

## 2019 Linda Lee Martens Community Health Hero

# *Certificate of Special Recognition*

### **Faith Wilder**

The Whidbey Homeless Coalition believes that every man, woman, and child coming through their programs is a valued community member with a story to tell. No matter their past, or the road that lead them to their door, Whidbey Homeless Coalition is dedicated to making their experience with homelessness brief and rare. One person at the heart of that mission is Faith Wilder, who currently serves as the board president.

Faith is credited by those who nominated her with taking the lead in establishing the Whidbey Homeless Coalition as an island-wide initiative, with both North and South Whidbey united in mission and heart to serve those neighbors who are experiencing homelessness. This coalition, which had previously been the South Whidbey Homeless Coalition, know that it needed a compassionate, diligent, and wise diplomat who could use these skills to rally an entire community who have a “heart for the homeless.”

Faith was a voice for the North community when it came to setting up and speaking at several community meetings, talking to church leadership, spreading the message about the needs of the homeless, writing contracts, defining staff responsibilities, and writing guest rules (amongst numerous other necessary tasks). Since The Haven opened its doors in April 2017 it consistently has housed 30 guests every night, offering a warm, safe place to stay.

For being an advocate for the people experiencing homelessness and residing on Whidbey Island, and for continuing to set goals to keep this experience brief and rare for those individuals, the Island County Board of Health and Community Health Advisory Board are pleased to present Faith Wilder with a 2019 Linda Lee Martens Community Health Hero Certificate of Special Recognition.