

## Questions from Community Meeting for Day Center

### Outreach:

*How are you finding the people? They're allusive and hard to find.* Flyers are being placed at Burien's two libraries, the L.E.A.D. office, Burien Transit Center and Share & Care. Caseworkers have been given leaflets to give to clients. We have let other human services agencies who work in Burien know. We will also let the businesses near the transit center know.

*What was the basis for the how the notices were distributed?*

*What was the radius of this meeting notice?* We printed a parcel map from the King County website and had volunteers take the invite sheets door to door within 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW and S 128<sup>th</sup> St. to S 134<sup>th</sup> St. It was anticipated that these households would be most impacted. Because the volunteers were personally delivering notices, they were not able to leave them at houses with fences that prohibited entry or with signs regarding trespassing or soliciting. This is why we would like to have mailing addresses to ensure notices get to the homes in our direct neighborhood.

*Will the community be allowed to ask more questions after they receive the answers to these questions?* Yes, we will have a follow up meeting. We are currently working with the City to set a date. Questions can also be emailed to [shelter.highlineumc@gmail.com](mailto:shelter.highlineumc@gmail.com)

*Will there be a follow up community meeting for grievances?*

*Are there going to be subsequent community meetings to address ongoing concerns (quarterly?)* We would be happy to offer quarterly community meetings. We would prefer to be notified as soon as a concern arises, and not wait for a quarterly meeting to address any issue that may come up.

When will we get answers? December 29/30, 2023.

**Finances:** *What's the basis for providing \$52.7 dollars/hour?*

Staff will be paid \$25/hr.

The Director will work 25 hr/week x \$25 = \$625/wk x 104 wks = \$65,000 x 1.10 (10% payroll tax) = \$71,500

The Program Staff will work 21 hr/wk. x \$25 = \$525/wk x 104 wks = \$54,600 x 1.10 (10% payroll tax) = \$60,060

Program time will increase after January to 10 am to 4 pm.

The reason for paying \$25/hr is to get people who will stay with the job and also have the skills to work with people with disabilities. Many social service agencies have trouble keeping staff because minimum wage is not a living wage in this area.

*Is there no co-mingling of funds from the severe weather shelter?* No, as with any grant, all funds must be accounted for according to the budget submitted with the application. The money spent for either the Severe Weather Shelter or the Day Center will come from HUMC's reserve and then be reimbursed by the City of Burien requiring receipts. The City checks the receipts and compares the amounts to the original budget. HUMC cannot spend more than what is allotted for either program nor buy anything unrelated to the specific program.

*To what degree is the City involved in this partnership, monetary or otherwise?* The City of Burien has only allocated money from the American Recovery Plan Act they received from the federal government. The City of Burien is not involved in the daily work of the Day Center, but receives and uses the data generated by the Day Center to inform future requests for programming or to apply for money provided by the county, state or federal governments to cities.

*Is a permit required through the city and has it been received?* No special permit is required for the Day Center. Having food, groups, classes and meetings are all within the normal operations of church property. The Severe Weather Shelter gets a temporary use permit because people are sleeping overnight inside our building. The permit requires a building inspection by a city building inspector and the fire chief. These inspections are to oversee how the operations and fire watch will be maintained to ensure the safety of the participants in the building in case of an emergency. We received the temporary use permit for the entire winter season and are able to use it for hosting the asylum seekers who stayed in our building in November.

*Is there city funding for this project?* The City of Burien is funding 89% of the Day Center through one-time federal funds made available by the American Recovery Plan Act. The \$200,000 ARPA grant does not cover the entire cost of the Day Center for two years. The church anticipates covering \$24,600 of expenses and in-kind donations including additional utilities, maintenance, class supplies, computer equipment, food, clothing and personal supplies.

