

What keeps you going in the face of whatever can feel like tough news? Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 3.3.23

She is of our Flock

Her clothes and her face catch the
dust

of the outdoors, once great
but renounced its splendor
when there was no shed
to take shelter against the wind.

She has no basin to wash in;
She has no nation who will stand
and declare: here you will soar!
She is one of the omitted many.
She is the mourning dove sequestered

by currents, by downdrafts she
flapped headward against

with embattled spirit/ but was
overtaken.

And had you stood where she stood—
a lone Athena against the bulwarked
foe

Lack of Access—

you would have fared no better.

We all first blinked our eyes to the
sun

worthy of a basin,
worthy of a nation.

She is of our flock,
and she is worthy.

— Elyse Hart, 2019

"There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. There are only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard." — Arundhati Roy

WOOT: *To everyone that uses the WLIHA "take action" form to tell state lawmakers:*

Make Bold investments to solve the affordable housing and homeless crisis!

<https://housingalliance.salsalabs.org/boldinvestments/index.html>

Things that keep us going

- Sometimes ... we win.
- Practicing gratitude!
- Supportive wife.
- "I don't do self-care, I do revolution."
- Being present and doing the small things that need to be done.
- Practicing self-care, talking breaks, acknowledging we "can't do it all."
- Establishing and upholding boundaries -- work and personal.
- Starting every day w/ a task list; Doing weekly reflection.
- Observing that younger generations are more empathetic to social issues.

- Small congregation that joins in and allows me to teach them as well as other people in other groups that allow that.
- Debating - trying to change people's minds. Trying to get the conversation started, getting people to see unhoused neighbors as someone's loved one.
- Focus on individual people. Sometimes it's easier to be empathic if it's not someone in your own family.
- Engaging directly in community in some way, staying "grounded" in service.
- Scheduling "monk time" -- where you focus on one thing without distractions (e.g. social media, other electronics).
- Remember the idea of fire and ice, don't let your anger burn so hot that it consumes you.
- "He who expects no gratitude shall never be disappointed." If you need to be thanked a lot, maybe this work isn't for you. At the same time, need to document and highlight success.
- Concern about the loss of humanity that comes from persistent suffering.
- Hearing my 8 year-old talk about homelessness in an empathetic way gives me a lot of hope.
- Focusing on what we CAN do, sometimes going out to shelters to check on folks and refocus on the reasons we do what we do.
- Small, single successes are big rewards. Ripple effects of work done have impact beyond the immediate actions. Some work is done quietly, some loudly; all is needed.
- Seeing people get permanent housing is a huge reward.
- Knowing that I'm not going to change the world, but taking a lot of joy in the network and remembering to honor where I put "the stubborn ounces of my weight."
- "One person can't change the world, but one person can change the world for one person."
- Working to change the narrative about homelessness to more positive view of people experiencing this trauma also is a way to be sustained.

There is so much to be done

- Change comes from within. Need to support people ready to do the work.
- Second hand trauma is real; self-care is critical.
- We discussed harms done by the system, increased violence even to businesses, the need for trauma informed care and equity training for DSHS/SS staff.
- Our county system needs peer navigators and an independent or dual office Ombuds office.
- A client feedback questionnaire and dashboard of those being served to add to the rating and ranking of NOFO, etc.
- The traumatic experience with org funding not rightly distributed to Black Females and retaliation against any person that reports.

- Knowing that a lot of people depend on us so don't have luxury of despair.
- Tacoma needs a lot of action, and it is easy to see the needs, so it is always possible to dip our oar in and find ways to be involved.

We are Inspired by each other

- Having the coalition here is very helpful - the size of the group, the number of people really committed to this topic.
- We're inspired by the people we work with and the importance of the work itself.
- Inspired by the people in this coalition and work we hear of here.
- People we love are homeless; we care for them and know how hard their lives are.
- Our relationships we have with each other help us to be better at the work.
- Surround yourself with great people.

