



June 21, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello! My name is Marvin L. Bennett, better known as Unkle Marvin. I am writing on behalf of the Interfaith Works Emergency Overnight Shelter (The People's House). We serve highly vulnerable single adults and couples without dependent children. We define "highly vulnerable" as persons living with serious mental health challenges, substance use challenges, likely to be over the age of 50, excluded from entry criteria in other shelter programs, chronically homeless as defined by HUD, and living with chronic health conditions and physical disabilities.

From November 2014 through mid-June 2017, we have served nearly 800 unduplicated guests totaling nearly 23,000 bednights to date. We have been at or over 100% occupancy since the second week of operations and unfortunately have to turn away an average of 8 people per night due to lack of space. Since beginning our shelter in November 2014, over 80 shelter guests have moved out of our shelter and into permanent housing. I am one of those 80 people that has moved into permanent housing at the Drexel House!!

I am writing because we are having our 3rd annual "Up In Smoke BBQ" block party on July 29, 2017. Last year I planned this event as a shelter guest and this year I'm doing it as a volunteer because I'm in permanent housing now! Here are some of the things we hope to have at the block party:

- Live bands!
- Games
- Staff Appreciation Awards
- Director Appreciation Award
- Grillin' by Marv's "Up In Smoke BBQ" crew
- Drama performance

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**IW Emergency Overnight Shelter**

(360) 918-8424 Front Desk Staff 4pm-8am Daily / info@iwshelter.org  
701 Franklin St SE (Physical) / PO Box 2850 (Mailing) / Olympia, WA 98507



- Spelling bee
- Free throw competition
- Bike tune-ups
- Veterinarian support
- Fashion show
- Solo contest
- Karaoke
- Nail booth and face painting
- Memorial for our peers starting in 2015
- Video production and DJ

I am writing to ask if you would be able to donate anything you might have that would help us have this event. **We are in need of monetary sponsors, food donations, gift cards so we can have door prizes, bike repair services, hair dressers/barbers to donate time and anything else you might be able to provide.** We will be sure to mention the name of your business loud and clear throughout the program. Thank you for anything you may be able to give!

Sincerely,

Marvin L. Bennett

You can also contact the shelter director, Meg Martin if you are able to donate:

Phone: 360-951-6767

Email: [meg@iwshelter.org](mailto:meg@iwshelter.org)