**Church Plans:** *How does this play into the church's motto? How does this help the church grow the congregation in the community? What is this church's mission? And how will this not further divide the community? How does it affect the congregation?*

Highline UMC Vision Statement:

"God calls us to be a church of Beloved Community, a culturally diverse community where the gifts of every culture are lifted up and celebrated to the glory of God; an economically diverse community where a person's worth is not dependent on their financial standing; a generous and accountable community where everyone is a good steward in sharing their resources of time, talent and gift according to what God has given each; a multi-generational community where children are active participants alongside adults in all areas of the church; a healthy community where everyone learns and grows in their discipleship, authenticity, communication skills, conflict resolution, general health and well-being; and a joyful community where everyone comes together experiencing God's love and grace in communion." (September 2017)

Detail of Vision Statement regarding Outreach/Mission:

"As a Beloved Community, in Outreach we accompany our neighbors locally and globally to advocate and act to relieve injustice and inequality with compassion and mercy. We support and resource immigrants and those experiencing homelessness, hunger and addiction, and partner with non-profits and others doing similar work. We advocate and work for a clean and healthy environment and develop affordable housing solutions and community gardens." (September 2017)

*Are there future plans for this facility and what would the \$2M be used for?* In February 2023, HUMC applied for federal funding through Sen. Murray to assess the possibility of redeveloping the church property (current building and parking lot) to provide year-round shelter and affordable apartments at 50-80% Average Median Income (approximately \$50,000-80,000 annual household income) Sen. Murray selected this project for funding, which is now subject to the passing of the appropriations bill for the 2024 budget year. If we receive these funds, they will be used for a feasibility study, environmental impact studies, architectural plans and other pre-development work. This does not guarantee that a redevelopment plan would actually come to fruition. HUMC would still have a congregation onsite, but most likely there would be other non-profit organizations partnering with us to provide housing and other services. HUMC would not receive funding to build a new church. HUMC would bring capital to the project and be a partner in the overall project.

The sanctuary and fellowship hall were built in 1946 and the education building in 1957. In addition to room configuration, the upgrades to electrical and fire safety systems prohibit HUMC from running an efficient shelter

program that would keep unhoused individuals inside where they would receive meals and services which help move them into housing faster than staying on the streets. City Staff, Burien Police and social service agencies serving the unhoused in Burien have asked HUMC if year-round shelter would be a possibility on our campus. This is largely the reason for our interest in studying the possibilities of redevelopment. We believe a new building would provide a more appealing looking building and aesthetic to the area than our current building. We plan to keep the Community Garden regardless of any changes to the building.

[Please note that the \$5M referenced in the December 4<sup>th</sup> Agenda Bill, page 6 (page 5 of the Johnson Memo) is from a memo from Jake Johnston of the Johnston Group (the lobbyist the City of Burien contracts with for Federal lobbying.) There is no new funding being proposed or voted on that would go to Highline UMC. Mr. Johnston is merely giving an example of previous successes in getting federal money. Under the heading "Earmarks" the paragraph that begins, "The City of Burien has successfully navigated this funding opportunity already" Mr. Johnston is referring back in time to the application Highline UMC made to Sen. Murray for \$5M but was only granted \$2M in February of 2023. Mr. Johnston was the entity who alerted the City to this funding opportunity. Highline UMC applied for the grant on its own behalf. The City of Burien included HUMC as one of about five projects they were recommending Sen. Murray fund. Mr. Johnston also makes this clear when he writes, "Burien has also supported the following two requests from other Burien area entities:" By "supported" he is referring to the letter of recommendation and "other Burien area entities" is referring to South King Housing and Homelessness Partnership and Highline UMC.]

*Does this affect the churches 501c3 status?* No. HUMC will operate the Day Center as any other non-profit agency would. Catholic Community Services holds contracts with King County, the City of Seattle, the City of Kent and more and they are a religious organization. Religious organizations can operate programs with government funding as long as the program is open to anyone regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability status, religious beliefs, etc.; religious affiliation or participation is not required of participants or staff; and staffing follows equal opportunity employment law.

*Are there plans for this to run past December 2025?* Possibly. It would depend on the outcomes of this two year program, availability of funding, and whether or not the building is slated for redevelopment (in which case, the program may be moved to a different location temporarily.)

