

Gg's House understands change is hard for everyone, even us! So thank you for accepting the changes without to many complaints. Gg's House changed our hours to 10am-1pm as our volunteer base needed this change to allow them to have more family time. Gg's House also started collecting more information on the form people fill out. This has helped streamline our paperwork.

One of the biggest changes Gg's House made this year is to only give food for the day instead of food boxes. As Gg's House gives food to three local food banks weekly. Gg's House was just contacted by another food bank, so it might become 4 food banks we help weekly. Gg's House felt that by coordinating with the food banks, food is reaching more people in need. We hope it cuts down on people feeling they need to hit all the food banks in the area to get enough food. Gg's House's volunteers occasionally fill the blessing box with food also. Gg's House does their best to cut down on food waste. All the expired food we receive goes to local pig and chicken farmers.

**Gg's House looks forward to 2024 with excitement!**



## Are you interested in volunteering or supporting Gg's House?

1. Pick items from below to donate
2. Become a monthly donor
3. Hold an item drive (ex. Towel Drive)

### Items always needed

Backpacks for adults & kids  
Bath Towels  
Batteries  
Diapers  
Kitchen Towels  
Pots & Pans  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Silverware  
Toothbrushes & Toothpaste

Bandages  
Bar Soap (travel size & regular)  
Clear Storage Totes  
Dish Soap  
Laundry Soap  
Sanitary Feminine Products  
Shower Curtains & Rings  
Sleeping Bags  
Wash Clothes

Contact Gg's House for more details.

**Please do not drop off donations when we are closed.**

Gg's House depends solely on donations (and grants) in order to continue our mission helping those in need. Currently, we're able to accept your financial donation using one of the following methods:

\*Cash

\*Checks

\*Venmo– Search for either Angel Sheets or ggshouse

\*Paypal– Send it to ggshouse@yahoo.com or use 503-359-3871

\*Facebook-Donation Button on our Gg's House Facebook page

\*Set up a reoccurring payment to Gg's House at your bank

**Thank you to our monthly donors for being a “Piece of our Puzzle”**

Would you like to start receiving our newsletter electronically?

If you would, please send your email address to ggshouse@yahoo.com



## Volunteer Spotlight

### TERRI KRAMER



Terri is one of Gg's Board Members, she has been with Gg's House the longest of all the board members and volunteers that are still at Gg's House. With her heart of giving she started a clothes closet at the Gaston School but when that building was tore down she arranged to move the clothing closet to The Hub, where she was the head of that clothes closet for years. Over the years when she wasn't working her job at Fred Myers or The Hub she'd be helping Gg's House by bringing daily loads of food and helping at Gg's House. When Gg's House decided to start a clothing department she spent hours setting it up. Terri has always preferred to work behind the scene and volunteer without notice. Even through she does not like being in the spotlight, Gg's House wants to thank Terri for all her hard work and tell her we always have loved her and valued her friendship.



## Fundraisers Happenings

Throughout this year Gg's House has continually felt the need for more space. Our wonderful volunteers would do their best to organize and use every space available but they'd constantly ran out of room. So piles would be made in front of other shelves making it harder for our volunteers to pull items for clients and harder to organize as more loads came in. Making it a daily reminder that we needed to pursue getting a bigger space. To make a bigger space a reality Gg's House for the 1st time ever ,planned some fundraisers to raise funds for the building and the general fund as like everyone these days we are facing higher costs while seeing more people asking Gg's House for help.

Gg's house puzzle piece fundraiser specifically for the building fund has been going steady, we have sold 49 pieces. Our volunteers are excited to see the banner be colored in as pieces are claimed. Look out for sales, gifts or whatever we may come up with to promote this fundraiser throughout the year..

Gg's House also held our very 1st Bingo Night. We were humbled by the support everyone gave during this fun filled night. Gg's House enjoyed the smiles, laughter and love we felt. Gg's House wants to extend a big thank you to the Forest Grove Grange for letting us use their hall and to everyone that came to play Bingo with us.

**Save the date  
February 10,2024  
Our Next Bingo  
More Detials to come soon!**



## Love Story:

We all have seen on TV or pictured in our minds a perfect holiday season. But in reality for most people along with the joy of the holiday season they face loneliness due to death of their love ones or family situations, or stress over not having funds to buy the gifts they want to give, self doubt, depression or any other kaleidoscope of feelings.

Gg's House wants to remind everyone to relax, give yourself grace and find ways to make another persons life brighter by doing simple acts of kindness as you never know another person's struggles during the holidays. Most of all remember there's no such thing as a perfect holiday season.

This year Gg's House is adopting the people that are often forgotten for Christmas. Elderly people in a nursing home or a person in group home that has no family or friends to come visit. Over the years, Gg's House has learned that some people in nursing homes or group homes have never gotten a visit and or never receive gifts for the holidays. This year when Gg's House asked a group home to give us Christmas lists from their residents, the top item on their list was hygiene products. Everything listed was a need and items most us wouldn't put on a Christmas list. Gg's House will adopt these homes we have chosen and try to brighten the holidays for these special people.

But we know there are many more shut-in's, other homes, elderly, disabled, friends and family that put on a smile but might be really struggling. Gg's House is asking you to try to do a little act of kindness this season. Make time to do one of the following or do your own idea as these little acts of kindness will make the holiday season a little brighter.

Visit a neighbor

Take a meal to friend

Buy an homeless a meal or cup of coffee.

Smile and Say Hello to people

Chat with Co-worker you don't know very well

Do a chore for your mom or dad

Call a elderly family member

Buy coffee for work

Have children write a Christmas Card or draw picture for an older relative that you don't see or for an elderly neighbor.

Plan a visit to nursing home or hospital

Volunteer at a warming shelters

Give \$5 a month to a charity

Listen to people stories or venting

You never know how a chat or even a smile might brighten someone's season and remind them they are seen and not forgotten..

**May we all make this holiday season brighter!**





Gg's House was able to send school supplies to a school being built by Marine's in the Philippines



“Our mail finally came in, the mail system has been down for the past 2 months. So I just wanted to send a shout out to Gg's House and other friends and family for the school supplies that they provided for the kids here they truly enjoyed getting it. If you are still wanting to send school supplies you are more than welcome to, still have a few months to go. So pens, pencils, notebooks, markers, tape, and really whatever you think an elementary level student could use. If you need the address just let me know and I can resend it to you. Again just want to say thanks to all the people that sent stuff. GySgt-Tyler Sheets”





*The Giving House*

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