



## HOMELESSNESS

Although each person's journey through homelessness is unique, the path out is singular. Homelessness ends with permanent affordable housing with, when necessary, supportive services.

For many low income people in Washington State, housing is simply not affordable. Affordable housing costs no more than 30% of the low income household's income. When housing is more than 30%, recovery from unforeseen financial emergencies such as illness or injury becomes nearly impossible. For those living in unaffordable housing, these emergencies often lead to homelessness.

A person working full time earning minimum wage cannot afford the average one bedroom apartment in King County. For that apartment to be affordable, one would need to work at minimum wage for 80 hours per week. Simply put, many hard working people are priced out of housing.

## CONTACT US

### **Rev. Rich Gamble, Advocacy Organizer**

Rev. Rich Gamble is the founder of the FAITH program. He has worked as a community organizer for low income tenants, a crisis counselor for low income people, and has worked in homeless shelters as a board member, staff and chaplain.

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### **Allyson Fredericksen, Assistant Advocacy Organizer**

Allyson has experience both in policy advocacy and in working with at-risk communities, and has a Master's Degree in Policy Studies from the University of Washington. Interested in ending homelessness by becoming an advocate for change? Ask Allyson!

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### **Rev. Leah Klug, Church Outreach Coordinator**

Leah has worked in local churches for the past eight years and served two terms with AmeriCorps in Washington State. She is excited to help your church discover its passion in working with the homeless community.

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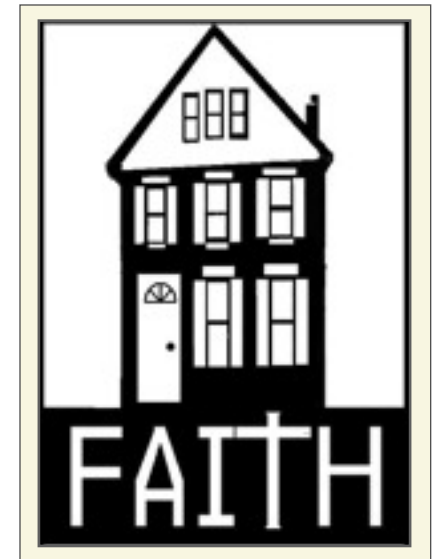
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[WWW.FAITHADVOCACY.ORG](http://WWW.FAITHADVOCACY.ORG)

FAITH IS A PROGRAM OF CATHOLIC  
COMMUNITY SERVICES OF KING COUNTY

# FAITH

FAITHFUL ACTION IN TRANSFORMING HOMELESSNESS



## OUR VISION

FAITH is a small program with a big vision:

**We believe that there can be an end to homelessness in King County. We believe people of faith are called to make it happen.**

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40*

# FAITH In Action

## ADVOCACY

FAITH is founded on a simple truth: the solution to homelessness is affordable housing and it is possible for us to create enough affordable housing to end homelessness in King County.

The creation of enough affordable housing is expensive: estimates begin at seven hundred million dollars. This is a sizeable cost, and raising such a sum may seem daunting. However, this must be put in perspective: the total public contributions for Safeco Field and Qwest Stadium was \$700 million in tax dollars\*. If sports enthusiasts can send lobbyists to Olympia, and the public can pass a vote to ensure good homes for our sports teams, surely we can do the same for the men, women and children of King County.

We believe ending homelessness is a special concern for the faith community, and the way to end homelessness is through policies that ensure funding for affordable housing. To give 5 minutes a month toward ending homelessness in King County, sign up for our advocacy emails, visit our website [www.faithadvocacy.org](http://www.faithadvocacy.org) or contact Allyson Fredericksen at [allysonf@ccsww.org](mailto:allysonf@ccsww.org)

\*[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qwest\\_Field](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qwest_Field), <http://www.ballparks.com/baseball/american/seabpk.htm>

**On January 29, 2010 the One Night Count found 2,759 people sleeping outside and 5,800 sleeping in emergency shelters or transitional housing in King County.**



### How does FAITH work?

*FAITH is a simple program for people with little or no advocacy experience and designed to work with congregations to educate members about homelessness.*

*FAITH will show congregations how to easily and effectively become involved in homelessness advocacy and direct service. FAITH has both a lobbyist in Olympia and organizers in King County to track issues and support congregations.*

*Invite a FAITH representative to speak to your church or visit our website [www.faithadvocacy.org](http://www.faithadvocacy.org) for more information.*



## DIRECT SERVICE

As we advocate for a permanent end to homelessness, what sort of tangible help can a church offer? As people of faith, we remember Jesus' words in Matthew 25, "whatever you did to one of the least of these...you did it to me as well". FAITH believes people of faith are called to respond to people in need and not to distance themselves.

In partnership with Catholic Community Services, the largest service provider in Washington State, FAITH helps churches and church groups connect with shelters, meal programs, and homeless outreach programs nearby who need volunteer help. Bringing an end to homelessness also requires opening our own hearts and minds to walk alongside our brothers and sisters in need.

FAITH is here to serve as a resource to meet with your church, leadership team, or small group to discern together how you can put your faith in action. Whether you would like to volunteer once a month, once a week, or for an evening, we can help you get started. Contact Rev. Leah Klug for more information at [leahk@ccsww.org](mailto:leahk@ccsww.org)