

## What are ya doin' to support homeless folks?

Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 6.16.23

### What Kind of Times Are These?

There's a place between two stands of trees where the grass grows uphill  
and the old revolutionary road breaks off into shadows  
near a meeting-house abandoned by the persecuted  
who disappeared into those shadows.

I've walked there picking mushrooms at the edge of dread, but don't be fooled  
this isn't a Russian poem, this is not somewhere else but here,  
our country moving closer to its own truth and dread,  
its own ways of making people disappear

I won't tell you where the place is, the dark mesh of the woods  
meeting the unmarked strip of light —  
ghost-ridden crossroads, leafmold paradise:  
I know already who wants to buy it, sell it, make it disappear.

And I won't tell you where it is, so why do I tell you  
anything? Because you still listen, because in times like these  
to have you listen at all, it's necessary  
to talk about trees.

— Adrienne Rich, *Collected Poems: 1950-2012*.

### When I Am Among the Trees

When I am among the trees,  
especially the willows and the honey locust,  
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,  
they give off such hints of gladness.  
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,  
in which I have goodness, and discernment,  
and never hurry through the world  
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves  
and call out, "Stay awhile."  
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, "It's simple," they say,  
"and you too have come  
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled  
with light, and to shine."

— Mary Oliver, *Thirst*, 2006.

### **A Smattering of Response ...**

- Theresa is working on a mobile library with Richard and Liz and Timothy and ... maybe you?
- Timothy is still working on his parapetetic Dignity City street paper.
- We need to to make demands of government to solve issues.
- Individual actions such as outfitting tiny shelters at RISE as a way to make a small difference
- The BBQ is a great idea. Work on positive steps forward on actual solutions to homelessness.

### **Notes and Resources List**

#### ***New and Notable***

**Save the date: Fabulous Finds August 11th and 12<sup>th</sup>.** Contact Theresa if you have donations [tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org)

**For more information or questions about Recovery Café** in Orting  
Rena Thompson, Recovery Cafe Orting Valley, [www.recoverycafeorting.org](http://www.recoverycafeorting.org)

**The HeatRisk site can be found here:**

<https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/heatrisk/>

**City of Tacoma Study Session presentation at this link:**

[https://cityoftacoma.granicus.com/player/clip/6059?view\\_id=2&redirect=true&h=c05614dc12246573a69b5b5c31001616](https://cityoftacoma.granicus.com/player/clip/6059?view_id=2&redirect=true&h=c05614dc12246573a69b5b5c31001616)

**The full slide deck, including info about the camping ban,** be seen here:

<https://cityoftacoma.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=12090078&GUID=3AB5282B-B429-4EE4-AD6C-7762F704B042>

**For people interested in signing up to help organize People's Park BBQ**

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bimjo1JxZwpeDw8w7gTZrkfjF-TVkw8oJsqX4bsLhxY/edit?usp=sharing>

**Richard Dorsett is launching Tacoma Street Books** and is accepting paperbacks in the following genres:

- Fiction - literary, westerns, science fiction, horror (think Stephen King or Dean Koontz) and thrillers (like James Patterson).
- Work by underrepresented writers - books by BIPOC and LGBTQ writers are popular so they are harder to keep in stock.
- Nonfiction like history, spirituality, self-help, wilderness survival, foraging, herbal guides, etc. Also needed are new puzzle books and adult coloring books.
- Spanish language - fiction, poetry, nonfiction, children's books.

Please donate if you are able (porch delivery is perfect). And if you get a chance, read for yourself Ben Hodgson & Laura Moulton's "Loaners: The Making of a Street Library."

**How to sign up for Coalition listserv:**

You can sign up for the email lists here: <http://pchomeless.org/Home/Listserv>

**Community Spotlight Opportunity:** Tell the coalition about your organization's good work. Contact [tpdrutis@nctacoma.org](mailto:tpdrutis@nctacoma.org) to schedule a brief presentation. 🙄

**Recent Press**

**Why the Document Recording Fee is an undependable source for shelter funding.**

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article276396356.html>

**Seattle Times article around NLIHC report**

<https://www.seattletimes.com/business/real-estate/wa-renters-need-to-earn-twice-the-minimum-wage-to-afford-rent/>

**Ongoing Resources and Needs**

**Find Naloxone Near You.** Use Naloxone Finder, from [www.stopoverdose.org](http://www.stopoverdose.org). | [Stopoverdose.org](http://Stopoverdose.org)

**Renters' Readiness Stabilization classes** sign-up form REGISTER NOW!

<https://forms.gle/fEz8CjSfzS3ZvKRe6>

**The Housing Narrative Lab has published new messaging** resources for how to talk about homelessness, Download the report at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/c6faf641-e14f-4048-95d9-e408daadd9c1>

**More on the Housing Narrative Lab:** <https://housingnarrativelab.org>

**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.

**Free Food & Resources Market,** Greater Heights Church, 4819 South 12th St., Tacoma WA 10-12 Saturday 5/12/23. Everyone welcome. You can pick up for others.

**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/tZUsdumvrDMtHtSqWteCBB4VDeAoIIrnuCI>

<https://leg.wa.gov>

<https://tvw.org>

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

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

**Please sign up to the inclement weather listserv at**

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