



Jackie, Jade, and Ashleigh are grateful for Amy's Place for Youth

With a Grateful Heart

BY HEIDI UNICK, DIRECTOR

I'm so grateful to serve the youth who come to Amy's Place, especially when they come with extremely serious issues affecting their very survival.

Recently a 20 year old female, who has been attending Amy's Place periodically for the past four years, came in with nothing but the clothes on her back. She had left her abusive boyfriend and made her way through downtown Bellingham without shoes or a coat to keep her warm. She shared with me that her boyfriend had beaten her, she became homeless, and she learned that she is HIV positive.

When she came to Amy's Place, she was quite excited to find out we had just received a large clothing donation from two churches and a high school senior's culminating project. (Thank-you Broken Chainz Ministry; Laurel Baptist Church, and Alyssa Carey)

I was so happy to feed her a hot meal, and provide the clothing and shoes she so desperately needed, as well as a sleeping bag.

I am frequently astonished by the difficult situations youth find themselves in, but despite their many hardships, they come to Amy's Place with grateful hearts, and they appreciate all they receive.

Small Donations Have Huge Impact

Smaller donations from numerous contributors made a very big difference in 2011, according to director Heidi Unick.

"I am so grateful for all the donors who faithfully supported Amy's Place this year. There were times when checks came right at the end of the month, and those checks kept the doors open. I can't thank our regular donors enough, as well as the many faithful volunteers who also helped this past

year," Unick said.

So far this year, 360 youth made 2,972 visits to Amy's Place, consuming more than 2,730 meals.

140 of the youth reported being homeless and living on the streets, where they are vulnerable to predators, and in great need of support and resources.

"Homelessness is a huge problem in Bellingham," Unick said.

Amy's Place 5th Anniversary Christmas Party

For a wonderful evening of fellowship and Holiday cheer, please be sure to attend Amy's Place 5th Anniversary Christmas Dinner and Party, which will be held on Friday, December 23rd from 6:00 until 11:00pm at Amy's Place, 1704 N. State Street (Upstairs). To donate food or gifts for the party, please contact Heidi Unick at 360-671-5567.

For Kid's Sake

SUPPORT AMY'S PLACE!

Holiday Wish List

In addition to cash donations, Amy's Place desperately needs the following items for youth:

- Sleeping Bags & tents
- Back packs
- Soap & deodorant
- Cup of Noodles
- Top Ramen
- Baby diapers and wipes
- Baby food and formula
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Juice and soda
- Pasta and sauces
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Snacks of all kinds
- Granola bars
- Soups and chili
- Canned vegetables & fruit
- Canned meats
- Cheese and lunch meats
- Crackers and cookies
- Hygiene items
- Tooth brushes
- First aid supplies
- Long underwear

If you have any ideas to help Amy's Place, please contact Heidi Unick at 360-920-0615 or email her at otcm@openaccess.org

Taking it to the Streets Outreach Program

Amy's Place for Youth will be conducting outreach activities in 2012, under a new program called "Taking it to the Streets".

Thank you to the *Rotary Club of Whatcom County North* for donating to this program.

"Youth who haven't heard about Amy's Place need outreach services specifically designed to reach them where they are," center director

Heidi Unick said. "Teams will go out on the streets with Amy's Place flyers, hygiene supplies, bus tickets, shower tickets, and food for youth struggling to survive on our local streets."

"Taking it to the Streets" will provide outreach efforts and drop-in center activities to additional homeless, runaway and at-risk youth and supply much needed services.

Volunteers Needed at Amy's Place

Amy's Place relies on volunteers to help provide necessary services and resources to local youth.

In addition to mentors who work closely with youth, volunteers are also needed to help with a variety of administrative tasks, planning, outreach activities, fundraising, direct service provision, housekeeping, and shopping.

Amy's Place also needs volunteers experienced with drug and alcohol counseling.

Volunteers regularly meet at 4:00pm the second Saturday of every month and may serve on one of several committees, including those for publicity, technical matters, and grant writing.

Meal Makers provides another opportunity to help Amy's Place serve youth. Meal Makers sign-up in advance to provide a hot meal when Amy's Place is open. If you would like to help out, please call Heidi Unick at 360-920-0615.



Families find support and resources at Amy's Place

About Amy's Place

Since 2006, Amy's Place drop-in center for youth has been serving the vulnerable population of homeless, run away, and street youth in Bellingham and Whatcom County.

Every year, countless kids are discarded, abused, or run away from harmful living situations. Some youth suffer from mental illness or chemical dependency issues.

At Amy's Place, we believe in the dignity, potential, and promise inherent in every life.

We offer love, support, and mentoring, so every young person can connect to community resources and make positive changes to succeed.

Volunteer Spotlight

BY DANY SWAN

I feel very blessed to be able to participate in this ministry.

I have found that serving these vulnerable youth with a meal and warm clothing promotes a critical human connection that would not otherwise occur for them.

Amy's Place also offers safe harbor to these children, during a tumultuous time in their lives. As a mother, I sleep a little better knowing that I have supported such a safe haven.

It is inspirational to serve with Heidi and fellow volunteers.

A BIG Thank You to the...



The Yacht Club has chosen Amy's Place to be the recipient of their annual "Sink the Dingy" campaign.

Each year a community need is recognized by the club. Then the members set out to sink the proverbial dingy by over filling it with toy's, clothes, money or whatever it takes to meet the need.

In Their Own Words

Amy Place has helped give me a place to go instead of getting drunk. Also Amys place has helped give me warm cloths for me and my baby. AMYS Place means to me alot.

Always
Danielle

Amy's place has helped me by giving me a positive environment in which to go to get help for food, clothes, living suppl and a relax place to hang out with friends.

-Vaughn-

Kaylee 18-

Amys Place has helped me like no other. Amy's Place Provides me a place where I can go to stay out of the cold, be safe, fill my belly and have fun. If Amy's Place weren't here there would be many more nights that I don't get to eat any thing and then I have no place to go ~~to~~ be out of the wind and cold. Amy's Place means a lot to me, it has helped me stay out of trouble and be safe. ♡

Help Amy's Place Help Youth in 2012

Every week throughout the year, Amy's Place helps youth find a safe place to rest, a hot and nutritious meal, warm clothes, a place to connect with caring adults, and the support of peer mentors. But we can't do this work alone.

We depend on financial support from numerous individuals, corporations, civic groups, NGOs, churches, and religious organizations – a caring community that believes in the promise of hope.

Supporting Amy's Place ensures that we will continue to provide necessary services, while restoring hope to so many young lives. There are

several ways you can help:

- **GIVE** – Make a financial or in-kind contribution to Amy's Place, and please consider monthly or quarterly gifts.
- **MATCHING GIFTS** – Many businesses will match employees' charitable donations. Please ask your employer or HR department for more information about helping Amy's Place.
- **GIVE THROUGH UNITED WAY** – Write-in *Old Town Christian Ministries* on your United Way donor form, and Amy's Place will receive your support.

OTCM Amy's Place
P.O. Box 29538
Bellingham, WA 98228

Please Help Amy's Place Stay Open! Send your tax-deductible donation today!

Please make checks payable to: Amy's Place or Old Town Christian Ministries
P.O. Box 29538, Bellingham, WA 98228 1704 N. State Street, Bellingham, WA 98225
360-617-5561 www.AmysPlaceForYouth.org otcm@openaccess.org

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Amy's Place is going electronic!

You can now find the latest news and donate online, by visiting our website at

www.AmysPlaceForYouth.org