**Annual Report 2024**

**Lenny and the DreamMakers**

2024 was not an average year in many ways, so it may not be fair to compare what business we did in 2024 to previous years. Though it is difficult to sum up the accomplishments, many of our regular activities happened this year. The cause of the difficulty was Mary Beth, the executive director, was mostly recuperating from surgery to replace a heart valve which kept her bedridden in January and February.

Much of the work of Lenny and the DreamMakers was continued with the unflagging efforts of Dennis and the other volunteers who were willing to step up when necessary. While recuperating, the group continued to take meals monthly to the Stability Site along with the clothing donations we always take with us. I estimate that throughout the year we took the following items to the stability Site:

* **5000 pounds of clothing and shoes**. This all comes from donations dropped off at Lenny Headquarters. Donations can be dropped off anytime at 4416 Sunset Drive West in University Place.
* **400 boxes of blankets, towels, and personal needs**. They come from items dropped off at the Lenny Headquarters. This also included a large donation of blankets and sheets from Western State Hospital.
* **720 chicken dinners** . The dinners include Deli chicken, chips, cheese, dessert, and fruit. This is all made possible by Chris volunteering to do the shopping for the meals

We have been able to continue our biggest program which is the Welcome Boxes put together for people who have been homeless and are transitioning to permanent housing. In 2024, we outfitted 128 households with basic needs to set up their new homes. Dishes, towels, bedding, food, personal needs. All the things that make a house a home. This is our largest number of households ever, with great thanks to Sunshine who tirelessly showed up each week to fulfil the family’s requests. These families included 195 children and 160 adults.

Another volunteer, Kris, brought tons (literally tons over the weeks) of used clothing to be taken to the fundraisers with Value Village Savers. This year we collected enough clothing and textiles to earn $3983 for our operating income.

Another fundraiser was our annual garage sale, and this year was no different from sales in the past in that we had a great sale, pleasant weather, and many customers. We made a total of $2892, with many workers willing to manage set up and take-down and selling during the day.

Though not technically a fundraiser, Suzanne volunteers to sew a lot of pillowcases for the sheet sets we use in the Welcome Boxes. This year she made ninety-seven pillowcases out of donated fabric for us to distribute. If we had to buy those they would cost about $680 that we are not needing to spend now.

We also continue to receive money from:

* Fred Meyer’s reward program, bringing us another $222 for the year. This is a program where Fred Meyer pledges to give us one half of one percent of sales from registered shoppers. To become a registered shopper, one needs to have a Fred Meyer Rewards card and sign-up choosing Lenny and the DreamMakers as their recipient.
* Private Individuals donations accounted for $2655 in 2024

To celebrate the holidays this year we chose to buy gifts for the Tacoma Rescue Mission’s free store where their clients can shop. We filled the van with gifts for all ages from babies to seniors. We also treated the staff at the Stability Site with bags of homemade treats that our volunteers made for them. After dropping off the gifts at TRM and the Stability Site, we were thankful to be able to participate in the joys of holiday giving.

It was a difficult and different year, but one filled with kindness and joy.

Face to face, hand to hand and heart to heart,

Touching one life at a time with simple acts of kindness.