

The November numbers have been tallied. With mixed sorrow and joy, we find an 30% increase in the number of children and youth seeking shelter at WHO. It is a sorrow because children deserve homes. It is a joy because we offered them some respite from the streets. These are the heart tugging issues of WHO service.

**You can help!** Volunteer your time, donate needed items or make a financial contribution today at [whoprogram.org](http://whoprogram.org)



At the WHO at St. Andrew, the right volunteer for the job always seems to show up at the right time. On one day, two high school students from Camas High School arrived early to put together a light supper, which was ready as people started arriving. The next volunteer to show up was Frank, who just happened to have a van to pick up all the clean laundry. And when he came back, there just happened to be 12 Boy Scouts to carry in all the heavy bags. Just then, a mother-daughter team arrived to assist guests and complete the fire checks. And, almost forgot, the Boys Scouts donated a bucket of socks—so the man who asked for a clean pair was blessed! Someone must watch over this place and it's a thrill to have a front row seat to so much love in action.

WHO exists because of many gifts. Hearts, hands, donations, volunteers and more. Another vital gift we receive is funds. We want to sincerely thank: Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool, First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, FPC Vancouver, Knights of Columbus, Messiah Lutheran Church and Preschool, Mill Plain United Methodist Church, St Joseph Catholic School, Trinity Lutheran Church - Vancouver, Washington. Additional donations have been received through individual donations. Thank you M.S. and J.B., as well as local business SwiftSure Energy Services. **Thank you one and all. Without you we couldn't keep the lights (the heat, the water) on without you.**



**Tales from the Front Lines Part 1—The WHO is 15 years old this season.** We have had some many amazing experiences. Follow us on Facebook, where, over the next few months, we will try to share some with you. Here is one from St. Paul's: 15 years ago, the men of WHO at St. Paul ate, lived and slept in the same space each night. They had no showers, just a bathroom sink. As the years progressed, the floor in the church expanded, a small kitchen was added and, eventually, showers were installed. This year, through the donations of others, the men now have a small room in which to rest. Someone donated a foosball table. Another a television. And then a small keyboard, as a volunteer had heard that one of the guests was a pianist. For men on the street, who have dreams of living a more fulfilling life, this space is a dream come true. **Thank you to everyone who made this room possible.**

**Don't Miss Page 2!**

**To access WHO beds:** Council for the Homeless Housing Hotline at 360-695-9677

**For information** on donations & volunteering: 360-200-8757 or [whoprogram@gmail.com](mailto:whoprogram@gmail.com)

WHO is a program committed to providing safe shelter during the winter months to families & individuals experiencing homelessness.



For the past 15 years, St. John the Evangelist Church had hosted a fundraiser for WHO. The leaders of the event, John and Theo Pezza, were tragically killed over Labor Day weekend. The event was rightly cancelled. However the church went above and beyond to keep their commitment to us and to honor their congregants. We wanted to share the letter sent to us from Fr. Thomas Belleque, pastor of St. John the Evangelist, and thank them for this tremendous gift.



*St. John the Evangelist*  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
8701 NE 119<sup>th</sup> Street . Vancouver, WA 98662

November 29, 2017

W.H.O.  
Council for the Homeless  
2500 Main Street  
Vancouver, WA 98660

Dear friends in ministry:

Thank you for your continued efforts this winter season in assisting the less fortunate in Clark County through the Winter Hospitality Overflow project.

The tragic deaths of John and Theo Pezza earlier this year impacted so many people: not only their immediate family, but their many friends here at St. John the Evangelist, the numerous individuals they worked with at various organizations, and the countless human beings who benefitted from their dedication to helping others. Here at St. John we realized quickly the impact their passing would have on W.H.O. funding when it became evident the annual benefit concert would not be able to take place in 2017.

Consequently, we decided to dedicate the collection at our Thanksgiving Day Mass to the memory of John and Theo, for the benefit of W.H.O. efforts in 2017/2018. We are happy to enclose a check for \$8,000.00, representing the gifts received at that Mass and that came in before and after Thanksgiving, as parishioners learned of our plans.

We look forward to our week of service at the shelter in January. Meanwhile, many blessings to you in 2018 and during this season of Advent!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Thomas Belleque, Pastor

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church is a 501(c)3 organization; TIN 91-0974504. No tangible goods or services were exchanged in consideration for this gift.

*Ps. Many thanks for the lovely card & kind words from the WHO staff!*

Website: [www.stjohnvancouver.org](http://www.stjohnvancouver.org)  
Phone: 360.573.3325 / Fax: 360.573.3344 / E-mail: [office@stjohnvancouver.org](mailto:office@stjohnvancouver.org)

**Super Sandwich Helpers!** Thanks to the Hazel Dell LDS youth group who packed 50 lunches for our guests one night in November.

Do you have a group of friends that would like to give back? Contact us at 360-200-8757 or [whoprogram@gmail.com](mailto:whoprogram@gmail.com)—your time will truly make a difference!

