

At CTK, we value authenticity, simplicity, empowerment, relationship, and caring about the community we live in. One key way we serve is by empowering small groups to make a difference through our local partners who address important issues for those in the hardest life circumstances. The opportunity below is a chance to tangibly demonstrate God's care, compassion, and love for those around us. As your church, we hope this makes it easy for you to put the Great Commandment to love your neighbor as yourself into action!

## LYDIA PLACE – GLADSTONE GARDENING

### Who are we serving?

Lydia Place is a local nonprofit focused on ending family homelessness. We believe every family deserves a home, regardless of background or barriers.

### Who is helping connect us to their needs?

Lydia Place was established in 1989 by a task force of Church Women United who saw a need for safe housing for homeless women. Although not a faith-based organization, they honor their roots in faith. In fact, the name “Lydia” came from Lydia in the New Testament, who was a businesswoman (a seller of purple cloth) and hospitable (she opened her home to the apostle Paul). Since the goal of the transitional housing program was to assist women in becoming self-sufficient and to offer hospitality to homeless women and their children, Lydia seemed to exemplify the mission of the new organization. With the help of many, the home on Gladstone Street was purchased and the first family moved in October 1989.

Today, Lydia Place is a much larger organization and has adapted over the past decade to meet the growing and changing needs of the community. In addition to the original Transitional Housing Program, Lydia Place now operates the Supportive Services Program, the Whatcom Homeless Services Center Program, and the Emergency House. All of these programs are collaborations with our community partners who are also working to end homelessness in Whatcom County.

### How are we serving?

Join us at our Transitional House to help provide a beautiful natural environment for our eight mothers and their children by working in our garden! You'll be plucking, pulling, and weeding in our massive garden, and therefore helping to create a therapeutic space of healing and revitalization. Gardening tools provided, but any you can bring are appreciated!

### Who do you contact to commit to this opportunity and work out the details?

Once your group has found two dates/times that could work for them, please connect with Kyle Fuller, Community Engagement Coordinator, at [kylef@lydiaplace.org](mailto:kylef@lydiaplace.org) or 671-7663 ext 2005.