



**NEWS RELEASE**

Norquist

**For Immediate Release**

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**Skeleton Crew remains in Holden Village to manage operations**

*Thirty-nine staff evacuated Saturday*

**CHELAN, WA. December 16, 2025** - A crew of eleven staff members are staying at Holden Village to finish preparing the community for the winter. Planning is underway to determine how best to protect the Village for the next few months, which will likely include an extended stay for a small skeleton crew. Co-executive directors Bjørn and Elise Peterson do not expect the Village to go completely dark over the winter. These plans are still developing and more information will be shared as it becomes available.

Thirty-nine other staff members and three children (plus a parrot and a fish) were evacuated to Lucerne on Saturday by helicopter operated by North Wind Aviation, and then by a special run of the Lake Chelan Boat Company to Fields Point. Those staff members are either returning to their home communities or staying with generous Holden Village host families around the region. Holden Village staffing is exploring short-term and long-term employment opportunities for evacuated employees and volunteers. If you know of employment opportunities in Washington or the Twin Cities areas, please forward those to [hr@holdenvillage.org](mailto:hr@holdenvillage.org).

Facing the loss of revenue from the Winter-Spring guest seasons, Holden will continue appealing to donors to help support operations and staff members who have been uprooted.

Holden Village is thankful for the incident command and leadership teams who continue to shepherd the community as it makes its transition into an unexpected winter. Holden is also thankful for the many community members who have already donated, opened their homes to displaced staff, or offered other resources and support. Co-executive directors Bjørn and Elise Peterson say Holden Village is more than a singular place, it is a community that extends far beyond the North Cascades.

More information about how to support the Village, and continued programmatic offerings will be shared in the coming days.