

# Dream Bigger ... Beginning Year 5!

It hardly seems possible – since 2008 Dream Bigger has walked with women & children through extremely difficult circumstances to a more hopeful future. As a result of your faithful support many hurting families have received help in repairing their homes, assistance with court appearances, legal paperwork, securing safe housing, educational, occupational & financial planning. Their paths were less difficult because they didn't have to go it alone! Because of you - we're making a difference one family at a time!

### Adopt a Family for Christmas

Family violence rarely looks like we'd expect. Many women & children escaping violent homes don't fit the mold of public services, haven't sought rooms at shelters, don't stand in line @ food banks – you can't tell by outward appearance. They are neighbors, classmates, friends, co-workers & family. These moms want to feel normal again, to Shop, Wrap Gifts, Bake Christmas Cookies, Buy & Decorate a Tree. We would like to make that possible by presenting them with GIFT CARDS for Christmas – a discreet yet practical way to say "we support you & you are not alone"!



Please help us provide pre-paid GIFT CARDS for these families for Christmas!

\*Fred Meyer, \*Costco \*Haggen \*Labels \*Target. Please drop off your donation of new pre-paid Gift Cards or mail them to: Dream Bigger, 2221 G St, Bellingham, WA 98225. 360..676.4675

#### What's different about Dream Bigger?

Larger domestic violence agencies serve large numbers of clients. Dream Bigger helps less families - we have a unique focus & mission to:

- \*Welcome those who've fallen through the cracks of current services
- \*Discover what caused them to stay or return to a violent home
- \*Create a unique plan for success using community resources & volunteers
- \*Secure a safe permanent family home suitable for the long-term
- \*Obtain and monitor legal advocacy beyond the immediate needs
- \*Establish micro-loans with a realistic plan for repayment then investment
- \*Build a solid educational & career based income strategy & follow through
- \*Assist in micro-enterprising as a solid career, yet amiable with family life
- \*Provide a strong support network committed for the distance



## **Support Dream Bigger Through Labels**

Drop off Gently Used Clothing & Household Goods to the Dream Bigger account @ Labels Consignment & help women obtain much needed school & work clothing.

## From A Grateful Mother & Her Children

"Dream Bigger made my children's Christmas dreams come true! Leaving my abusive marriage left me financially and emotionally drained. When my children deserved a special Christmas the most, I was unable to provide it for them. Because of Dream Bigger's generosity and unfailing support during a very difficult time, I was able to give my children a wonderful Christmas I would not otherwise have been able to provide. We are eternally grateful for the love, kindness and normalcy Dream Bigger helped put back into our lives".

- a grateful Mother & her children



Whatcom Educational Credit Union **www.wecu.com** 



Thank you Whatcom Educational Credit Union for honoring Dream Bigger as Non Profit Of The Month!

#### Why would she go back?

Unless you've experienced this yourself, it's hard to imagine going back to an abusive situation once away. Statistics tell us that each woman who escapes has tried 6 times previous & returned because:

- Lack of finances no access to and/or no income of her own
- Friendships become estranged abusive men interfere & gradually destruct her friendships
- Housing beyond a few nights at a Shelter is impossible to find & she wants her children safe
- She believes his threats that he will further harm them She knows what he is capable of
- Professional relationships are stifled they say, "he doesn't look like the violent type"

The complications are endless – this tragedy requires a community of help. At Dream Bigger we're privileged to gather community members & local businesses to assist. Her fears are - since statistics tell us that once she's tried to escape, her chances of being murdered by her abuser increases by 75%. Of our community's homeless, 75% are women & children trying to escape family violence. Even in the best scenario, these women & their children live in poverty after their final escape from the abusive home. Please join Dream Bigger in ending this pandemic - one family at a time.

#### I Can't Imagine

"I can't tell you how much Dream Bigger has meant to me. When I was at the lowest place in my life, Dream Bigger gave me a place to call home for a year. They took me in and helped me get back on my feet, and they gave me the confidence I needed to face life again. This ministry was truly a God-send and I can't image where I'd be today without it". – a Thankful Mom who now helps others

#### Thank you To Our Generous Faithful Supporters!

A-1 Pepperworth Plumbing Big Fresh Media **Builders Alliance** Corporate Hygiene Do Construcction Gateway to Freedom Counsel G & Z Express Roofing Harp Spirit Home Depot Jeld Wen Windows & Doors Louws Truss Company NW Family Life Counseling Pak Mail, Barkley Village Re-Store WECU Fountain Branch Western Concrete Pumping Whatcom Volunteer Center Whatcom Women in Business Woods Coffee Matt Bateman Renee & Dan Butler Kathy & Peter Davis Bonnie & Tim Eichenberg Ron Fowler Darrel Holt Susie Iantzen Ellen Korthuis Pamela Nicaise Jeannie Sandquist Cheryl & Paul VanDyken

Birch Equipment Clothes Rack Copies Now Ferndale Ready Mix H.D. Flower Hydro Mechanical Heating **Keller Supply Company** Microsoft Corporation Olive Garden Papa's Sweets, Fairhaven Renee Butler Photography **Towne Painting** Western Forest Products When Love Hurts **Bob & Cindy Brinn Jeanette Coffey** Danielle DeBruine Mary Kaye Edy DeGood Shirley & Winton Engels Eileen Gribble, Yes Massages Mark Hagen Laura Holz, WECU Fountain Faye Honea Staci & Jake Jarvis John & Mary Lloyd Randy & Jan Padgett Allen & Nancy Suchy Mary VanDyken

**Appel Farms** 

Atta Boy Window Cleaning Bergsma Gallery **Bradley Engineering Budget Septic** Chihuahua Restaurant Construction Supply Co. Dewaard & Bode Dancing For Joy Fidelity Investments Focus Ministries Hagen, Vaughn CPA **Graite Construction Hardware Sales** Haggen Grocery JC Penney Salon Joshua Green Foundation Labels Consignment Louis Auto Glass NCI Legal Mobile Flooring Overhead Door Company Pabco Roofing Plato's Closet Quality Inn Baron Suites Washington Women In Need Tech Soup Walls & Windows True Value Ferndale Westside Building Supply Whatcom Gutter Company Women's Independence Scholarship Program Wyandt Accounting Yes Massages Laura Brisbane Doris Buffett, Wisp Marcie Connell, Neighborhood Mortgage **Barry Dehler** Bill & Chris Erickson **Ardith Fleming** Cindy Hendrickson Nancy Ivarinan, NCI Legal Sarah Iuchmes Shellev & Dave Knebel Micah McConkey Lynne & Dave Nelson

Cliff Postma

Debbra Van Beek

Yon & Carolyn Wyandt

#### Your Financial Support is very much appreciated and desperately needed!



The success of Dream Bigger rests solely on your generosity. Without increased giving we're unable to fully commit ourselves to rescue & walk along side families who desperately need help. We need your corroboration as we build our micro loan & entrepreneurial program, expand safe child exchange and visitation, launch groups and trainings to further equip families and advocates to decrease violence

Kris Petersen

Gary & Lisa Thomas

Bonny Vosburgh

## Dream Bigger

Preventing Violence Against Women & Children! Donations are Tax Deductible under IRS Non-Profit EIN #26-3898006 2221 G St, Bellingham, WA 98225 360..676.4675 Laurie@DreamBigger.info

www.DreamBigger.info