



Beyond Shelter is a newsletter written by those who work in the homeless community and advocate for the homeless of Pierce County.

Its purpose is to inform and educate providers in the field and others who have an interest.

Would you like to see a particular subject covered? If so, please e-mail us your ideas at: housingnow@cityoftacoma.org
Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition for the Homeless
747 Market Street,
Room 836
Tacoma, WA 98402
(253) 591-5070/5062.

Inside Beyond Shelter's Winter 2008 Issue:

Homeless Survey 2008	1
PHC 2008	2
Funding Updates	3



Mixology @ the Sport Center, opened in 1910.

Homeless Survey

By Ian Kitts

This year's Homeless Survey went off without a hitch, once again providing a helpful look into the specifics of the population of people experiencing homelessness in our county.

Over sixty-five volunteers took to the streets of Peirce County to collect data on Thursday, January 24th and Friday, January 25th, 2008. The census focuses on the geographic areas identified by Pierce County as the locations where clusters of long-term homeless people sleep.

Among the findings of the survey, 1,743 people were counted from throughout the area, an increase of 147 over last year's count.

Out of the total, 753 individuals (homeless and chronically homeless) were counted. That is a 14.1% increase over last year. The data also shows a slight decrease in homeless families from last year's 299 to 285.

The survey is done through a partnership of local and county governments, community service societies, and other charitable groups.

In the past the survey has placed the number of people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County at between 1,100 and 1,900 individuals. These numbers include those in emergency and transitional housing.

Individuals were asked to respond to several questions as volunteers filled out brief surveys. After demographics, questions posed included describing the previous night's sleeping situation, whether they had stayed by themselves or with others, and how long they had been experiencing homelessness. The survey also asked what had caused their state of homelessness and how many times in the past three years they had been homeless.

This data, after collected, is used to better develop services for the population of people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County.

Complete data from this year's survey will be available from the Homeless Coalition soon.

10 things you must do... in Yakima!*



A simple Google search for any of these things should provide you with enough to keep yourselves happily occupied during any free time you have whilst visiting Yakima during the upcoming Washington State Coalition for the Homeless, 18th Annual Conference, May 7-9. If you look at it this way, the place ain't half-bad.

For more ideas email [ian—ikitts@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:ikitts@cityoftacoma.org)

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| 10. See play at Warehouse Theatre! | 5. Broadway show at Capital Theatre! |
| 9. Eat Mexican food! | 4. Visit the wineries! |
| 8. Museum Soda Fountain! | 3. Eat a Major's Burger! |
| 7. Have a drink at the Sport Center! | 2. Eat a Miner's Burger! |
| 6. Ummelina Day Spa! | 1. Enjoy Palm Springs of Washington! |

*Don't worry, Ian Kitts is a native born Yakimaniak!

Project Homeless Connect

Tacoma-Pierce County



info@phomelessconnect.org
 (253) 591-5070
 (253) 591-5062

Helping Improve Soles

By Ian Kitts

We are currently in the planning stage of the 2008 Pierce County Project Homeless Connect (PHC). PHC is an innovative partnership between the government, its residents, and both its private and non-profit sectors, that serves to mobilize the community and end homelessness. Essentially PHC is an event where individuals and families experiencing homelessness can come to one location on one day and receive many services. The event is completely free and serves to address many of the key barriers which perpetuate homelessness in Pierce County. The event thrives on volunteers, grants, and donations.

Families make up almost 50% of those experiencing homelessness in the United States. This year PCH will serve both individuals and families with children. This is exciting and we hope to ass to both the number and quality of services available to individuals and their families this year.

During one of our last planning meetings, one of last year's team-leads mentioned the need for new shoes and clothing for our clients. She explained that many of the people experiencing homelessness last year had severe foot problems, which were addressed by our volunteer podiatrists. She was saddened to see individuals putting their old shoes back on (often still wet and with holes in them).

This established a need for shoes, but upon further discussion it was decided *that new* shoes and clothing should be pursued in the form of donations this year.

Our reasoning behind this is that new clothing and shoes often provide an uplifting feeling that used clothing and shoes may not.

We believe that new products carry a type of confidence that people need in their lives. So we are looking to some of the biggest shoe and clothing companies and retailers in US for help via donations. We think it would be nice to see best quality products transcend social differences, like Nike's company overview says, "If you have a body, you are an athlete." It would be a really great thing to remind some of these individuals and their families that they can still find hope, even in a pair of new shoes.

Looking to the community is also a good way of acquiring new products to distribute to individuals experiencing homelessness.

Can you set up a new clothing/shoe drive at work or at your child's school? How about donating a new sleeping bag? We'll let you know what items are needed and make sure they get into the right hands.

Call the Coalition for the Homeless at 591-5062 or 591-5070



How YOU Can Lend A HELPING HAND

<p><u>HOLIDAY PROGRAMS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Easter Baskets -Thanksgiving Baskets 	<p><u>OTHER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Yard Work -Weeding -Video Development
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CALL 848-6096 FOR MORE INFORMA-

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

www.piercecountywa.org/PC/abtus/ourorg/comsvcs/housing/html/cs_home5.htm

Funding applications for Spring 2008 SHB 2060 funding will be available in March 2008.

Eligible Activities for SHB 2060 funds:

- Acquisition, rehabilitation, and/or new construction of housing; and
- Operation and maintenance costs of housing; and
- Rental Assistance vouchers for housing projects or units within housing projects.

All assistance through this program is targeted to assist very low income households with household incomes at or below fifty percent of median for the Tacoma/Pierce County Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). A priority is placed on extremely low income households with household incomes at or below thirty percent of median income.

Funding applications are now available for homeless housing providers interested in applying for funding to assistance homeless persons and persons at risk for homelessness. The applications are due April 27, 2007 at 4pm at 3602 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98418, 1st Floor Housing Programs Office. The total funds available are \$1,435,000.*

A Workshop for 2060 & 2163 funding will be held in March 25, 2008 from 9am to Noon at the Community Services office located at 3602 Pacific Avenue, Suite 200, Tacoma, WA 98418 in Conference Room A.

Eligible Projects and Activities for 2163 include:

- Rental and furnishing of dwelling units for the use of homeless person (s);
- Costs of developing affordable housing for homeless person(s), and services for formerly homeless individuals and families residing in transitional housing or permanent housing and still at risk of homelessness;
- Operating subsidies for transitional housing or permanent housing serving formerly homeless families or individuals;
- Services to prevent homelessness, such as emergency eviction prevention program including temporary rental subsidies to prevent homelessness;
- Temporary services to assist persons leaving state institutions and other state programs to present them from becoming or remaining homeless;
- Outreach services for homeless individuals and families;
- Rental vouchers payable to landlords for persons who are homeless or below thirty percent of the median income or in immediate danger of becoming homeless.

The Tacoma/Pierce County Coalition for the Homeless

cordially invites you to attend our meeting.
We gather every second Thursday of the month at
3602 Pacific Avenue, from 8:30am-10:30am.

For directions call 591-5062/5070

We look forward to meeting you!

for updated information and meeting minutes you can also visit:

www.cityoftacoma.org/housingnow

The 2007-2008 Coalition Officers

Chair

Troy Christensen

Vice Chair

Rose Stidham

State Coalition Representatives

Nola Renz

Adrian Johnson

Continuum of Care Chair

Ellie Ottey

Continuum of Care Vice Chair

Alan Brown

Thank you for your leadership and willingness to serve.

Update Yourself with Information about:

- Shelter Vacancy Information
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Our Event Calendar
- Meeting Minutes / Agendas
- and much more....

www.cityoftacoma.org/housingnow