*What's the church's expectation for community support for this endeavor?* Through the Severe Weather Shelter work, HUMC had 92 active community volunteers during the 2022-23 winter season for a total of 2300 hours. Some of these volunteers live within the immediate neighborhood or within walking distance of the church. There are 558 community members who donate money, food, clothing and personal items to the Severe Weather Shelter. There are five churches (Presbyterian, UCC, Catholic, and Lutheran) who give money annually in support of the shelter. All of these community volunteers and supporters have encouraged HUMC to expand the services offered to the unhoused community and were supportive of the potential Day Center program being added. We expect this support will continue as we already have volunteers signing up to help with the Day Center programming and are receiving financial donations as well. Glendale Lutheran Church included HUMC as one of the recipients of a legacy financial gift after closing their congregation and selling their building. In March of 2023, a prominent member of the community hosted a community fundraiser that was advertised on the B Town Blog where we announced our intentions of expanding our ability to provide shelter and services to the unhoused community.

*Why has the church not involved the community until after funding has been requested?* Given the support and input of the community at-large, we have involved a larger representation of our city in our decision-making. In the summer of 2019, we invited the immediate neighborhood to three outdoor BBQs to get to know the church as well as other neighbors. Three neighbors came and were very interested and supportive of the shelter work we had started in

February 2019. Given the lack of response to that invitation and similar indifference to our Community Garden build out, we worked with the community who engaged with us. The meeting we held on Wednesday, December 20, 2023, was out of consideration for the community that does not engage with us; to be apprised of what we are doing. We are aware of people's concerns for safety and security and hoped to hear those concerns and make sure we were addressing them.

*Is the church investing in traditional faith-based operations or only in non-faith-based endeavors?*

We are quite traditional in our Wesleyan heritage as Methodists. John Wesley who began the Methodist movement as a priest in the Church of England with students at Oxford held personal devotion (study and prayer,) corporate worship (Sunday services,) Personal acts of compassion, and Corporate acts of mercy equally. At HUMC we have weekly worship, Wesleyan Small Groups, Bible Study, and Outreach/Mission work. John Wesley made tending to the poorest of the poor in England a staple of the Methodist gatherings. Unlike Protestant Denominations that came out of the Reformation who place an emphasis on "justification by faith alone", Wesley supported the writings in the Book of James, "What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

(James, Chapter 2, Verses 14-17 New Revised Standard Version)

Jesus makes it clear what the priorities of his followers should be:

"Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the kingdom of God.

<sup>21</sup> "Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup> "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you<sup>[d]</sup> on account of the Son of Man. <sup>23</sup> Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup> "But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup> "Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

"Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup> "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets." (Luke, Chapter 6, Verses 20-26 NRSV)

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or

thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.'" (Matthew, Chapter 25, Verses 31-46, NRSV)

*What's the church's future goal for adding days/week?* The current Monday, Tuesday, Thursday schedule was chosen to complement Transform Burien providing services on Wednesday and Friday. The only days that would be added would be Wednesday or Friday and only if the need warranted it or Transform Burien no longer provided meals on those days and funding was available.

### **Program:**

*Can you provide more details on registration and check out process and how people will get back to where they come from? What is the responsibility for people who leave church property?* The Day Center will only utilize the downstairs/basement level of the building. Participants will enter through the main door to the Fellowship Hall at the corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S. and S 130<sup>th</sup> Pl. Just inside the Hall, participants will have to register and subsequently check-in on future visits before entering the full Day Center.

Registration will include:

First and Last Name, phone number, email, demographic information (race, gender, age, city of residence), address (not all participants will be unhoused), car make/model and license plate number, Emergency Contact & Phone Number/Email, Case Worker Name, Phone Number, and Agency, health information/screening, review of the Code of Conduct and Consequences, Signature agreeing to Code of Conduct, and what services they are intending to engage with that day (meal, phone charging, class, etc.) Attendance will be recorded at classes/groups and double-checked against list of people who signed in for the class at registration.

