MONTHLY SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

OUR SISTERS' HOUSE NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF OUR SISTERS' HOUSE

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL NIGHT OF FUN THIS MONTH!



CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS

OUR SISTERS' HOUSE

OUR SISTERS' HOUSE NEWSLETTER

PIERCE COUNTY'S COMMUNITY RESOURCE FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

WELCOME TO THE SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER!

This month, we're highlighting connection, community, and new beginnings at Our Sisters' House. From celebrating our Caftans, Cocktails & Community event and welcoming two new team members to sharing updates from our advocates and programs, September gave us plenty to celebrate. We're also looking ahead to First Fridays, a new opportunity for youth to connect, have fun, and build community beginning in October. Thank you for continuing to support our work and the community we serve.

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KELLI'S MONTHLY REPORT

HELLO FALL!



KELLI ROBINSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I must admit that I will miss summer, but fall is my favorite season. I enjoy the blustery days, comforting foods, and the excitement of settling into the holiday season.

September was a wonderful month at Our Sisters' House. Andrea and our dedicated volunteers began expanding our sex trafficking outreach efforts, we hosted a fantastic community-building event—Kaftans and Cocktails—and we continued adapting to changes within the Juvenile Court.

As we prepare to use our capital grant, we are also strengthening our relationship with Colvos Construction. Mike Davis recently hosted a block party where we met some wonderful people and learned more about the design and development of our building project.

Our annual Gala will be here before we know it, and I look forward to seeing everyone there! We also have several exciting events planned leading up to the Gala, so keep your eyes and ears open for more information.

Finally, Media Clubhouse is now Healing Gen! With funding from the Pierce County Violence Prevention Program, we are excited about everything Healing Gen will offer young people this year.

UNTIL NEXT TIME! -KELLI ROBINSON

SEPTEMBER 2026 COMMUNITY MEMBER REPORT

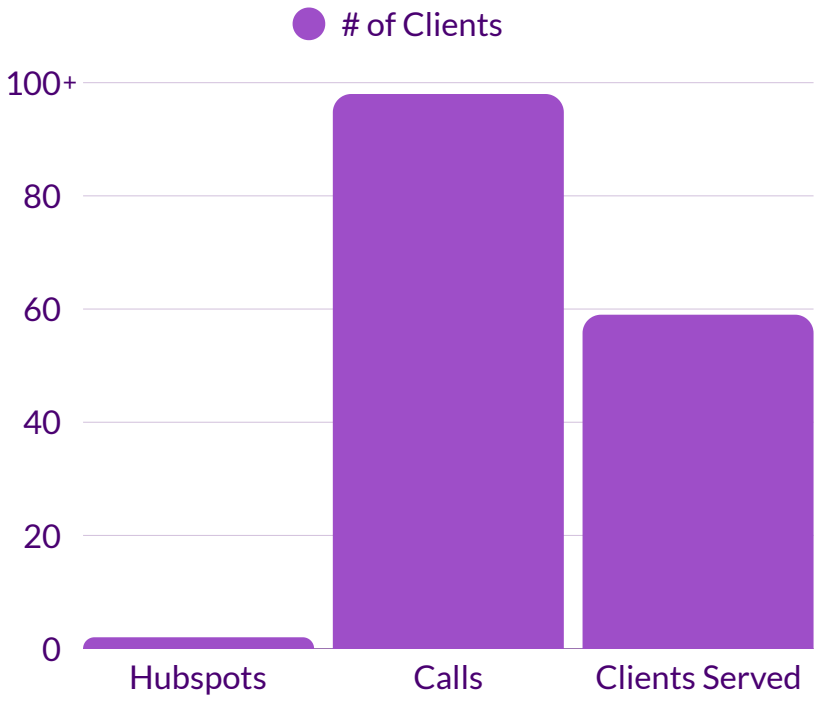
SEPTEMBER 2026 COMMUNITY STATISTICS

2
HUBSPOT SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

98
CALLS ANSWERED BY OUR TEAM

$200
DISTRIBUTED IN FINANCIAL TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS

59
TOTAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS ASSISTED BY OUR SERVICES



September was another busy month for Our Sisters' House as our advocates continued connecting community members with support, resources, and assistance. Throughout the month, we served 59 community members and responded to 98 phone calls from individuals reaching out for help, information, and connection to our services.

