

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

COMMENDATION

- Whereas:** Helen Leuzzi was born in New York City in 1961 and later became a wife, mother of three children, and a tireless advocate for those in need in her community.
- Whereas:** Helen had an incredible combination of stellar analytical skills and an abundance of compassion and empathy; she was the lead for information technology for Union Carbide's law group in Connecticut before leaving to start a family.
- Whereas:** Helen used her time and talents to support and improve the lives of others. One of her first projects was raising money for a much needed playground in the low income township of New Milford, CT.
- Whereas:** Helen moved to Bellevue in 2001 and immediately went to work making the community better. She volunteered extensively at Bellevue First Congregational Church, later Helen turned her considerable talent and energy to serving women in need on the Eastside.
- Whereas:** Helen identified a need for shelter and other support for homeless women on the Eastside and partnered with the YWCA to open Angeline's Day Center for women.
- Whereas:** Helen saw that the women using the day center had no safe place to sleep at night and doggedly pursued a solution by finding space, raising money and hiring staff. The Sophia Way, which provided safe shelter, a meal and a hot shower to women with nowhere else to go, opened in December 2008.
- Whereas:** Helen was the vision and heart behind increasing the capacity of the Eastside Winter Shelter for women by finding larger spaces for the year-round shelter with the goal of serving more women.
- Whereas:** Helen oversaw the opening of Sophia's Place at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue, an improved and larger year-round shelter facility that could serve an increased number of homeless women.
- Whereas:** Helen will long be remembered for her commitment, compassion, leadership, and hard work to ensure that the lives of all women on the Eastside mattered.

Now, therefore, I, John Stokes, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington, and on behalf of the City Council, do this 19th day of September, in the year 2016, hereby commend:

Helen Marie Leuzzi
April 15, 1961 – August 19, 2016

for her leadership, dedication, and service to the city of Bellevue and to the community, which provides an example for others to emulate and demonstrates the difference that one individual can make.

John Stokes, Mayor