

Community NEWSLETTER

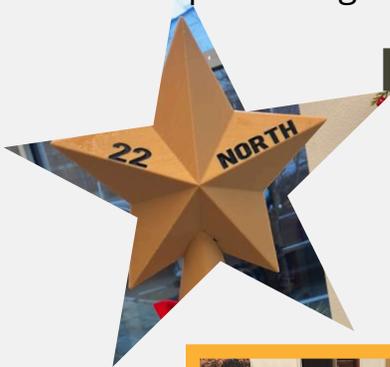
December 2025



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.

Holidays at 22 North



Decorating permanent supportive housing for people who have experienced chronic homelessness helps transform the building into a true home and spreads much-needed holiday cheer. At 22 North, this sense of belonging was especially meaningful as one of our own staff members 3D-printed a Christmas star labeled "22 North" for the top of the tree, symbolizing home, pride, and community. That same staff member also printed small trinkets for each resident to place in mini stockings, adding a personal and thoughtful touch. On Christmas morning, residents gathered to enjoy hot chocolate and cinnamon rolls, and later that evening Residential Counselors prepared a hearty, warm meal for the entire building. These efforts reflect the strong teamwork and deep commitment of our staff to ensure residents are treated with dignity, feel valued, and have the opportunity to celebrate the holidays in a safe, welcoming place they can truly call home

Dorothy Place

Holidays at Dorothy Place



Making Dorothy Place feel like home during the holidays is vital for residents who are survivors of domestic violence, especially for the children who deserve moments of safety, joy, and normalcy. Many families arrive after leaving everything behind, so creating a warm, festive environment helps restore a sense of comfort and belonging. This was especially meaningful when one family shared they were hoping to find a Christmas tree to decorate in their unit, and Opportunity Council was able to provide a tree for them—turning a simple wish into a moment of healing and celebration. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the Whatcom Community Foundation for granting the funds that made this possible. Through their support, each resident received a Fred Meyer gift card, thoughtfully placed in a festive stocking, allowing individuals and families to purchase gifts for themselves or loved ones. These acts of care brought dignity, choice, and holiday cheer to residents during a season that can be both joyful and emotionally complex.



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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.

Santa Laurel Forest!

