

Community NEWSLETTER

October 2025



What is This Newsletter?

The purpose of the Community Newsletter is to share updates on Opportunity Council's Downtown housing communities. This includes 22 North, Dorothy Place and Laurel Forest.

Each month, staff facilitate a variety of services and activities at these properties. This newsletter will highlight their impact on residents and the broader community. By providing a transparent and informative monthly update, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of our programs and the people we serve.

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What is Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)?

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) blends affordable housing with individualized support services to help people and families experiencing homelessness. The goal is to make sure highly vulnerable individuals and families have the stability of a home while ensuring access to life-changing resources such as mental health care, substance use treatment, and employment support. Opportunity Council's PSH programs, like 22 North and Dorothy Place, exemplify this approach, offering not just a place to stay, but a community where residents have the freedom and support everyone needs to thrive.

22 North

22 North is a PSH community developed to provide wraparound support services to adults experiencing homelessness as they build lives of stability and opportunity.

Caramel Apples

22 North has 2 apple trees on the property that produces fruits every year. Having food growing right at home can give a feeling of empowerment and give opportunities for home cooked meals, or in this case home made caramel apples!



One of our residents hand picked all of the apples, showing that when food security is in people's lives they take the opportunity to enhance self sufficiency



It is fall after all so this caramel apple event got the residents festive and creative, just look at that food art!



Dorothy Place

The cutest pumpkins in the patch



Survivors of domestic violence often miss out on the joy of seasonal traditions, as safety concerns and instability can take priority over celebration. That's why hosting a pumpkin craft activity at Dorothy Place is so meaningful—it provides families with a safe space to relax, connect, and experience the simple joys of the season together. Creative expression through art has been shown to improve mental and behavioral health by reducing stress, enhancing mood, and fostering a sense of accomplishment and self-worth. This activity not only celebrates fall but also nurtures healing, stability, and community for residents rebuilding their lives.

About Dorothy Place

Since 1999, Dorothy Place Apartments have been a sanctuary for individuals and families who are homeless after escaping domestic violence. Our first official supportive housing program, Dorothy Place is a crucial resource in our community, ensuring that vulnerable families have a safe and stable place to call home. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is a proven, long-term solution for helping people experiencing chronic homelessness achieve stability. At Dorothy Place, PSH offers stability, housing, and supportive services for children, families, and other people in need.

Laurel Forest

Animals as Natural Therapy comes to Laurel Forest

The residents were really looking forward to this and you could feel the positive benefits circulating through the room as the residents pet, laughed and spent time with these lovely animals. The star of the show being Casper, the friendly goat.



Northwest Barber Academy at Laurel Forest

Northwest Barber Academy a local barber school here in Bellingham came to Laurel Forest to cut the seniors hair. This not only boosted the confidence of the seniors with a fresh new look, but also saved them money with this free service!

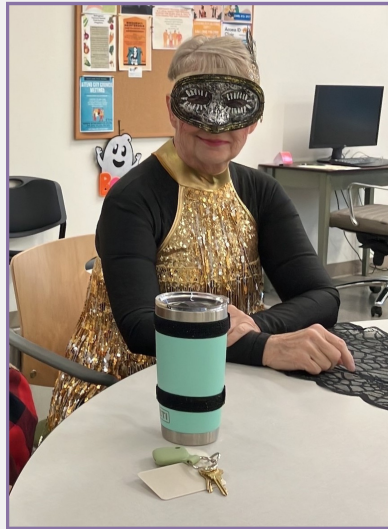


Laurel Forest is an affordable housing community for senior adults age 55 and older. Supportive services and community engagement activities are available to help residents prevent isolation and build community.

Halloween Fun

Costume Coffee Hour at Laurel Forest

The residents got very creative with their costumes and came to coffee hour to show them off! The staff also joined them in the Halloween fun!



Trunk or Treat for 22 North and Dorothy Place

Rain wasn't going to stop the 22 North and Dorothy Place residents from enjoying Halloween! They came out in costume and collected some Halloween candy from staff members cars that were also dressed up in fun costumes!



Looking Ahead



Northwest Barber Academy at 22N & DP

Offering free haircuts to individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness provides more than just personal grooming—it supports dignity, confidence, and emotional well-being. A fresh haircut can help residents feel refreshed, seen, and cared for, which is especially meaningful for those rebuilding stability after long periods without access to self-care resources. Beyond improving appearance, haircuts can boost self-esteem, encourage social interaction, and even increase readiness for employment or community engagement. This simple act of care helps restore a sense of normalcy and belonging, reinforcing that every individual deserves respect and renewal.

Fall Feast at 22 North and Dorothy Place

For many at 22 North and Dorothy Place, the holidays can be a difficult time, often marked by memories of instability or separation from loved ones. Providing a Thanksgiving meal offers more than just nourishment—it creates a safe and welcoming space where residents can share in community, gratitude, and belonging. Gathering around a shared meal helps rebuild trust, connection, and a sense of normalcy, while the warmth of celebration reminds residents that they are supported and valued. This simple act of coming together fosters healing, stability, and hope during a season that can otherwise feel isolating.



Intergenerational Fall Festivities at Laurel Forest

Intergenerational fall festivities bring people of all ages together to celebrate community, connection, and the changing season. These gatherings allow children, adults, and seniors to share traditions, stories, and creativity, fostering mutual understanding and a sense of belonging. For older adults, the energy and joy of younger participants can lift spirits and reduce feelings of isolation, while children benefit from the guidance, patience, and wisdom of their elders. Engaging in shared activities like crafts, games, and seasonal treats promotes social engagement, emotional well-being, and stronger community bonds across generations.