

What do you plan to do to help those who are homeless this winter? Group Discussion Summary • Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness • 9.8.23

Everything is Waiting for You

Your great mistake is to act the drama
as if you were alone. As if life
were a progressive and cunning crime
with no witness to the tiny hidden
transgressions.

To feel abandoned is to deny
the intimacy of your surroundings. Surely,
even you, at times, have felt the grand array;
the swelling presence, and the chorus, crowding
out your solo voice.

You must note
the way the soap dish enables you,
or the window latch grants you freedom.
Alertness is the hidden discipline of familiarity.
The stairs are your mentor of things to come,
the doors have always been there
to frighten you and invite you,
and the tiny speaker in the phone
is your dream-ladder to divinity.

Put down the weight of your aloneness and ease into the
conversation. The kettle is singing
even as it pours you a drink, the cooking pots
have left their arrogant aloofness and
seen the good in you at last. All the birds
and creatures of the world are unutterably
themselves. Everything is waiting for you.

— *David Whyte*

Needs to Anticipate

- Needing handwarmers will be a thing. Link for handwarmers that actually heat: <https://www.amazon.com/gp/aw/d/B013HLGTL2/?th=1>
- Tarps and tie downs/clamps needed for rain and wind.
- First aid kits are surprisingly popular and needed.
- Food is another way to keep people warm. WE need to figure out better ways to get food to people sleeping outside overnight.
- We should anticipate more people coming together in groups to stay warm and seek safety after dark as winter unfolds.

- Curiosity about Tacoma fire codes and how that impact ability to do barrel fires and other actions to stay warm.
- A warming alternative is small containers that hold hand sanitizer as a cooking and heating fuel. That cheap fuel is less available now.

Actions to Take

- MORE BAGELS!!
- Greater Lakes dental Health is collecting coats and blankets.
- Starting up four Street Libraries.
- A call for those offering food/drink outreach to focus more on allergy free than meat free.
- Courtney at LEC has plans for tent-safe heaters that can be assembled from common materials for about \$8/per: <https://heater.link/>
- Do outreach now to try to get folks into coordinated entry.
- Go with a group or someone else to distribute materials or do outreach.
- Post and share volunteer activities here in the coalition meeting.
- If you buy a new coat this Winter, donate your old one.
- Throughout the year collect coats and warm weather stuff for distribution in Winter.
- Volunteer with 99 stockings:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SSfVWP7BA_0Kijza_95IL-UrSeJ4xq466dPiNdHne20/edit?usp=sharing
- Buy space blankets.
- Laundry vouchers or laundry days or more brick and mortar agencies installing/washers & dryers
- We are near the YMCA who gathers supplies which we then can use.
- Looking at how we can use our space, if possible for shelter during the day.
- Trying to figure out how to be sure we have the right supplies on hand so people can get them right away instead of being sent elsewhere to get them.
- Rocket Mass heaters (the camping version) is also a good option to explore.
https://youtu.be/1hNgT_PvEd8?si=J-JYVMJM4o9aYcYF
- Maybe we can connect bringing things we need for drives (socks, blankets, etc) to our monthly social?
- Need to demand leadership on every level. Need to network with each other and advocate for policy change.

Other Cold Weather Resources

- Starbucks coffee to go kits are simple and not very expensive.
- St. VdeP Resource center is available to supply outreach groups 7 days a week.
- HART (Houseless Assistance and Resources Team) at the Library have hot cider, provide warming, and additionally distribute materials.
- Not sure why volunteers are still doing all this, with so much government \$\$ supposedly being spent...the cost to individuals can get prohibitive.
- Use Goodwill Outlet Center to pick up coats, etc. at a low cost.

Notes and Resources List

New and Notable

Study Session on Tacoma Municipal Code 8.19 (Camping Ban).

Tuesday, Sept. 12 Noon; regular meeting and community forum at 5:00pm.

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

Link for giving to rental assistance fund at GTCF:

https://gtcf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=1859

Pastor Samara's Safe Parking program are managed at New Hope Resource Center - (253) 346-6482. It is part of a network of 5 locations.

