



September 23, 2011

Last month the Yakima Interfaith Coalition Board of Directors made a difficult decision. It is a decision that we believe will expand our record of efficient use of limited resources, yet develop a more effective, centralized continuum of services for people who are in need of emergency services, about to be homeless or are homeless. Our overall goal is to continue to invest in a community care system which compassionately supports individuals and families as they walk the journey of crisis toward increased self-sufficiency.

We have decided the program and services offered at The 107 House will be transferred to a different member organization of the Homeless Network of Yakima County--Yakima Neighborhood Health Service (YNHS).

Since the Yakima Interfaith Coalition was formed 23 years ago, through your benevolence and desire to collectively and effectively serve people in need, a multitude of individuals and families have received emergency services. We are grateful for the trust you have placed in our organization's stewardship. We strongly encourage you to continue your benevolent financial support of The 107 House.

In recent years YNHS has been developing substantial services for our community, such as Community Connections, providing health-care for our homeless neighbors. These services have been integral in the resources we have been utilizing through The 107 House. It is with great confidence we assure you that their staff is committed to continuing compassionate service, on your behalf, through The 107 House under the YNHS.

Below you will find some key points which helped us come to our decision.

- In recent years we have joined with the Homeless Network of Yakima County to form an information and referral center called "The 107 House" where we continued to extend a compassionate heart and open hands on behalf of you, the faith community and the community at large.
- With "The 107 House" we became stewards of additional financial resources to serve, specifically, people experiencing the journey toward and into homelessness.
- In the last couple years our services have grown more and more toward preventing homelessness, which is increasingly described as *housing* services. Moving forward into the future there will be a continuing and increasing emphasis on housing services by funding sources, with the thrust of assisting people to become more self-sufficient.
- While we very much welcome the goal of funding and investing in increased self-sufficiency through housing services, it also requires an additional level of services, such as hands on case management, housing inspections, and follow-up home visiting.

- In our opinion, this represents a necessary evolution and timely progression from independent emergency services into integrated housing services. Yet, there still remains a significant need for a place of referral for the emergency services supported by benevolent dollars from our collective community.
- Because we believe that efficiencies and more effective client services will be achieved, the Board offered to transfer “The 107 House” program to Yakima Neighborhood Health Services and they have agreed to accept our offer, keeping “The 107 House” identity and good will intact.

Effective October 1, 2011, “The 107 House” will become the responsibility of Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, Housing Services programs. The emergency services which you have so graciously supported over the years will continue to be provided through “The 107 House” located at 107 So. 6th Street.

It is our intention to redirect your benevolent donations made to Yakima Interfaith Coalition for emergency services to “The 107 House” under YNHS beginning October 1, 2011. Should you so choose, you may also make your donations directly to YNHS which is also a 501c 3. Their mailing address is Yakima Neighborhood Health Services, P.O. Box 2605, Yakima, WA. 98907. They are also available to meet with you to share the breadth of their homeless and emergency services. The can also be found at www.ynhs.org.

Yakima Interfaith Coalition will continue to develop our menu of educational services with the Hispanic community members through La Casa Hogar. These services now include Citizenship classes through our faith community partnerships. We hope you will be interested in inviting your members to join with us to explore this learning opportunity and growing need. Expect more information from us about this. Of course you are always welcome to call or visit La Casa Hogar.

With sincere gratitude,



Reverend Eric Don Anderson, Board President



Carole Folsom-Hill, Executive Director

Cc: Rhonda Hauff, Chief Operating Officer/Deputy CEO
Yakima Neighborhood Health Services