The Skagit Friendship House is delighted to announce the hiring of experienced homeless services leader Jonathan Kline as its new Executive Director.

Alicia Neely, President of the Board of Friendship House said: “We are thrilled to announce that Jonathan Kline will be leading Friendship House into the future as our new Executive Director. Both his significant professional and international experiences in alleviating poverty and its impacts, and his most recent leadership of Whidbey Homeless Coalition, will directly enhance Friendship House’s mission of feeding, sheltering, clothing and healing those in need."

Friendship House is the largest provider of emergency housing and the only no-cost daily meal service in Skagit County. The organization also provides transitional and permanent housing, lower-barrier shelters, and employment training. A critical link in our community’s response to poverty and homelessness, Friendship House has served the community since 1986 and continues to respond to increasing community needs in light of the pandemic’s economic and other impacts, with over 34,000 meals a year and over 24,000 cumulative nights of shelter provided.

Kline previously served as the Executive Director for the Whidbey Homeless Coalition in Langley, WA, and for Tillers International in Kalamazoo, MI. Prior to his US leadership positions, he worked overseas on participatory community development projects in Mozambique, Cambodia, Afghanistan, and Myanmar.

Clyde Shavers, Board Member of Friendship House, says: “Jonathan brings strong experience and vision from his work at Whidbey Homeless Coalition to help lead the fight against the homelessness crisis here in Skagit County. We look forward to working with him as we continue to build essential programs and expand services to the most vulnerable in our community.”

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, we are grateful to Brian Carroll who served as the interim Executive Director during the search process,” said Neely. Carroll also states: “It has been a pleasure to serve Friendship House, and I know that Jonathan has already begun building relationships with city and county government officials, partners and community members, which are imperative in achieving the organization’s strongest possible impact to support self-sufficiency and dignity in our community."

For more information about Friendship House and the services it provides, or to learn about the many ways you can participate, visit the Friendship House website at [www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org](http://www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org).