

January 16, 2018

Saint Michael Parish
1208 11th Ave SE
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My name is Dagmar Growe, and I am a volunteer with the Family Support Center. I am writing to draw your attention to a desperate volunteer need in our community.

The Family Support Center operates the only shelter for homeless families in the county. Without Pear Blossom Place, somewhere between 20 and 30 children would have to spend the night sleeping outside or in cars each night. As most non-profit social service agencies, the Family Support Center operates on a shoe-string budget, and does not have funding for overnight and weekend staff. These have to be covered by volunteers.

In the past, many of those shifts have been covered by work-study students. For a number of reasons, this is not happening anymore, and the lack of volunteers is creating a critical and desperate situation. Staff members have had to cover night shifts, which means they are less available during the day to provide much needed case management and other services which are designed to move families into permanent housing and keep them there. The fact that staff members are willing to give up their weekend time and nights multiple times a week speaks more than anything to their dedication to the families, but it is not sustainable situation, and will, I am sure, lead to burn-out, attrition, and further instability in the lives of the families they serve. Legally, the shelter is not allowed to operate without continuous staffing.

Volunteer shifts are not hard—as an overnight volunteer I have a choice between sleeping in a loft bed or on a cot in one of the staff offices. Families live in “apartments” off the main area, so after 9 pm things get pretty quiet. I usually get a good night’s sleep and I work the next day. My “work” at the shelter consists of controlling access to the building via an intercom, answering the phone (rarely), and hanging out with guests as much as I feel ready to engage. Especially the kids tend to be eager for attention, but parents too can be glad for someone to listen. I don’t admit families to the shelter—this is done only by staff—and there is always a staff person on call in case of problems (although I can’t remember the last time I called).

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For me, spending the night at the shelter has become rewarding way to put my faith into action and follow Jesus’ call to serve. I am asking you to share this opportunity with your congregation and prayerfully consider your response. Please contact Colton, 360-754-9297 ext. 306, coltong@fscss.org, at the Family Support Center for more information.

Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

First United Methodist Church of Olympia
1224 Legion Way SE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

New Bridge Community Church
812 Central St SE
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Olympia First Baptist Church
904 Washington St SE
Olympia, WA

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Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

United Churches of Olympia
110 11th Ave SE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

First Christian Church
701 Franklin St SE
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Harbor Church
819 Olympia Ave NE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

St. John's Episcopal Church
114 20th Ave SE
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Eastside Community Center
618 Puget St NE
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Church of Living Water
1615 Chambers St SE
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Capital Vision Christian Church
1175 Yew Ave NW
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
1515 Harrison Ave NW
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Unity Church of Olympia
1335 Fern St SW
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

The Bible Presbyterian Church of Olympia
2039 Sleater Kinney Rd NE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

St. Michael Parish
1055 Boundary St SE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Westminister Presbyterian Church
1925 Boulevard Rd SE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Olympia Christian Reformed Church
2121 Log Cabin Rd SE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

South Sound Church
1416 26th Ave NE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
1601 North St SE
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Gospel Outreach Reformational Church
1925 S Bay Rd NE
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Evergreen Christian Community
1000 Black Lake Blvd SW
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Transformation Life Center
1717 Eskridge Blvd SE
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Calvary Chapel
919 Division St NW
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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Risen Faith Fellowship
2129 4th Ave E
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Capital Christian Center
4431 Martin Way E
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation
2315 Division St NW
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Hidden Creek Community Church
1807 9th Ave SE
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Abundant Life Apostolic Church
2220 Muirhead Ave NW
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Grace Community Covenant Church
5501 Wiggins Rd SE
Olympia, WA

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Blessings,

Dagmar Growe

January 16, 2018

Peace Lutheran Brethren Church
2242 Friendly Grove Rd NE
Olympia, WA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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January 16, 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church
2020 Franklin St SE
Olympia, WA

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January 16, 2018

Life Pointe Church
6120 Mullen Rd SE
Olympia, WA

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