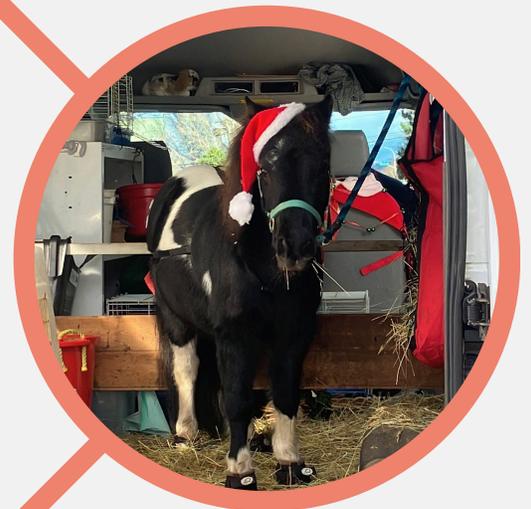
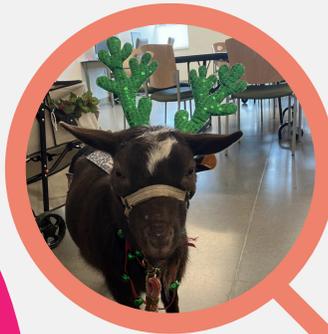
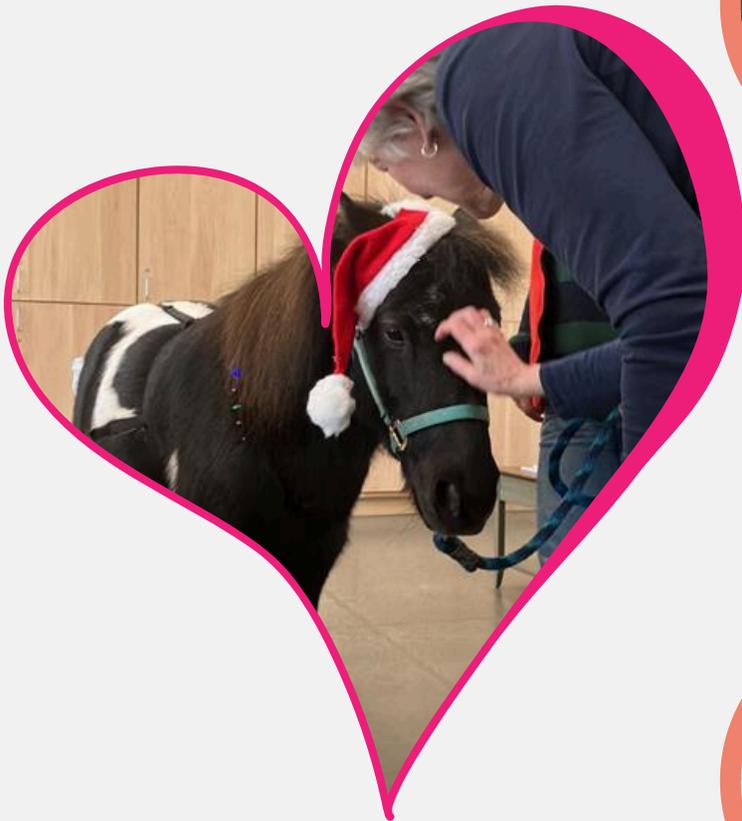
Bringing Santa in for seniors to take photos with created a joyful and heartwarming experience that helped combat isolation during the holidays. The visit invited residents to reconnect with their inner child, sparking laughter, nostalgia, and meaningful social connection during a time of year that can feel especially lonely. We are deeply grateful to Marc from Lutheran Community Services for partnering with us and truly embodying the spirit of Santa Claus—spreading warmth, kindness, and cheer while handing out holiday cards to residents. His presence helped create lasting memories and reminded seniors that they are valued, seen, and celebrated during the holiday season.



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.

Animals as Natural Therapy

Bringing Animals as Natural Therapy to Laurel Forest for the final visit of the year was made especially meaningful by welcoming a miniature therapy horse to spend time with senior residents. The gentle, unexpected presence of the horse brought smiles, curiosity, and moments of calm, offering emotional comfort and connection during the winter season. Hosting this visit around the holidays is particularly impactful for seniors who may choose not to celebrate but still benefit from warmth, engagement, and something joyful to brighten shorter, darker days. This experience helped reduce isolation, lift spirits, and provide a peaceful, memorable moment of connection—closing out the year with care, dignity, and compassion for Laurel Forest residents.



Looking Ahead



Manicures

Providing free manicures to vulnerable populations offers more than cosmetic care—it supports dignity, emotional well-being, and a sense of being valued. This simple act of self-care can reduce stress, boost self-esteem, and create moments of calm for individuals who may have limited access to personal services. When offered in a shared, supportive space, manicures also encourage social connection and community building, helping participants feel seen, supported, and worthy of care.

Resource Navigator

Starting drop-in hours at Laurel Forest allows seniors direct, consistent access to a Resource Navigator who can help them understand and connect with the support they need. These drop-in hours reduce barriers by offering one-on-one assistance with navigating services, completing paperwork, and accessing community resources. This support increases independence, reduces stress and confusion, and helps seniors feel empowered, supported, and less isolated while aging in place.



Animals as Natural Therapy at 22 North and Dorothy Place

22 North and Dorothy Place were awarded the Superfeet grant, which will allow us to expand meaningful wellness programming for residents. A portion of this funding will be used to bring Animals as Natural Therapy into both 22 North and Dorothy Place on a monthly basis. Previously, Animals as Natural Therapy visits were offered at Laurel Forest for senior residents, where we saw a clear positive impact on mood, stress reduction, and social connection. We are excited to extend this opportunity to residents at 22 North and Dorothy Place and look forward to the positive impact these regular animal-assisted therapy visits will have on individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness and domestic violence.