



Advent Giving Tree

St. John's Parish will again have an Advent Giving Tree and the project will be coordinated by Ellie Strigen a junior at Holy Names Academy. This year's tree will benefit three organizations: Noel House, the University District Youth Center, and St. Martin de Porres Shelter. Here is a little information about these ministries.

The University District Youth Center provides assistance for homeless and runaway youth between the ages of 13 and 22. The UDYC drop in program offers youth on the street basic services like meals, clothing, laundry, and showers. They also provide a safe and welcoming environment where youth can get drug and alcohol counseling, mental health services, and even help with getting their GED and job training, while learning other life skills. UDYC helps these teenagers recover from the effects of violence and addiction in their lives. All of the services work to give these teens the opportunity, tools, and support to eventually transition to a better life situation.

Noel House provides safe and comfortable shelter for a diverse community of homeless women, particularly those most vulnerable. They strive to create an environment of dignity, respect, and compassion, while also recognizing the intrinsic value of every woman and honoring her unique experience. Noel House began as an emergency shelter for homeless women unaccompanied by children in response to the severe winter of 1990. Today, Noel House continues to offer dignified and compassionate survival services to Seattle's most vulnerable homeless population. Over the years, their services have grown to include coordinating available shelter across multiple providers and offering comprehensive case management resources at the main Noel House shelter.

St. Martin de Porres Shelter provides safe and dignified night shelter for homeless men age 50 and older. The shelter opened in October 1984 in response to the growing need for an emergency shelter for this special population of elderly men who are vulnerable to the weather, street predators, and illness. They currently operate at a full capacity of 212 men a night. The shelter is open 365 nights a year from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. and during the day for medical convalescent care. During the winter months, they have arrangements with eight local churches to provide space for an additional 34 men a night. The mission of St. Martin de Porres is to provide a hospitable, safe, and orderly shelter for men 50 years of age and older who are homeless. This is to be done in the spirit of ministry of presence, which fosters attention to the individual and respect for each person's unique situation.

The Advent Giving Tree is up and decorated! Please take an ornament from the Giving Tree and return that item unwrapped and place it under the tree by Sunday, December 14th. Thank you so much for your generosity in making this a wonderful Christmas for the homeless in our community.