Our team also recorded 2 HubSpot connections and provided $200 in financial assistance through gas cards, helping community members overcome transportation barriers and access the support and resources they need.

Every call, conversation, and connection is an opportunity to meet someone where they are and help them take the next step. As we move forward, Our Sisters' House remains committed to being a trusted and accessible resource for survivors, families, and community members throughout Pierce County.

SECURE YOUR TICKETS TO OUR 3RD ANNUAL GALA FUNDRAISER TODAY



Event Details

Sunday, December 6, 2026

3:00 PM–6:00 PM

Pioneer Park Pavilion

330 S Meridian Puyallup, WA 98371

Attire: Formal attire is required.

Purple accents encouraged!

Early Bird Tickets: $125

August 1st - September 30th

Full Table (seats 8): $1000

Purchase Tickets Today Before it's too late!

CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS

WANT TO BECOME A SPONSOR? CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

OUR SISTERS' HOUSE

CAFTANS, COCKTAILS, AND COMMUNITY



A CELEBRATION OF SELF-CARE, CONNECTION & SISTERHOOD

My first Caftans, Cocktails & Community event was more than I could have envisioned. What began as an idea grew into a dream come true—two meaningful hours filled with laughter, connection, reflection, and community. At the heart of the event was a simple but important intention: to create a space where women could pause, connect, and pour back into themselves. It was self-care in a safe space—a place to exhale, enjoy one another, and be reminded that taking time to care for ourselves is not selfish; it is necessary. One of the highlights of the event was a special presentation by Chrystal Thomas, who traveled from Las Vegas, Nevada, to share her original poem, “What Is Self-Care?” Chrystal understood the assignment! Her melodic delivery and intentional words met women exactly where they were, offering a beautiful reminder that self-care is personal, purposeful, and can look different for each of us.

CAFTANS, COCKTAILS, AND COMMUNITY

As I looked around the room and witnessed women laughing, sharing, listening, and simply being present, one thing became clear: This was more than an event. This was—and IS—the beginning of something good, something meaningful, and something NEEDED in our community. And We're Just Getting Started! The connections and conversations sparked during Caftans, Cocktails & Community have already inspired our next opportunity to gather: The OSH Book Club is coming! Stay tuned for more information as we create another space to read, reflect, connect, and continue pouring into ourselves—and one another. To every woman who attended, participated, supported, and helped bring this vision to life: thank you. You made our first Caftans, Cocktails & Community an experience to remember.



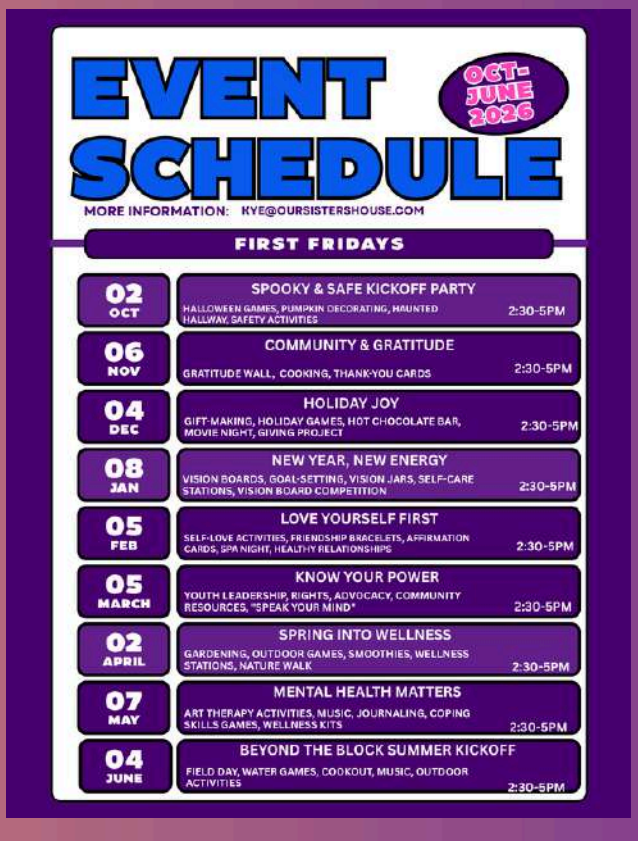


UNTIL WE GATHER AGAIN... MASTER YOUR PEACE!
-BEVERLEY THOMAS

OUR SISTERS' HOUSE

FIRST FRIDAYS





FIRST FRIDAYS START THIS WEEK!

