



Womanspace East, Inc.
Serving Families in Crisis

Donor Newsletter

fall 2022

Amazon WishList brings holiday joy to families experiencing homelessness

The holidays are a hard time for people who are living in shelter, away from the stability and comfort of being “home for the holidays.” Every year, Womanspace East supporters bring cheer to families experiencing homelessness by supporting our Amazon WishList. Through the WishList, we are able to ensure that every child in our care has a gift to wake up to, every parent something special to remind them that their community cares about them.

Supporting our WishList also inspires gifts from Amazon themselves. In 2021, the company surprised us with deliveries of free sheets, towels, toiletries and supplies to support our shelter. They were inspired to do this by the generosity of our supporters.



Every child deserves to be a child during the holidays. To feel the magic of being remembered as gifts appear for other children all over the world. We are grateful that you, our community of supporters, make that happen for them every year.

Womanspace East is currently sheltering 85 people including 47 children. Thank you for keeping them all in your heart in this season of giving.

You can send gifts to families in our shelter by opening this QR code with your phone camera



www.wseinc.org



Get to know us



**Womanspace East Associate Director,
Danielle Hunt**

I have been at WSE for 18 years. As Associate Director my responsibilities are to oversee the day-to-day operations of the programs, which includes building operations, staffing, and client intervention.

Working with families in crisis can be emotionally difficult, however getting families back on their feet is rewarding. I am proud that I have had the opportunity to train a lot of staff members, and to be able to see them take what they have learned and utilize that knowledge while working with a family. The pride we all feel when we see our families succeed makes the hard days' worth it.

WSE is the largest family shelter in Allegheny County, but we have a very small staff of 8 direct care aides and 2 case managers to support families throughout their crisis. Whether we are lending an ear or advocating for housing rights, supporting our families is our priority.

Spaces to grow

For many families who arrive in our shelter, they have not had access to a washing machine in a very long time. Thanks to support from Allegheny County Dept. of Human Services we were able to update our laundry facilities this year, giving our families access to a basic need many of us overlook.



The good you create

Ramone* gained custody of his 3 kids when their mother dropped them off for a visit and never returned. He was unable to get assistance from the Dept. of Welfare because she was receiving food stamps and cash for the children in her name. While staying at WSE, Ramone and the kids survived off the pantry food we provide.



Ramone worked closely with his WSE case manager on age-appropriate parenting skills as well as getting connected with mental health counseling for himself. He also worked with the Homeless Services and Supports Coordinator on obtaining childcare assistance and housing. The family was able to move into a 3-bedroom home. They will continue to receive support from our team for as long as it is needed.