

July
2009

Lydia Place

Celebrates 20 years!



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A Message and a Thank You from the President....

First, a huge thank you to all who came to our fundraising dinner and were so generous, even in these tight times. We are truly appreciative for all that you were able to do.

We continue with our next fundraiser, the “Mother of all Garage Sales” so this is a good time to do some spring cleaning and let Lydia Place take those unwanted treasures off your hands. You can find the schedule for dropping off these items elsewhere in this newsletter as well as the time and date of the sale. Don’t miss it...it is really a spectacular sight. By the way, when you drop off your donation, be sure to come back and buy something during the sale so you have something to donate next year and then you can buy more, donate more....there is a theme here...this way we get you coming back year after year. We will unveil the new Lydia Place dark chocolate bar at the garage sale. These are *really* good and would make fantastic stocking stuffers.

I also want to thank our incredible volunteers....we could not do what we do without the talent that is given to us day after day by people, like you, who have a passion to help women and children follow their path to independence and self-reliance....

Our amazing Board of Directors is always evolving, bringing in new people with new ideas while building on the ideas of those who have gone before. Each year Lydia Place becomes stronger as a result...

Wise Buys, in our new location on State Street in the historic Laube Hotel, continues to thrive and is always an outlet for items you would like to donate. The store is run exclusively by volunteers so all the monies received go directly to Lydia Place....

In addition, our moms are working hard every day to learn the skills they need to help them become proud members of our community too. Thank you for reaching out to them, you really do make a difference in the lives you touch.

As always, we appreciate and rely on your continued support. It has never been more important, especially in light of the difficult times upon us and as a result, we have more children and their moms out there waiting for our help.

Jacie DeLaruelle

Lydia Place Mission Statement

Lydia Place provides a multi-faceted program that supports women and their children in transition from homelessness to independence.

The Mother of All Garage Sales happens only once a year, you don't want to miss it!

Thousands of Items!



Location: The Sportsplex

1225 Civic Field Way (off Lakeway Drive next to Civic Field) on



Fri. Aug. 14 8am-7pm and Sat. Aug. 15 8am- 3pm

Donation Drop-Off Dates at the Sportsplex:

- Sat. Aug. 8 9am-4pm
- Sun. Aug. 9 noon-4pm
- Mon. Aug. 10 2pm-8pm
- Tue. Aug. 11 2pm-8pm
- Wed. Aug 12 2pm-8pm

Hundreds of Donors!

This Years Sponsors

- The Sportsplex,
- 3D Computer Corporation
- Northwest Recycling, RDS,
- Sanitary Services

Proceeds from this garage sale support **Moms & Kids at Lydia Place**

Special Thanks to:

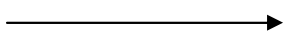
- The Muljat Group/Johnson Team
- Windermere Real Estate/Swanson Group
- Chet Kenoyer/Windermere
- Wilson Furniture



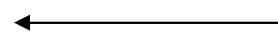
THRIFT STORE

- *Wise Buys needs your donations!
- *All proceeds from the sales at Wise Buys fund the Lydia Place program.
- *Volunteers will take your donations of clothes, knick knacks, household items and small furniture year round.
- *Store hours are Mon.-Sat. from 10:00am to 4:30pm.
- *Located at 1224 N. State Street.

More information can be found about Wise Buys and the "Mother of all Garage Sales" by visiting our WEB SITE ;



www.lydiaplace.org



Why I Volunteer at Lydia Place

By Jody Omta

I started volunteering at Lydia Place in December 2007. My youngest child had just left for college and, after a 25 year career in Laboratory Management and six years as a high school volunteer, I was ready to try something new. A close friend had been volunteering at Lydia Place since it opened its doors and she said "this is where you need to be".

To quote another volunteer, Gail Warren, who is far more articulate than I: "Lydia Place is a refuge of genuine acceptance...where respect for each person is expected, truly required...where every woman and child enters...and lives until she has the resources and ability to find permanent housing for herself and her family. ...I have found my own senses renewed and have learned what letting go of judgment means...." I couldn't say it any better.



Lydia Place has given me an opportunity to engage in the community that I love and live in. It allows me to meet and spend time with individuals in a face to face environment where listening and caring may be the most important things I do. Some of my best days have been spent rocking a baby for a mom so she can take a shower or giving a mom an unexpected ride somewhere so she doesn't have to push a stroller in the rain.



There certainly are days when I wonder if I make a difference. There are days when I don't see any mothers or children at all or where discontent seems to be the dominant emotion in the house. But then there are those days, those clear and gratifying moments, when I know what a difference Lydia Place makes. The day I dusted off some math cobwebs and worked thru a conversion problem with a mom and heard her say "I can do this stuff". The day I helped a mom move to her new apartment and a child in the backseat rubbed her hand over the leather and said "this is a nice car, I could live in this car!" I knew what she meant, but didn't say, was "but I don't have to now". The day a mom who, with the love and dedication of a devoted case manager who had spent over eight hours in three days looking for a place to live, finally came home with a signed lease.

Perhaps more than anything else, Lydia Place reminds me everyday how extremely fortunate I have been. I grew up with tremendous parents, had a successful career, have a wonderful marriage and children and great friends. I often think of my mom, who through all those many childhood crises, used her smile, her confidence, her intellect, her body language, her sense of humor, and her love to remind me that "this too shall pass" and "there is always something you can do to solve a problem if you just keep plugging away". I volunteer at Lydia Place because each and every staff member and volunteer there shares this message in the same way every day.

Lydia Place successful graduates!



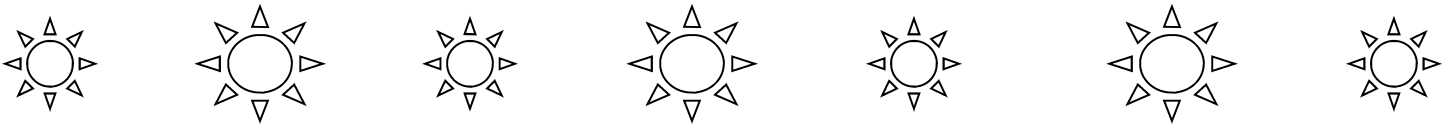
Jody volunteers every Thursday 9 am ~ 1 pm as **Client Support Staff**. She quickly learned to respond to ever varying needs of our clients and staff. We appreciate her flexibility and willingness to pitch in wherever help is needed. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, please contact Noriko Lao, Volunteer Coordinator at norikolao@cs.com or 734-4410. Visit www.lydiaplace.org and click on **Volunteering** to learn more about volunteering at Lydia Place.

Lydia Place
PO Box 28487
Bellingham, WA
98228

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www.lydiaplace.org



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



In April 1989, a nine bedroom house was found and purchased by a task force of Church Women United. In September the doors were opened for the first residents. This unique house fit many of the requirements that the task force deemed necessary to have, including room for children to play indoors and out, ample parking, close to the bus line, stores and schools. The house is located on 1.2 acres in a rural setting zoned for a residency of 18 people. So it was that Lydia Place was established as a means to address the two primary needs of homeless families in the community, housing and stabilization.

We are proud to say that twenty years later we are still supporting women and children as they move from homelessness to independence.