We are so excited to be partnering with the Bryant Neighborhood Center (BNC) again this fall to host First Fridays!

From October through June, we will be bringing fun, engaging programming to BNC on the first Friday of each month. We'll kick things off on October 2nd with Halloween-themed activities, along with lessons focused on safety and healthy decision-making. The goal of First Fridays is to create a fun and safe space for youth to connect, build relationships, and have something positive to do after school, especially on Fridays when there may not be as many other programs available.

We already have programming planned through June and are so excited to continue building on our partnership with BNC. First Fridays will run through the start of Beyond the Block in June, giving youth consistent opportunities to stay connected and engaged throughout the school year.

We are so excited to get started, work with our youth, build community, and most importantly have FUN!

-KYE ROBINSON

WELCOME TO THE OSH TEAM LAUREN & BEN!

WELCOME TO THE TEAM LAUREN!

Hello! My name is Lauren Ward, and I am a Domestic Violence advocate that works with survivors who are referred from law enforcement and are looking for assistance with accessing resources, safety planning, planning next steps, and more. I graduated from UWT in June 2026 with a bachelor's in social welfare and will be going back to school in the next few months to complete my graduate degree in social work. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to get to assist survivors in their journey's and am looking forward to my time here at Our Sister's House.



LAUREN WARD - DV ADVOCATE

WELCOME TO THE TEAM BEN!

Hello, my name is Benjamin Byrne recently graduated from University of Washington Tacoma and your new Domestic Violence Advocate. My work will entail helping clients with different protection orders, safety planning, helping clients find resources, and creating safe environment for clients to talk. Although as of right now I will be finishing my training. Somethings I enjoy doing are playing sports, hiking, and working out. Being involved in the community is also a big part of my life which led me to join clubs like Black Student Union, Hoopers Association, Marketing club, volunteering and working for the YMCA in college. Competition for anything gets me excited from board games to whoever can get their assignments done faster. I'm grateful for this opportunity of working with those in need and believe my talents will be of use in Our Sisters House.



BENJAMIN BYRNE - DV ADVOCATE

HEROES RUN



ANOTHER RACE FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

I joined Still I Run again this September for the 5K Heroes Race on September 12th at Wapato Park. It was such a great opportunity to reconnect with some of our youth after our last run in August and see everyone come out, have fun, and finish strong!

We also had some new runners join us, which made the morning even more exciting. It was a beautiful run at Wapato Park, and our youth really showed up! One of our youth finished the race in an incredible 17:00 minutes, earning 1st place overall for the entire race! During the awards ceremony, we also had other youth place 2nd and 3rd, which was amazing to see.

Julie and I were also surprised to find out that we placed 1st in our division! It was such a fun and unexpected way to end the race.

I'm so proud of everyone who came out, pushed themselves, and finished strong. I can't wait to lace up our shoes and run together again on Halloween morning!

-KYE ROBINSON

HEY SIS, YOU OKAY? PODCAST





BUILDING FINANCIAL LITERACY AND CONFIDENCE WITH RICHARD STIRGUS

Last month, Kye was joined by special guest co-host Beverley for a meaningful conversation with Richard Stirgus, Vice President of Community Relations at TAPCO Credit Union, on the Hey Sis, You Okay? podcast. Together, they discussed the importance of financial literacy and how access to the right information can help individuals and families make informed financial decisions.

Richard shared valuable insight into building healthy financial habits, using available financial tools and resources, and preparing for long-term stability and success. Their conversation also highlighted the importance of making financial education more accessible within Black and underserved communities so that more people feel equipped to manage their money, pursue their goals, and build stronger financial futures.