Participants will be instructed at check-in that they need to check-out when they leave. At checkout, participants will be asked where they are heading and what their plan is for getting there is. This will be cross-referenced against their registration card that gives information about where they normally reside/hang out. If the participant needs a bus pass it will be provided.

*How often/times do people have to come to get to a position of independence? Is there a cap for how many times a person can come?* There is no limit to the number of times a person can come to the Day Center. How long it takes a participant to make gains is completely individual depending on mental health, medical conditions, substance use, and work capacity. Participants are not required to engage in a particular number of services or in a particular order. Staff and volunteers will work to build relationships with each participant to develop trust, learn from the participant what their priorities are for themselves, and connect them to the services or service providers who can help them achieve what they are seeking. Through these relationships, staff and volunteers can also encourage participants to try different services and explain the benefits of certain services or make introductions to people who are providing those services to help the participant make use of the services they may need, but not readily state or know how to begin to address. Not all people who live with various disabilities can be fully independent. Many of the people living with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder need someone to oversee their money or need to live in a housing arrangement that provides various

chore services or medical oversight. Some participants may come to the Day Center for socialization or recreation if they have an apartment or live in a supportive housing facility.

**Background Checks:** *How were the volunteers selected and screened?* Volunteers for the first three months are all volunteers who have experience at the Severe Weather Shelter. Volunteers who work one-on-one with a participant will need to consent to a national background check, which HUMC administers through MinistrySafe in accordance with our insurance provider. People who want to volunteer who are not already familiar with our programming will be screened by staff and given a background check followed by training.

*What kind of training will staff and volunteers get like de-escalation, narcan, etc.?* Staff will be required to attend trainings, while it will be optional for volunteers. Trainings provided include: Mental Health First Aid, De-escalation, Healthy Boundaries, and Accompaniment Training. Staff have been instructed in the use of Narcan, which is kept on the premises.

*Will there be screening for sex offenders or felons before they enter the Day Center?* No, the Day Center is considered Low Barrier Access. This does NOT mean we do not take precautions for the safety of everyone involved. No one is ever alone with another person in any room of the building. All staff and volunteers are instructed to not exchange personal information with participants, to have another person present in the area when engaging one-on-one with a participant and to report any suspicious activity or conversation with the staff lead.

**Code of Conduct/Rules:** *Code of Conduct? Will neighbors have a say in the code of conduct, Copy of the code of conduct and how will it be enforced?*

- Masks are strongly suggested for anyone with a cough or who has lowered immune response
- The Day Center is Only to be entered and exited through the Front Fellowship Hall Door, Check in and Check out is required.
- Participants are not allowed to access the upper floor of the building unless to exit the building in an emergency when all other exits are blocked.
- Anytime a participant leaves the building they must check out with the Staff member at the front desk.
- Participants are not allowed to access Casa Italiana across 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S to the east of the Day Center.
- Participants are to use major arterials when traveling to and from the Day Center (1<sup>st</sup> Ave S, 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW, S 128<sup>th</sup> St, and S 136<sup>th</sup> St. Taking smaller streets through the immediate neighborhood is not allowed.
- Participants with cars may only park on church property during Day Center hours. Cars may not be parked in the church parking lot or within four blocks of the church in any direction after the Day Center closes each day.
- Smoking is only allowed at the front of the building using the Front Fellowship Hall Door.
- While this is a low barrier center, there is **no drug or alcohol use allowed in the building, the parking lot or the community garden.**
- **No weapons are allowed.** If a participant has a weapon, we can securely store it until check out.
- **No physical confrontations or fighting is allowed on the property. [Violation of this rule is automatic removal from participation for no less than one month, but subject to a longer period and police will be called.]**
- **No loud arguments or shouting is allowed on the property.**
- All food must be eaten in the eating area of the Fellowship Hall.
- **No stealing.** Participants must stay out of other people's belongings. **[Violation of this rule is automatic removal from participation for no less than one month, but subject to a longer period and police will be called.]**
- All belongs must be removed from the Day Center property when the Participant checks out each day.
- Staff reserves the right to remove any Participant from the Day Center if Participant presents a danger to the Day Center or another Participant, Volunteer or Staff member.

