

ROD'S HOUSE

P.O. Box 2283
Yakima, WA 98907

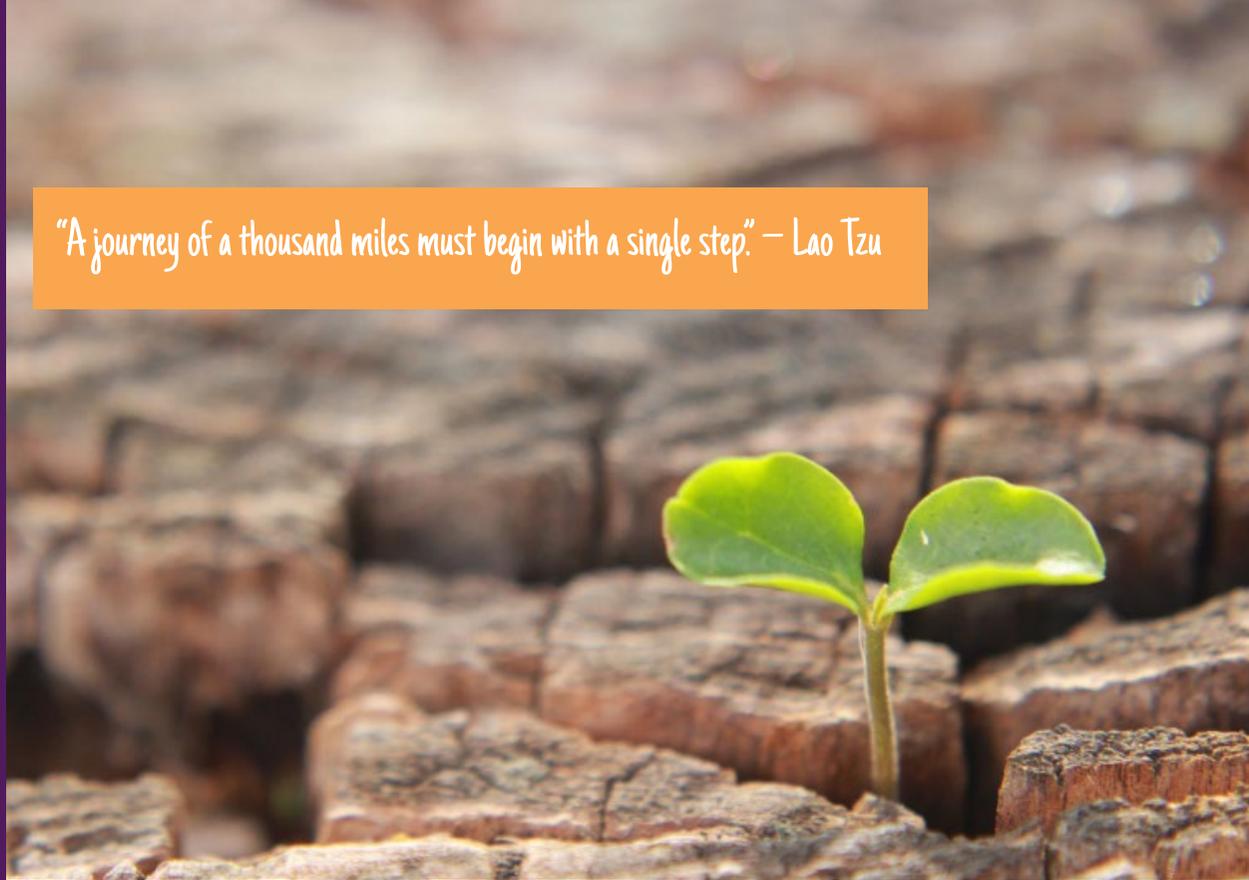
Spring
Newsletter
2021

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"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." – Lao Tzu



RESPECT. EMPOWER. CONNECT.

Meet the NEW Executive Director



As I begin my journey with Rod's House I am overwhelmed by the support and encouragement I have received since day one on the job.

One of the first people to greet me as I walked through the door was Lisa Wallace. Thank you Lisa for the work you have done to move Rod's House forward. Because of you there are hundreds of young people who are receiving the care they need to take the next step

toward lives filled with positive connections and supportive resources.

Thank you to everyone who gives their time, talent, and treasure to Rod's House. I am humbled at the thought of how many people are working to see this organization thrive so that every young person can feel empowered, respected and connected to a positive community. Thank you for trusting me to lead this organization and our dedicated team of staff and volunteers. I look forward to great things in the future with help from our network of support.

- Mark James, Executive Director

Maxi,

Thanks for your outstanding service on Rod's House Board. Best of luck with your new adventure. We'll miss you!



Thank you Lisa!

I have been an active community supporter of Rod's House since the earliest of days.

Until recently, I had been mostly on the sidelines cheering loudly for the organization's continued growth. Josh Jackson changed the face of Rod's House forever.

We serve more, do more and are more because of his vision and leadership. So when I was asked to serve as the Interim Executive Director, I wanted to help ensure that vision in any way I could.

Standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the extraordinary staff for those five months during the transition has been one of the great professional joys of my life. We accomplished a great deal in a short time and I'm so proud to have been a small part of it. The employees at Rod's House are some of the most dedicated, most creative and most resilient people I have ever worked with. They lead from a place of 'Yes, how can I help?' every single day and I stand in awe of them. The young people we serve inspired me daily and the community support, especially during a very difficult time, renewed my faith. I am forever changed by this experience and I'm thrilled to pass the baton to the new Executive Director Mark James. His leadership will ensure Rod's House continues to thrive and do this imperative work for years to come.



