



City of  
**Langley** Washington

South Whidbey Homeless Coalition  
Needs Your Support

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Dear Friends,

You have been a supporter to the Whidbey Homeless Coalition and we couldn't be more grateful for your dedication. You have given your time, your home-cooked food, your labor, your hard-earned money, and your heart to the cause of putting a roof over our unsheltered neighbors' heads. Your generosity has changed lives!

We are now in need of your help again in our quest for a permanent home for the Haven, our overnight emergency shelter.

As you may well know, we have spent many years searching for a permanent home for the Haven. We have deep gratitude for the churches that have hosted our shelter on a rotation for the past three years. The agreement that we worked out with these churches was for them to host us for a 4-year period while we searched for a permanent home. This agreement expires the summer of 2021. We need to find a permanent solution to ease that burden on the churches and to better serve our vulnerable guests.

We have applied for and received a grant that will allow us this opportunity. We have spent quite a bit of time looking into options for our permanent home. We looked in Oak Harbor city limits, but their zoning laws do not allow for our type of operation. We have looked at several buildings outside of city limits, but they have either been well outside of our financial reach or in very dilapidated condition. This was a bit discouraging until we found a location on Morris Rd outside of Coupeville. You may recognize this location as it is the former JW Hall which is around the corner from Ryan's House for Youth. The building is in beautiful shape and suits our needs and our budget. We are currently under contract and have applied for the necessary zoning variance to operate a shelter such as the Haven on county land.

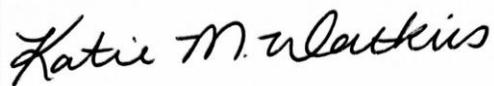
As you know, homelessness is often a controversial subject. There are many passionate feelings that come up for people anytime it is addressed. Over the past week, our intentions were made public and there has been some community pushback towards our

plans for this purchase. Our success on this purchase comes down to being approved for this zoning variance at the county level.

So, how can you help?

Right now we need YOU, our supporters, to contact your district commissioners and voice your support for the Whidbey Homeless Coalition securing the Haven a permanent home! We have provided their contact information below to make this an easy ask. Tell them why you support a permanent shelter in Island County and why have been a faithful friend to the coalition over the years.

We at Whidbey Homeless Coalition thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



**Katie Watkins**  
President to the Board of Directors  
Whidbey Homeless Coalition

#### Island County Commissioners

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