Pierce County Coordinated Entry Access Points

<https://pchomeless.org/Facilities/Opening>

Youth Fentanyl Awareness Funding opportunity from TPCHD. We're offering \$5,000 grants to fund creative projects that support our new youth fentanyl awareness campaign. Youth will have a chance to craft helpful fentanyl messages, then use them on meaningful projects. Applications will be accepted until SEPT 15th. Visit: <https://fentanylfacts.org/contracts/> for more info.

City of Tacoma Rental Housing Code Updates flyer link. Monday mornings at 10 a.m.

Next Monday's is on rental agreements. Anyone can register:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/yhrgrf26lehl8gn7ok0thf/tacomarhczooms.jpg?rlkey=vffrhak5t21s3tgowvwx9c47l&dl=0>

Tacoma Recovery Center has a program to house the homeless if we can get a good phone number or email. Please stress they need to answer the phone or email and keep in touch. Contact Marquetta at mbaxley@mcfhc.org or (253) 448-3631

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

Upcoming Dates

September 15, 21,28,29: Housing Washington 2023 Pre -conference Virtual lunches.

Free access when registered for the Housing Washington annual conference (see Oct 3-5 entry)

Sept 16: Get Engaged in Planning for your Community. Interactive workshop to consider housing and other land use futures in Pierce County. 9 am – 12 noon at First United Methodist Church, 621 Tacoma Ave South. Fellowship Hall (basement level back entry). Sponsored by Tacoma Pierce County League of Women Voters. No fee.

Sept 17: 5 pm: Interfaith Homeless Memorial 5pm. Honoring homeless neighbors who died over the past 3 months. Shiloh Baptist Church, 1211 South "I" St. Tacoma

October 3-5: Housing Washington annual affordable housing conference. Tacoma Convention Center, 1500 Commerce Street . Cost \$0-\$300. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/housing-washington-2023-tickets-690168120427?aff=oddtcreator>

October 5: Elevate Health is hosting a 4-hour workshop, "Navigating Overwhelm" This is geared toward community health workers (includes those who bridge the gap between folks in need and those who can access resources, especially healthcare). The topic is to show how we can build resiliency to deflect the risk of burnout. Register at [BIT.LY/3Q8WFOF](https://bit.ly/3Q8WFOF)

October 5-6: Annual Conference on Ending Homelessness. Virtual conference by Washington Low Income Housing Alliance. Full conference cost \$250 non-members, \$170 for members. Scholarships for 2023 have been awarded but ask to be notified of 2024 scholarship availability. Register at <https://www.wliha.org/conference>

Oct 10: World Homeless Day. Observed internationally to bring awareness and action in support of the 100 million+ persons worldwide who do not have safe and secure shelter. Multiple actions possible.

Oct 11-Nov.14: One year anniversary of City Council vote and implementation of the Tacoma camping buffer zone ban and intensified sweeps in affected zones. Various activities TBA.

October 19: Zoom Webinar: Tenant Protections in Tacoma – Update on Tacoma’s New Rental Housing Code and Proposed Changes on the Ballot. 6-7 pm : (presentation by Wyatt Fisher, Housing Justice Project Staff Attorney with Tacomaprobono Community Lawyers. Sponsored by Coalition to End Homelessness, Tacoma/Pierce Co. League of Women voters, Tacoma Pro Bono). No fee.

October 20: Out of the Box Conference on Housing. 10 am-3 pm. Sponsored by Fair Housing Center of Washington held at The STAR Center 3873 S 66th St Tacoma. \$35 registration through Eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/out-of-the-box-conference-on-housing-registration-661508177767?aff=oddtcreator>

Early 2024: Un-conference on Housing Options for 0-30% AMI Residents. Organized by Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness.

Recent Press

HUD Makes \$256M available in New Choice Neighborhoods Funding

[https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD No 23 190](https://www.hud.gov/press/press_releases_media_advisories/HUD_No_23_190)

Ongoing Resources and Needs

Covid is still here.

<https://www.tpchd.org/healthy-people/provider-resources/homelessness-providers-toolkit>

Everyone should connect with Isiah to get masks for air quality. Email him at: icocroft@tpchd.org As you know, masks help with poor air as well helping reduce the transmission of cough cough, COVID and other diseases.

Outreach Supply Need and Share form: <https://forms.gle/2zfK8Y5JvC1K5eXLA>

Safe Sites

<https://ss4a.pchomeless.org>

How to sign up for Coalition listserv:

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

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>