Notes and Resources List

FOB Hope is having a fundraiser on April 1st at the Puyallup Elks Lodge. Dinner, stand-up comedy show, silent auction. Cost is \$15 for dinner and show. Time-5pm-9pm. If you need more information or want to donate to the silent auction, or reserve a table for your group, you can contact me at tammyc@fobhope.org Hope to see you there.

The Salvation Army women's program is having a High Tea and Purse Auction fundraiser on Saturday, 3/18. See Facebook page for more information.

The Warm up the Neighborhood event (SUN Alliance) is THIS SUNDAY, March 5th 10a-2p, Near the 7-11 on @ 96th and Steele Street. Distribution of hygiene items and clothing.

Laurie Davenport's homeless art work is on display at Marlene's Deli. Go look.

Reminder for NLIHC conference, March, 20 (tenants only), 21-23. In DC with virtual option.

Article on the nightmare drug of Xylazine, typically taken in conjunction with Fentanyl <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/07/health/fentanyl-xylazine-drug.html>

Here's a little about the naloxone vending machine in the Moore branch of TPL <https://mynorthwest.com/3801648/tacoma-library-installs-narcan-vending-machine/>

Here is information about how people can report changes to Apple Health or Medicaid, including their mailing address. <https://www.hca.wa.gov/free-or-low-cost-health-care/i-need-medical-dental-or-vision-care/update-my-income-or-address-report-change>

Mayor Victoria Woodards to Present 2023 State of the City Address at Mount Tahoma High School on March 16 <https://www.cityoftacoma.org/in-the-news/state-of-the-city-2023>

For starting a non-profit: <https://nonprofitwa.org> NAWA is a great resource. Also <https://www.501commons.org/>

This CDC page outlines who needs to get a booster:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

COVID vaccine event at Shiloh Baptist Church shelter: 3/18/23 11a-3p at 1211 I Street. Ask me or Susan Ahearn at Valeo if you have questions.

Tacoma Rental Housing Code website, with a link to the survey. If you are neither a tenant nor a landlord, please feel free to fill out the survey as an advocate for either of these groups. Feedback events will be held on March 23, 29, and 30:

<https://www.cityoftacoma.org/rentalhousingcode>

Pierce County Comprehensive Plan to End Homelessness can be found here:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7309/Comprehensive-Plan-to-End-Homelessness>

At Food is Free we do a weekly food rescue on Tuesday mornings at 11 am at The Hope Point Church 6511 S Cst Tacoma 98408. If you need fresh produce for outreach please come see us. It goes in a couple of hours so please come before we open at 11.

Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at

<https://www.pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

Winter '22 Emergency Outreach Tracking Googledoc

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/10Ec_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzD0Yf0m5IfjgdpU/edit?usp=sharing

We have inclement weather cards (printed on business card sized stock) that Laurie Davenport created. Let me know if you want any. tpdrutis@nctacoma.org

Hiring Opportunities

Tacoma Public Library hiring event: March 8th at the Moore library from 3-6pm. If you would like more info please contact me Michelle Massero, mmassero@tacomalibrary.org, 253.280.2979

Arlington Apartments in Tacoma is hiring for 2 case managers. For those that don't know, we are a collaboration.

<https://external-seattlemca.icims.com/jobs/14390/case-manager-ii%2c-arlington-drive-housing-program-%28swing-shift%29/job>

<https://external-seattlemca.icims.com/jobs/13903/on-call-case-manager-lead-%28arlington%29/job>

There are case management openings in City of Fife Jobs Program. Contact Norman Brickhouse for info.

Tacoma Housing Authority is having a hiring event on March 14th at Bay Terrace. They are hiring for multiple positions.

Community Healthcare Hilltop is seeking a M-F dental instrument sterilizer, no experience necessary, on the job training. Good benefits as it's a federal facility. Listing is on their website.