



HS4H

HOUSING SOLUTIONS
FOR HOPE

Housing Solutions For Hope Guild Newsletter



Volume 01 | Issue 01 | HS4H Guild Newsletter – December 2020

President's Corner

What a year! I hope this finds you safe and healthy. We have all found ourselves in circumstances that we could have never predicted a year ago. Civil unrest coupled with the worst public health scenario ever in modern times has certainly stretched our collective resilience. The need for our Guild's services of ensuring Seattle Children's patient families remain housed is ever more necessary – because kiddos continue to need the amazing care provided. Families are still dealing with the financial burden of extensive care durations in addition to the rest that 2020 tossed at us all.

The HS4H Guild continues to proceed ahead. The families need us, and we need you. Sending you many blessings for 2021.

With deepest gratitude,
Scott Bingham
HS4H President and Founder

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HS4H Guild is profiled in **Laurelhurst & Windermere LIVING Magazine**

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Virtual Auction and Golf Tournament in 2021

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2020 Year in Review

We hope this letter finds you all safe and healthy! Even though we have had to postpone all in-person fundraising events during this unprecedented time of COVID in 2020, we have remained diligent raising funds for Seattle Children's patient families.

We were profiled in the **Laurelhurst & Windermere LIVING Magazine** in July – thank you so much to **Jennifer Yeend** for her fabulous storytelling!

Guild Officers:

Scott Bingham, President & Founder
Marty Weishaar, VP
Sarah Bingham, Treasurer
Stacia Weishaar, Secretary
Wendy Kristek, Auditor
Lauri Bingham, Operations Chair

Guild eMail: info@housingsolutionsforhope.org
Website: <https://housingsolutionsforhope.org/>

non-profit news

Written by Jennifer Yeend

A NEW HOPE In Northeast Seattle

Housing Solutions For Hope

On a fall day in 2016, Stacia Weishaar had a conversation with a friend. She didn't know it at the time, but it marked a turning point – setting her and husband, Marty, on a path to meeting Scott and Lauri Bingham. Three years later, the two couples would co-found Housing Solutions for Hope, the first guild of its kind at Seattle Children's Hospital.

Back in 2016, Stacia couldn't foresee any of this – she was simply showing up for a friend. He told her about a friend in the neighborhood whose child was gravely ill. Stacia didn't know this family personally, but the story affected her profoundly. In the following weeks, Stacia and Marty inquired about this family every chance they could. They learned the father had to quit his dream job to be with his son at Seattle Children's. As a result, the family was struggling to make their mortgage payments and now they were in danger of losing their house. Stacia and Marty felt compelled to help.

The Weishaars already supported the hospital's uncompensated care, so Stacia phoned the executive director of the Seattle Children's Guild Association to ask if they could temporarily direct their donation through the guild supporting housing security to help this specific family. The director informed her there was no such guild. The Weishaars were shocked. Here was a hospital with over 300 guilds, but none dedicated to housing assistance. Dismay then turned to determination – if a housing guild didn't exist, they'd just have to start one. They got to work, pushing for a solution.

Unbeknownst to the Weishaars at the time, Scott Bingham, Senior Director of IT at Seattle Children's shared a similar vision and was gaining traction. He and his wife, Lauri, who volunteered at the hospital, had seen the need for housing support firsthand.

“BEING RIGHT THERE AT CHILDREN'S, WE HEARD THE STORIES FROM CLINICIANS ON THE FLOOR. WE KNEW OF FAMILIES WHO WERE LIVING IN CARS, OR WAITING IN LINE TO GET INTO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE.”

SAID SCOTT BINGHAM,
PRESIDENT OF HOUSING SOLUTIONS FOR HOPE.

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Everyone agreed there was a problem, but no one had tackled it. A vision for a guild began to take shape in Scott's mind, so he approached his colleagues in leadership. "I asked, what's preventing us from doing this? And there was no reason," said Scott. "It just hadn't been done before." Through a Master's program at Seattle University, Scott worked to hone his vision into an actionable plan.

In 2018, a mutual acquaintance of the Weishaars and Bingham became aware of their parallel efforts and facilitated a meeting. The four met up at the RAM to discuss their shared vision. "Scott was very prepared," Stacia recalled, "he had developed a business plan for the guild. When he walked us through his PowerPoint, I got tears in my eyes. Then he started talking about the 'why' of what he was doing and I knew we were in." So the four joined forces.

The "why" was easy to get behind. Many patient families at Seattle Children's are in financial distress due to the strain of having a critically ill child, and in most cases, the needs are ongoing. For a patient to be discharged, several things must be in place. There's a checklist with questions such as: do you have a refrigerator to store the medicine? In some cases, families can't check those basic boxes. "In a stable home environment, there's a greater chance the patient will not relapse and have to return for more treatment," said Scott, "so we want to provide patients with a healthy environment to recover."

Scott's leadership position at the hospital gave him access to the right people at the right time.

He approached the Guild Association Board of Trustees with his vision for the guild, and they agreed it aligned with their values of equity and excellence.

The Bingham and Weishaars officially launched Housing Solutions for Hope in early 2019. With fundraising as its primary focus, the guild works closely with social services and organizations inside Seattle Children's who nominate patient families in greatest need. Guild funds go toward covering mortgage or rent payments to help bridge families through the critical care period – usually about three months. Housing Solutions for Hope's first auction in November brought in \$180,000, enabling the guild to



One-year-old Alyanna and her family are grateful for the support they received from their care team and donors at Seattle Children's.

help more than 20 families in 2019, according to Marty. Things were rolling, with two big fundraisers lined up for 2020.