The episode is live now! Check out this powerful conversation and learn more about the opportunities that financial knowledge can create. Click the link below to watch, and don't forget to subscribe to our YouTube channel and turn on notifications so you don't miss future episodes of Hey Sis, You Okay?

CLICK HERE TO WATCH EPISODE 10 OF HSYO?

KOREAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION EXPO

BUILDING CONNECTIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In addition to Advocacy, Ms. Harriet, Andrea, and I attended the Korean Women's Association (KWA) Expo at Clover Park Technical College. I was pleased by the number of different vendors the community, as well as our team, was able to interact with during the Expo. We learned more about the other services KWA offers. We were thankful for the opportunity to represent OSH and talk more with the community about what OSH is about and who we serve. I look forward to the next one!!

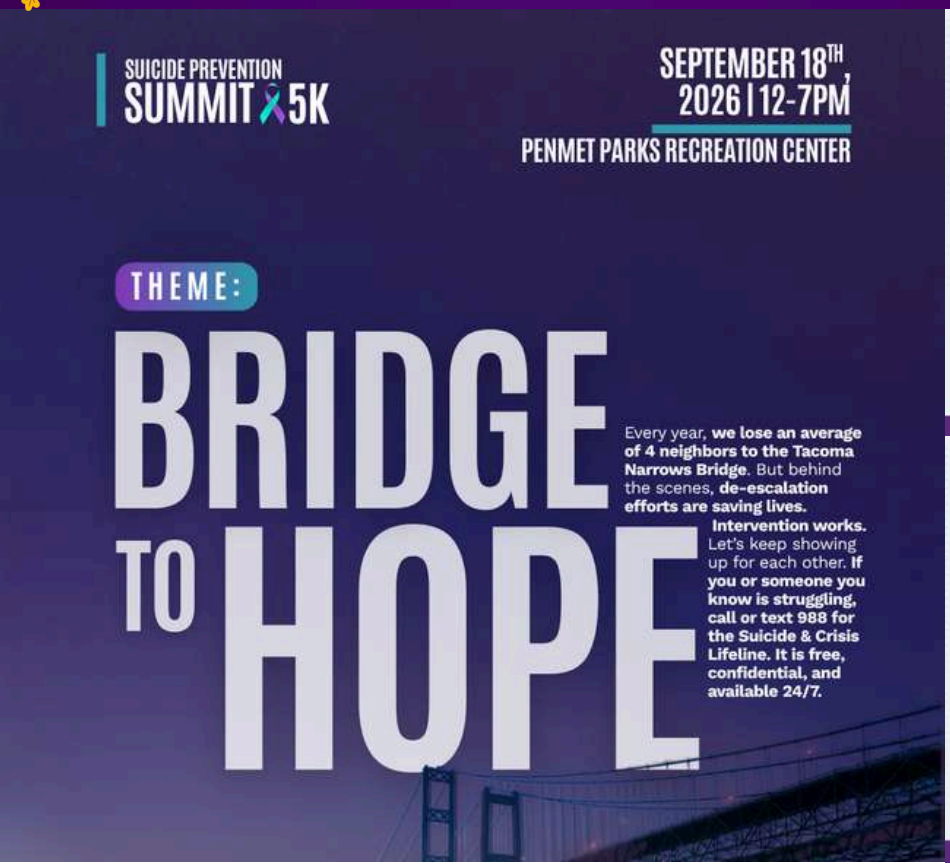


-VICTORIA MUKISA

This past Wednesday OSH had the opportunity to attend KWA' s resource event. There were roughly about 50-60 tables . And even a pop up D.O.L express licensing table ! Between the traditional dancing and resources, it was by far one of the best resources I've been able to attend.

-ANDRE'A THOMS

SUICIDE PREVENTION EVENT TABLING





This month, I participated in a suicide prevention awareness tabling event aimed at sharing resources, promoting mental health awareness, and encouraging community connection. Visitors stopped by to learn about warning signs, available support services, and ways to help someone who may be struggling. Resource materials, crisis hotline information, wellness tools, and educational handouts were available to community members. The event provided an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about mental health, reduce stigma, and remind everyone that help and hope are available. Through outreach events like this, we continue to strengthen awareness and connect individuals with the resources they need to support their well-being.

