A Shelter Story-by Tom Scripps

I'm Tom Scripps and I have been asked to share my Shelter story. I moved to Evergreen in 1983. I met Barb here and we raised our three kids here. We don't plan on going anywhere; we frequently look around and say how blessed we are to live here. Years ago I learned that Evergreen had a homeless community. And I naively thought "How could that be?" We live in a relatively affluent community"

Fast forward: Last year Barb and I joined the CotH, finding this to be a welcoming, loving faith community. Right away I wanted to learn more about what is going on right underneath our feet. I sought out Tim Clancy, the manager of Evergreen Christian Outreach's shelter housed in our basement. I attended the required training sessions and learned many things about our shelter guests:

Last season (October, 2023 to May, 2024) we averaged just over 11 guests per night. Some stay one night, some are with us through the season and even return the next season.

To say there is a typical shelter guest is to simplify the issue. We can say that:

The shelter guests are our neighbors. Occasionally I will see a guest around Evergreen and say hello.

Some have cars.

Some have jobs.

Some have pets.

Some have children.

The one thing they have in common is that at his point in their lives, they have reached out for some help.

After an EChO background check, shelter guests are welcomed to a nutritious dinner, counseling services from EChO, a safe and warm place to sleep, an offer to do their laundry overnight, and in the morning we provide those ubiquitous breakfast burritos (thank you!) and a sack lunch.

I try to volunteer once a week as an evening host, but I am just one of over 200 volunteers over a season that make the shelter a success. As a member of our Love in Action Committee I have been appointed to be the CotH Mentor for those interested in becoming involved, so in that capacity, if anyone is interested in learning more about the shelter program, I am available to answer your questions.