

What do we do and how do we keep doing the work?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 4.21.23

Requiem for a Nest

the winged thang built her dream palace
amid the fine green eyes of a sheltering bough
she did not know it was urban turf
disguised as serenely delusionally rural
nor did she know the neighborhood was rife
with slant-mawed felines and those long-taloned
swoopers of prey. she was ignorant of the acidity & oil
that slowly polluted the earth, and was never
to detect the serpent coiled one strong limb below

following her nature she flitted and dove
for whatever blades twigs and mud
could be found under the humming blue
and created a hatchery for her spawn
not knowing all were doomed

— Wanda Coleman, "Requiem for a Nest" from *Ostinato Vamps*. © 2003

The upshot from discussion notes:

This weekly call provides community and inspiration for many to keep doing this work.

DO NOT MISS the next Social Gathering: Scamp Brewing, 5419 S Tacoma Way. First Thursday, May 4, from 4 pm - 7 pm. Bring a sharable, or not. Just come.

DO NOT MISS Maureen Howard Memorial Event, Saturday, April 22, 1 pm, Point Defiance Pagoda.

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Latest update to WA DOH guidance "What to do if you Test Positive for COVID-19?"

<https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2022-02/COVIDcasepositive.pdf>

Catholic Community Services Safe Parking at Holy Rosary, a 90-day program to work on housing, opened this week. Need to call for screening, no drive ups. Referral phone: (253) 719-9333, 9 AM to 5 PM Monday – Friday. Eligibility:

- City of Tacoma residents
- Submit to background check (specific crimes against persons screened out)
- Driver's license and proof of ownership of car
- Families or individuals welcome
- No RVs or trailers at this time

Priority referrals taken from City of Tacoma HEAL team, or outreach teams from The Rescue Mission and Comprehensive Life Resources

Selections have been announced for 2023 Tacoma Reads: "A Place Called Home" (David Ambroz), "Genesis Begins Again" (Alicia D. Williams), and "Home" (Tonya Lippert). Richard Dorsett is working to get these books in the hands and before the eyes of as many Tacoma readers as possible. If interested in helping, contact Dorsett.richard@gmail.com

Miracle Messages is here to assist our unhoused neighbors reconnect with family and friends as a source of housing, love and support that might be impacted by closure of the hotels. Contact: Madeline Mazzocchi, madeline@miraclemessages.org

Community Spotlight Opportunity: Tell the coalition about your organization's good work. Contact tpdrutis@nctacoma.org to schedule a brief presentation. 😊

Recent Press

Sugar Ray Seales leaves Hilltop shelter for housing.

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/opinion/article274559841.html>

Scramble for housing after funding runs out for hotel program

<https://komonews.com/news/local/homeless-people-hotel-program-funds-money-run-out-seattle-tacoma-renton-federal-way-kent-king-pierce-county-kcrha-crisis-regional-homelessness-authority-outreach-facilities>

Fundraisers and Events

Wellfound Candlelight Vigil in Support of care providers and patient safety. Thursday April 27, from 6-8 pm. Corner of 19th & Union. You'll see others. Parking can be found in Allenmore Hospital Lots. Any support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

FUSION is holding a luncheon fundraiser on May 9th in Federal Way. Our keynote speaker is UW Professor Gregg Colburn, who will present key findings from his book, Homelessness is a Housing Problem. His co-author, Clayton Page Aldern, according to his bio, provided data analysis and program evaluation for homelessness programs in Pierce County. If you are interested in attending, please email me at Melinda.lowe@fusionfederalway.org If you are unable to attend, the link to the book synopsis is here -- <https://homelessnesshousingproblem.com>.

Save the date: Free streaming of documentary “A Reckoning in Boston” is co-sponsored by A. Philip Randolph Institute, Tacoma chapter; League of Women Voters of Tacoma Pierce County, Our homeless Coalition, and Shiloh Baptist Church. Free at home screening May 13, 14, 15, with community conversation at Shiloh Baptist Church.

Laurie Davenport’s homeless art work entitled *The Unseen* is on display at Marlene's Deli. Go look. Held over through April.

Resources and Needs

Need good street shoes. No more sad feet. Nativity House, St Vincent DePaul, TRM all need shoes. Shoes have a hard life if the feet are in them 24/7.

Housing Alliance Advocacy Links

WLIHA Advocacy pages - Take Action Now! <https://www.wliha.org/take-action>

Advocacy resources: 2023 Public Policy Priorities <https://www.wliha.org/advocacy/2023-public-policy-priorities>

Join the weekly advocate calls on Fridays, 2-3pm on Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUsdumvrDMtHtSqWteCBB4VlDeAolIRnuCI>

<https://leg.wa.gov>

<https://twv.org>

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

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

Free Food and Resources, Saturday 10~12 everyone welcome no requirements or ID needed you can pick up for others 4819 S 12 St., Tacoma Greater Heights Church across from Delong Elementary School

At Food is Free we do a weekly food rescue on Tuesday mornings at 11 am at The Hope Point Church, 6511 S C St., 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_bw5KKsFQidzRN7XkM6yea6vHzD0Yf0m5lfjgdpU/edit?usp=sharing