



Happy Fall, Y'all!

We here at LASA are excited to share with you the news that **our Hygiene Center will be up and running by the end of the year!** Thank you for your patience with the construction process and your dedication to seeing this through to aid our neighbors in need. Having access to showers and laundry facilities can **decrease the risk of health issues, and support people as they strive to overcome barriers to employment, housing, and education.**¹



LASA Campus Update:

Our Gravelly Lake Commons project is taking shape as we move through the planning and permitting process. **We have completed the required market study, zoning, appraisal, and environment study for the 10 3-bedroom and 16 2-bedroom complex.** We continue to move forward with great partners in this project with **Edge Developers, James Guerrero Architects Inc, Buchanan General Contracting, and Landau Associates Inc.** We are on schedule for a spring groundbreaking in 2025 and completion and leasing of the 26 affordable housing units in the second quarter of 2026.

LASA: Direct Impact

LASA programs are centered around the **"housing first"** approach. This concept is based on the idea that **people need their basic needs - shelter and food - met before additional issues are addressed.** This approach gives participants a starting point to pursue personal goals and improve their quality of life, as well as encouraging them to be active participants in decisions made about their housing.²

We see how effective this approach is in our work with our families. We had a family enter the shelter with only what they could carry. They are a perfect example of the housing first model; they had used methamphetamines the day before they met with us, and she was pregnant. We worked with them to get them housed in Prairie Oaks. During their time with LASA she enrolled in college and went on to earn her master's degree. LASA helped him enroll in a local trucking school. The graduated from the Prairie Oaks program, largely due to the increased income they were earning. For the last 18 months they have been living on their own and doing well. They checked in recently and told us they are in the process of buying a home.

Staff Spotlight

Betty Beer - Lead Case Manager

Betty has been married to her husband, Dana, for 45 years in November. They've raised biological children, step-children, and several nieces and nephews.

When her youngest daughter was in pre-school Betty was asked to get involved with Community Networks as a citizen board member for Pierce County. In her work for the board she was asked to join the "Continuum of Care," which is where she initially became involved in issues related to unhoused communities. She's been involved in these issues for 27 years, 25 of them with LASA as a case manager, then lead case manager.

Currently, after her years of supporting our communities, Betty is looking forward to retirement in the next few years.



¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5580630/>

² <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first/>