-TAHIRAH LAZARRE

OUR SISTERS' HOUSE

2025 Annual Report

30 Years of Advocacy, Healing, and Hope

Click Here To Read Our Full 2025 Annual Report

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(June 12, 2026)

OSH PROGRAMS UPDATE

LEGAL ADVOCACY



DAVID BYRNE - LEGAL ADVOCATE

This month, I connected with ten legal community members. None of whom needed a protection order, but most needed continued education and guidance through the family legal process. Three community members also needed financial assistance with back rent, a need that seems to grow each month as financial relief becomes increasingly scarce. Fortunately, one member did find assistance, and I'm continuing to work with the other two. Every connection matters, and every small victory reminds us why this work is so important. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement

DV ADVOCACY



VICTORIA MUKISA - DV ADVOCATE

Hey everyone!! I hope the summer has been a great one for you all. The sun has been out and hot. I hope everyone is staying cool and hydrated during all the heatwaves. September has been a bit slower for advocacy for a few reasons. However, I was still able to meet with community members and handle hotline calls. One thing I have noticed in September, and the months prior, is that our Community Members are in dire need of Financial Assistance. I kindly urge all community partners and resources to let us and each other know what services we can provide to Community members, considering the weather is going to change. Community Members are going to need our full help and support

OSH PROGRAMS UPDATE

COMMUNITY ACCOUNTABILITY BOARDS



**JULIUS MITCHELL -
DV & CAB ADVOCATE**

This month, our Community Accountability Board (CAB) team has really begun to hit a stride. We have continued to strengthen the partnership between Our Sister's House and our partners at Pierce County Juvenile Court (PCJC), while also finding ways to make the diversion process more meaningful and impactful for the youth we serve. The collaboration within our team has been one of our biggest successes, and it has allowed us to approach each case with greater understanding, consistency, and purpose. Everyone on our team has been amazing and brings a genuine passion for this work. Our partners at PCJC have been especially instrumental in creating a strong collaborative environment, and their dedication is evident during our sessions. This month, youth have been especially receptive to the CAB process and have really taken the opportunity to break down their thinking and decision making. In some cases, they have even gained a better understanding of themselves and why they made certain choices. One of the most rewarding parts of this work is seeing CAB create meaningful conversations between youth and their parents or guardians, often leading to greater understanding, trust, and support within the family.

Another important success has been addressing a need we identified early on. In our July newsletter, I mentioned the challenges that can arise when youth may have unmet or unidentified psychological needs, or when parents and guardians may not have recognized those needs. Shortly after, Our Sister's House responded by bringing in our own psychologist, Tanisha Madina, who began working with the CAB process in August. Tanisha has been an incredible addition to our team. Her expertise provides a valuable psychological perspective that encourages both growth and accountability while helping us better understand the factors that may influence a young person's decisions and behavior.

We have also experienced some minor challenges this month, particularly with scheduling and communication. At times, clients have been confused about session locations or arrived late because of miscommunication when coordinating with schools. While these issues have presented some logistical challenges, they have not stopped us from moving forward with our goals.

Our goal is to meet youth where they are and help them understand the impact of their choices. Through accountability and meaningful diversion opportunities, we want youth to learn from their actions and recognize that those actions do not have to define their future. We remain committed to helping each young person make better choices moving forward.

OSH PROGRAMS UPDATE

CJFJC COURTHOUSE NAVIGATION REPORT

This month Latina Advisory Committee was held at Mi Centro. They were kind enough to bring us into their space and celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with the committee.

The courthouse has seen some slower days as expected with DV reports going down during the beginning of fall and expected to go back up during the holidays.



MICHELLE CAMACHO - COURTHOUSE NAVIGATOR

OSH 24/7 HOTLINE UPDATE

I have the privilege of being part of a team that provides support, resources, and hope to individuals and families facing some of the most difficult moments of their lives. Our hotline operates around the clock because we understand that crises do not follow a schedule, and help needs to be available whenever someone is ready to reach out.