- Violation of any of these rules (except those noted above) will result in one verbal warning. A second violation of the same rule will result in removal from the Day Center for one week. A third violation of the same rule will result in removal from the Day Center for one month. A fourth violation of the same rule will result in a conference between staff, case worker (if assigned) and participant to determine best course of action, which may include a ban from the program.

*Will participants have to be sober/clean?* No, this is a Low Barrier Access program; therefore participants do not have to be clean or sober to enter the building. Participants must adhere to code of conduct and not actively use alcohol or drugs in program areas, which include the inside of the building, community garden or parking lot. There will be a designated smoking area for tobacco products outside the front of the building. Participants will need to check in and out at the front desk to go out to smoke.

*Will weapons be allowed and how will you control it?* Weapons are not allowed in the Day Center. Participants will not be searched for weapons. If weapons are shown/visible, the participant will be given the opportunity to surrender the weapon to the front desk and retrieve their weapon upon leaving the Center or they will need to leave the Center completely and not be allowed to participate any further for that session. Notes will be kept on registration cards to check with participants known to have weapons at each future date of attendance, reminding them weapons are not allowed, giving them the opportunity to check-in a weapon for the time they are in the center, or be asked to leave.

*Who's going to ensure this doesn't become a camp of cars parking off hours?*

*Will cars be allowed to park here overnight?* Day Center Participants will not be allowed to park in the HUMC parking lot past 4:15 pm each night. Participants with cars will have to report their car make & model and license plate number at registration. Violation of parking on the property after hours will have the same consequences as other rules. HUMC does have staff and church volunteers who come to the church building at all hours of the day and night, so it is not uncommon to see a car in the parking lot. We also have people who work in various service jobs that also use our parking lot to take a break, eat lunch, or talk on cell phones. People also often pull off into our parking lot to answer calls or check their cars.

*Will camping be allowed on HUMC property?* No, as a general rule, HUMC does not allow camping on the property. This does not mean that people do not come and set up camp without asking. HUMC generally tries to connect these individuals with services to help them find somewhere to go and get them off the property. We also prefer not to impound vehicles people are living in, as this further compounds where they can sleep safely and how they can store their belongings. It often does require the threat of towing or calling the police to get people to move off the property.

*What do we do at Casa Italiana, we do not want people coming to our business?* We will extend our hours after the first two weeks in January to 4 pm. We originally planned to be open until 4 pm, but anticipated a slow start for the first month at least. We will also make it clear to participants, staff and volunteers that people from the Day Center are not welcome at Casa Italiana and therefore are not to cross the street except to go to the bus stop. As with any trespass on neighbors' property, participants will receive successive warnings leading to a ban from the program if they are not able to abide by the Code of Conduct. As a business, Casa Italiana is also within their rights to trespass any person from their property through the normal police processes.

*Will people be removed from the program for not adhering to the rules. . . particularly in regard to leaving the property?* Yes, at varying increments of removal, that may result in a long-term ban from the program. While we have consequences for each violation of a rule, we reserve the right to take the participant's disabilities and case worker's counsel into account before enacting a long-term or permanent ban.

*Would people from the cold weather shelter be allowed to hang around here for the rest of the day?* On Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday mornings after the Severe Weather Shelter closes at 9 am, shelter guests will be allowed to line up outside the door to the Day Center to check in to the Day Center program at 10 am. Staff needs time to transition from Shelter to Day Center and registration and check-in for the two programs is completely separate.

If we anticipate opening the Severe Weather Shelter in the evening of a Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday, we will query participants to see who would be checking into the Shelter that evening. Those who plan to stay the night will be allowed to stay in the Fellowship Hall until 6 pm at which time they will need to check out of the Day Center and line up outside to be checked in to the Shelter at 7 pm.