With gratitude,

Lisa Wallace, Interim Executive Director

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." — Walt Disney

Board of Directors:

President - Soneya Lund, **Vice-President** - Maxi Hummel, **Treasurer** - Rachel Cook, **Secretary** - Brittanie Vaughn, **Past-President** - Hope Lange, **Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee** - Vicki Dwight, **Co-Chair, Fundraising Committee** - Cathy Lighty, **Co-Chair, Program Committee** - Drew Harris, **Co-Chair, Program Committee** - Christine Clark, Steve Bernard, Laura Crooks, Quinn Dalan, Rod Bryant, Tonilynn Savage

Spring

Wish List

Art supplies! Paint, brushes, easels, coloring books, colored pencils, etc...

BRAS in all sizes

New men and women's underwear - also all sizes

Individual drinks - gatorade or juice boxes

New or gently worn shoes!
Men and womens, in all sizes

Cleaning supplies - ALL OF IT!
Clorox, Lysol, bleach, hand-soap, dish soap, laundry soap...

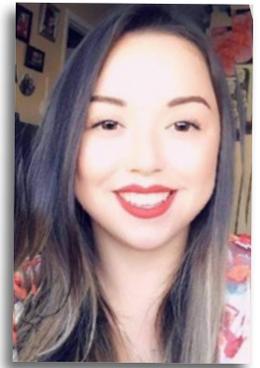
Full sized toiletries

Individually packed snack items



Staff Highlight

Sam (Samantha) Lafollette:
She/Her/Hers
RA (Resident Assistant)



Sam works at the Sunnyside Emergency House helping maintain the facility and provide support to residents. No two days are the same at the Sunnyside shelter but Sam consistently shines her kind and friendly disposition on whatever task needs to be accomplished. She also weaves her artistic talents into her daily activities, creating a welcoming atmosphere for clients and encouraging them to adapt and grow during their stay. Her own lived experience with homelessness brought her to Rod's House and now she is in a position to be an inspiring role model for the young people she helps serve. *Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the organization Sam!*

Fun Fact:

When asked whether Sam would rather "Win the lotto or work at the perfect job?" she replied "Win the lottery because working at Rod's House is already the perfect job!"

Young Adult Extreme Winter Weather Shelter <<

The Rod's House Young Adult Extreme Winter Weather Shelter started the first week of November and will continue running through March 31st. The shelter is operated by Rod's House and is supported by volunteers from the community. This year Rod's House is partnering with Motel 6 to ensure young adults ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness have a warm and safe place to sleep during the coldest months of the year. To this point this model has been an extreme success. We have consistently had 12-16 young adults per night checking in. Each night our young people arrive between 4pm and 6pm. They are greeted and given a brief COVID-19 screening before they are admitted. Upon entry they are given dinner and a room key which gives them unlimited access to a warm bed, showers, running water and a microwave to be able to heat their food. The managers of Motel 6 have been so overly gracious to us this year. We want to specifically thank them for allowing Rod's House to partner in this new model venture and express our extreme gratitude to them for being so kind and understanding with our young adults. We would also like to give a special thank you to each and every one of our meal partners this season. Your assistance has helped feed over 100 different young adults, on multiple different occasions, during these frigid winter months.

Interested in building authentic connections? Want to help a youth or young adult meet stabilizing goals? Contact us at office@rodshouse.org to connect and learn more.

» 2021 Point in Time Count

Rod's House participates in the annual Point in Time Count for Yakima County. The PIT survey distributed during the count is used to measure the prevalence of homelessness in our community and is required by HUD to assist in collecting nationwide data of homelessness. This year the Outreach Team along with some great staff and volunteers, weathered the snow, rain and sun to provide people experiencing homelessness in Yakima County basic needs, supplies and surveys. To learn more or find out results of the survey as they are available, please visit: www.hudexchange.info, www.commerce.wa.gov or www.yakimacounty.us.

Rod's House would like to thank the Yakima County Human Services Department for donating cold weather supplies and backpacks. PIT truly is a community effort!

"Point In Time Services (PIT) was very successful this year. Even with Covid, we were able to meet everyone's needs whether that be offering a survey, giving a backpack filled with necessities, a sleeping bag or even just chatting with individuals. As a team, we were able to collect 43 surveys, distribute 36 backpacks, 17 sleeping bags, and put more than 100 miles on the truck!



PIT is so important because it shows how local services affect our homeless population, what can be changed and what providers can learn in order to improve services. PIT is important to me, because it helps us stay connected with our young adults who may not have any family in town. We build trusting relationships with our youth and as they grow older they learn to be more comfortable with other support programs. Special thanks to everyone who volunteered their time or donated supplies.

- Cheyenne, Youth Outreach Worker Lead

"This year was my first ever Point In Time (PIT) Event. I've been looking forward to this event for the past 5 months. I knew that this year was going to be a little different because of Covid-19 but it still went smoothly. I love being on the front lines and meeting the people we serve face to face. Hearing their stories makes me very grateful for the work that I do and I can't wait to do it again next year. As a team we collected a lot of surveys that will help get funding to support our homeless communities"

- Jade, Outreach Coordinator



Interested in volunteering, donating, or would like more information?

rodshouse.org



 rodshouse.org

 office@rodshouse.org

 (509) 895-2665