SANDERS ROBINSON - 24/7 HOTLINE ADVOCATE

Every call is unique. Some callers need immediate safety planning, while others are looking for information about community resources, shelter services, legal advocacy, or emotional support. One of the most rewarding aspects of this work is helping people realize they are not alone. Many callers feel isolated or unsure where to turn. By offering a safe and confidential space to talk, I can help them explore options, identify support systems, and take steps toward safety and healing at their own pace.

OSH PROGRAMS UPDATE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OUTREACH PROGRAM INTRODUCTION



DAKOTA ROBINSON - HUMAN TRAFFICKING OUTREACH PROGRAM MANAGER

We are proud to launch our Human Trafficking Outreach Program, an initiative dedicated to empowering Black girls and women through mentorship, healing, community engagement, and resource connection. Our goal is to raise awareness about the realities of human trafficking, labor trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation while providing tools and support that help build safer, stronger communities.

Through this program, participants will have access to:

Healing circles and wellness activities

Mentorship and leadership development opportunities

Self-care and resource distribution initiatives

Community outreach and awareness events

Referrals to supportive services and community resources.

As we begin this important work, we invite community members, volunteers, businesses, faith organizations, and local partners to join us in creating a future where every girl and woman feels safe, strong, seen, and valued.

PROTECT • EMPOWER • THRIVE

OSH PROGRAMS UPDATE

BUILDING NEW BRIDGES AT OSH



DENNIS ROBINSON - BNB & EVOLVE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This weekend was another success at BNB, we had a total of 15 people attend. we also took a field trip on Saturday to the Main Branch Tacoma Public Library to attend a community forum hosted by the Community Police Advisory committee (CPAC) The purpose of the visit was to learn more about the role CPAC plays in fostering communication, transparency, and trust between community members and law enforcement. During the forum, participants had the opportunity to hear directly from CPAC representatives about their mission, ongoing initiatives, and the ways residents can become involved in providing feedback and helping shape public safety discussions within the community.

In addition to learning about CPAC, attendees also gained valuable information about the Office of Independent Investigations (OII). Presenters discussed the role of OII in conducting independent investigations of police use-of-force incidents involving serious injury or death, as well as the agency's commitment to accountability, transparency, and public trust. The forum provided an opportunity for community members to ask questions, engage in meaningful dialogue, and better understand how both CPAC and OII work to support oversight, community engagement, and confidence in the justice system. Overall, the field trip was an informative and educational experience that helped BNB members increase their awareness of important community resources and public safety organizations.

OSH PROGRAMS UPDATE

LIFE COACHING



MALIK MCHAYLE - LIFE COACHING PROGRAM MANAGER

This month our Life Coaching Program continued to highlight growth, accountability, and positive steps toward the future as youth worked with their coaches to strengthen important life skills. Throughout September, sessions focused on areas such as decision-making, self-awareness, communication, emotional regulation, goal setting, and understanding the consequences of personal choices. As youth settled into the new school year, coaches also encouraged them to stay focused on their responsibilities and continue working toward their academic, personal, and future goals.

We have also seen encouraging progress among returning youth. One coach shared that a youth he has been working with is doing better and demonstrating greater foresight when thinking about the consequences of his actions. This growth reflects the importance of helping youth pause, consider their choices, and recognize how their decisions can impact their future.

Through ongoing conversations and individualized support, coaches continue to provide youth with a safe space to reflect on their experiences, recognize their progress, and develop practical tools for making positive choices and moving toward their goals.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

As we close out September, we reflect on a month centered on connection, service, and community. From creating spaces for women to connect and care for themselves to sharing resources, financial knowledge, and support, we were reminded of the power of simply showing up for one another. As Shirley Chisholm once said:

“Service is the rent that you pay for room on this earth.”

We appreciate you continuing to stand with Our Sisters’ House as we serve, connect, and create opportunities for our community to thrive.

Together, we continue to show up, serve, and uplift one another.

Until Next Time! 💜



“Service is the rent that you pay for room on this earth.”

-Shirley Chisholm

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