**Security:** *What type of security will be around for after hours? Will there be recordings of people coming and going all night?* We currently have four video cameras installed throughout the building. And two more video cameras placed to record outdoor activity at the back of the building and parking lot.

*Has the sheriff's dept. been notified that this is opening?* Yes, the Burien Police are aware of the Day Center opening. Officer Tucker whose partner Daisy is a social worker stopped by the church in November to get more information. They anticipate bringing people in need to the Day Center when they come across them around town.

*If people have questions after this meeting, who will they contact?* You can email [shelter.highlineumc@gmail.com](mailto:shelter.highlineumc@gmail.com) or call the church phone number 206-241-5520.

*Would it be cheaper to email instead of mail?* The reason we wanted to capture mailing addresses is that we had difficulty getting notification to all the houses in the neighborhood because of fences, no trespassing or soliciting signs, etc. If we have addresses, we can easily send a postcard for future meetings. Also, people move, so we would no longer have contact for a house once the person on our email list is gone. People do not always receive emails if they go to spam or get buried in a long list of new emails. We will respond to emails, but prefer mail for notifications.

*Will the perimeter walk include the garden parking lot and sheds?* Yes

*Is there an exit plan for this if it does not go well?*

*What are the standards for what is a problem that would be used to shut down the program?*

*What's acceptable police dispatch rate to this site? At what point will the church say that rate is not acceptable?* The Human Services Commission would not have granted HUMC with the funds to open a Day Center if our work with the Severe Weather Shelter was unacceptable in terms of safety and burden to law enforcement. On the contrary, our work actually lessens the need for police calls because people in need are getting support and resources. Chief Boe has stated statistics to this regard many times.

We do not anticipate a high rate of police calls. In the five years of running the Severe Weather Shelter, there was only one night that police were called twice. Otherwise, we call the police once every two to three nights, which is a very low rate given the complexity of individuals' situations and being together for up to 13 hours per night. We have a good relationship with the Burien Police Department and Chief Boe. Also, the two teams of officers and social workers know many of the unhoused people in our community and are very good at resolving conflicts without incident.

*Is there a dedicated phone line where we can report something without having to immediately call the police?* The church phone line is 206-241-5520. When the office is closed, the phone is forwarded to Pastor Jenny. Much like calling a doctor's office for an urgent medical issue, they often refer you to call 911. If the Day Center is closed or the church office is closed, it is not reasonable to think we can "immediately" respond to every call. If someone's personal safety or property is in danger, it would be more expedient to call the police than to expect a church staff person who is off work to be able to come to the property to respond in a timely manner. Like any business with a parking lot, there will always be people parking or walking through. The church has been broken into many times in the past decade. The church mailbox has been pried open. Our garden sheds are repeatedly broken into. We are well aware of what happens in the middle of the night. Our experience is that break-ins to our buildings do not happen when we are offering services on site. The break-ins have always happened when people are desperate and we are in a season of not being open for shelter or other services.



*Will professional security services be contracted?* No. Given the high propensity of unhoused folks and low-income folks living on disability living with a chronic mental illness, we prefer to have our own staff, who are trained in mental health first aid and de-escalation to handle any situations that may arise. Security officer presence is also threatening too many of the demographics of people we anticipate using the services at the Day Center. In our work with the Severe Weather Shelter, we have learned that building relationships, treating people with respect, and being clear about expectations is much more effective in preventing conflicts and confrontations than a person in a uniform watching them.

**Refugees:**

*Are migrants still here and what is being done to make sure they don't clash with the homeless?*

*Are there currently people living on the church property?* Of the 34 asylum seekers who stayed in our building during November, two families totaling 9 people (including two small children, a pregnant mom, and a grandmother) were allowed to stay as they are working through a King County Housing Advocate and have two apartments in south Seattle they are in the process of leasing. Because of the asylum status, the paperwork involved takes longer than a normal apartment lease situation. The other families moved on November 30, 2023 to a hotel in Seatac as they have a much longer process to get housing.