Then COVID-19 hit. In April, the team had to make the difficult decision to cancel their summer and fall fundraiser events. While the Bingham and Weishaars admit the pandemic has slowed their progress, they remain undeterred as they turn to new and creative ways to reach donors. They've started to plan an online auction. Someone they know recently hosted a drive-by birthday party and requested attendees donate to the guild in lieu of gifts. While they see challenges, they also see a greater purpose: the pandemic's ripple effect of rising unemployment means more patient families are on the brink. The "why" still remains, and there's a need for hope – now more than ever.



To find out how you can give your support, visit www.housingsolutionsforhope.org.

We have raised over **\$32,450** in 2020!

In Memory of...

The HS4H Leadership Team continues to be humbled by the bountiful generosity of our Donors. To learn that people are asking their friends and family to donate to our Guild, in memory, as a cherished one passes is especially humbling. We do not take this honor lightly, and keep those memorials close to our hearts as we continue to grow and nurture the Guild. We are filled with gratitude and sincerely thank those who have chosen to honor the life of their loved ones with a gift to Housing Solutions for Hope. These thoughtful, generous gifts are deeply appreciated, and we will be able to bless many.

We honor the lives, family, and friends of:

- **Lorrie Coleman**
- **Kim Ferris**





2021 Golf Tournament

We have secured Sand Point Country Club's Newly Redesigned, private course for **August 2, 2021!**

Some of the Highlights:

- Shotgun Start @ 11AM
- Hole in One-2021 Ford Shelby GT350R
- Prizes for top finishers as well as Long Drive, Putting, and Closest to the Hole
- Course designed by world renowned architect David McLay Kidd known for courses such as Bandon Dunes, TPC Stonebrae and Gamble Sands

Multiple Sponsorship Packages available! We would like to highlight Sponsors connected to the Housing/Building industry – let **Phil Harcastle** (hardcastle@outlook.com or (206) 276-3090) know if you have any contacts or connections interested!

2021 Virtual Auction

We are actively planning the next auction and will plan to make it a virtual one this coming spring. The planning team is just getting started, so if you're interested in donating an auction item, or volunteering to help pull it all together – we'd love to chat!

We are planning a silent auction the day prior to the LIVE event, so we are actively looking for a volunteer to head up Procurement – let us know if you are interested.



WA, AK, MT and ID comprise the **largest** region of any Children's Hospital in the country



The travel distance to the hospital, can force families to relocate and/or set up dual households



Every night, there is a waitlist at other housing options like Ronald McDonald House (RMH)



100's of patient families face housing insecurity every month

2020 Leadership

Our HS4H Leadership team was profiled by the Seattle Children's Guild Association, as one of the guilds who were:

**Six Feet Close:
How Guilds Stay Socially
Connected While Physically
Distanced**

Housing Solutions for Hope Guild



Housing Solutions for Hope Guild officers from left to right: Marty and Stacia Weishaar, Scott and Lauri Bingham, Sarah Bingham, and Wendy Kristek

The Housing Solutions for Hope Guild covers housing needs (such as short-term rent or mortgage assistance) for patient families at Seattle Children's. Guild co-founder and president Scott Bingham says that after choosing 2020 dates for the guild's events and then having to postpone the golf tournament and auction as a result of COVID-19, members decided the best way to support each other would be to quickly regroup and plan 2021 dates and kick off a light social media campaign. The guild members then decided to take the summer off and regroup in the fall.

"We have a lot of young families and volunteers involved in our guild – some are job hunting or juggling working and caring for children through the pandemic," he says. "We share compassion and understanding around where they are and we're trying not to put too much extra on their plates."

It speaks to his guild's resiliency that they have committed to come back together this fall to plan for their next event in February.

"Now with something set on the horizon we can move forward at a realistic pace," Bingham says. "We didn't just hit the wall and stop, we got our next event on the calendar and are working toward it."

<https://www.seattlechildrens.org/giving/guilds/membership-news/>

HS4H Guild Members:

As we get ready to roll into 2021, we have some reminders:

1. Remember to pay your annual **Guild Membership Dues**, noting both the **Guild Name** and the **Designation** (as shown below) <https://give.seattlechildrens.org/give/298812>

Guild Name:

Designation *

- a. Also consider becoming a **Lifetime Member!**

2. Determine which (or both!) of the upcoming 2021 Events you'd like to participate in:
 - a. For the **Virtual Auction** in the spring of 2021, contact **Lauri Bingham** (lauri.bingham@outlook.com)
 - b. For the **Golf Tournament** in August 2021, contact either **Phil Harcastle** (harcastle@outlook.com) or **Sarah Thomas** (sarah.thomas93@comcast.net)
3. If you are interested in becoming a **Member**, please contact **Lauri Bingham** (lauri.bingham@outlook.com)



Please follow us on Social Media:

Facebook: [@HSforhope](https://www.facebook.com/HSforhope)

Instagram: [@hs4hope](https://www.instagram.com/hs4hope)

Twitter: [@solutions_hope](https://twitter.com/solutions_hope)

LinkedIn:

[@housingsolutionsforhope](https://www.linkedin.com/company/housingsolutionsforhope)



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