We have a staff person who is multi-lingual who is working with the families teaching English lessons 4-5 nights per week. The shelter work and Day Center have been explained to these families so they know what to expect should we need to open the shelter or they are with us in January when the Day Center opens. Because we have established a relationship with these families they understand our work of helping people in need whether it is immigrants like themselves or people with various disabilities. They are familiar with many of the people who come to the church for worship on Sundays. Because of our very low number of immigrants and the support they receive, this situation is very different from the Riverton Park UMC in Tukwila that has hundreds of immigrants making it very difficult to work one-on-one with each family and help meet their individual needs. When people are desperate for services and communicating in different languages is difficult, their emotions and patience give way to conflict.

**Shelter:** *Was the idea for the shelter based on the number of people dying in the cold?* The Severe Weather Shelter began in February of 2019 when a snow storm and freezing temperatures were forecasted to shut down the region for multiple days. With the help of several churches and many volunteers and donors from the community, we sheltered 58 people for 13 days, many of which were 24 hour days because buses were not running, businesses were closed and there was nearly a foot of snow on the ground for a full week. Many of those 58 people would have ended up in the Emergency Room if not dying of exposure had we not created shelter for them. Through County Commissioner Joe McDermott, the City of Burien received \$15,000 to continue providing the Severe Weather Shelter and subsequently the City of Burien added the Severe Weather Shelter to the city budget. It is most important when St. Anne's hospital discharges elderly people with no home into the cold dressed in a hospital gown, sweatpants, and slippers. This has happened to us three times over the five years we have operated the shelter. Last year a young man with hypothermia was dropped off by a taxi driver who found him at a bus shelter. He would not have survived the night. He was no longer able to communicate coherently, so we were instrumental in getting him to the ER and saving his life.

**Property Damage/Liability:** *Will this church be held accountable for property damage? Will church accept full responsibility for crime and vandalism in the neighborhood?* We have not had an instance of any neighbor claiming property damage from any of our shelter guests. We have worked with two different neighbors who had packages stolen from their steps at the time the shelter was open, although there was no proof of who stole the packages and the objects and/or packaging were not found on or near church property. We reimbursed those neighbors the cost of the items lost. We can never say never that someone's property may be damaged. The person causing the damage is the first person to be held accountable/liable for the damage. Depending on the damage, the situation, known circumstances, etc., HUMC will work with direct neighbors to help rectify the situation. That said, we will not accept blanket responsibility for any and all property damage in the neighborhood given there are many different types of people in Burien who commit crime.

*Has the church increased their insurance liability?* We have not increased our insurance liability and our insurance company is aware of the work we do and issues an annual certificate of insurance that is required by the City of Burien.

*What is the liability if one of the staff, volunteers or participants are harmed or killed, etc.?* For staff and volunteers, HUMC pays WA L & I tax for job related injuries. For other harm that should happen on the property, the church does carry liability insurance. We also engage in training and safety practices to minimize the risk of harm.

*Will the church do a better job of picking up the garbage around here? Shopping carts, garbage, etc. in the neighborhood?*—We admit that garbage has been more than difficult for Highline UMC. We struggle with people pulling up in cars and throwing their garbage in our cans or on our property. We struggle with people stealing our containers. We have tried a few different systems with new problems arising each time. We now have chain link fencing to create a secure collection area. One of the jobs of the Day Center will be custodial work which includes garbage. By involving participants in the work of the Day Center, picking up litter and containing garbage will be done every day the Day Center is open. During the Shelter openings in the winter of 2022-23, church volunteers worked at returning shopping carts to their respective stores. Shopping carts will be included in the grounds clean up and returned to stores if at all possible. We also expect to foster a sense of ownership in maintaining the upkeep of the facility and grounds.

*Who is responsible for the Burien Day Center?* Highline United Methodist Church.

*How often will Jenny be here during the day center being open?* Every Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, except for sickness or vacation.