Awareness for Homelessness

Community Awareness

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Juanita High School - Kirkland, WA
Chapter 55118
Secondary Division
Target Audience: Ages 5-60
Total Number of Participants: 10,000

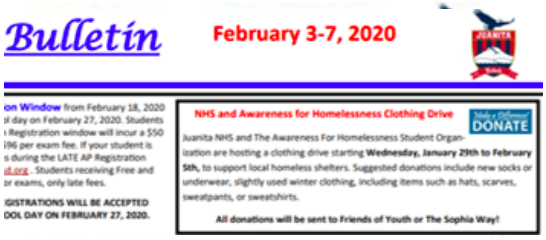
Selection of the Project Activity: The roots of our chosen topic came from an issue that we saw every day on the roads, an issue that left our hearts heavy every time we drove through a green light, leaving a homeless soul helpless on the sidewalk. A soul that would never have the freedom to solve their problems because they never had the chance. Even when we were younger, we would look out of icy car windows at homeless men and women who stood with cardboard signs, paper-thin clothes clinging to their shivering bodies, thinking -- this is wrong. Now, as high schoolers and a part of the HOSA organization, we decided to jump at this opportunity that we have waited so long to take. Homelessness is a growing problem in King County, experiencing more than 22,100 episodes in 2017 alone (Davila, 2019). Nationally, 564,708 people are homeless on any given night, 45% of which have mental illnesses (Dr. E. Fuller Torrey, 2019). An increase in alcohol and drug abuse and higher levels of psychiatric distress can result from the combination of mental health illnesses and homelessness (Peter Tarr Ph.D., 2018). A way to alleviate some stress for the homeless is to provide clothing that will protect them from exposure to the elements and help them maintain their self-image (NationalHomeless, 2013). These people in need often turn to nearby shelters for support, and that is where our project comes in.

Goal, Accomplishments, Effectiveness and Impact: Our goal is to educate our academic peers and the general community of King County about the mental health-related struggles faced by homeless people. We encouraged Juanita students, parents and staff members to get involved by asking for donations for our clothing drive, also partnering with Cyan Swim Academy and Value Village. After spreading the message through posters, cards, announcements, and flyers, we collected over 500 clothing items– worth over $3,000 – and sent them to local homeless shelters, the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the Ronald United Methodist Church. To further spread the word about homelessness to the community, we created bookmarks with information about how to get involved that were distributed at the KCLS Redmond Library and hung up informational flyers in five Microsoft buildings. As our city was the first in the US to experience the COVID-19 pandemic, we immediately turned our focus towards providing proper sanitation as to prevent an outbreak amongst the homeless population. We held an online shirt fundraiser, raising $4,590, in which we used to create over 600 hygiene care packages for six different homeless shelters. With the help of our partnerships with local businesses such as the Glass Distillery and Bob's Liquors and donations from community members, we were also able to include durable masks and hand sanitizer into the packs. Moreover, we donated a meal to the New Bethlehem Day Center, and provided items directly to many different relief organizations, such as Tent City 3, Amara Foster Care, Seattle Humane Shelter, and REACH. Also, we partnered with a local bubble tea shop, Shake it, in which they gave 50% of the profits from Mango Milk Tea sales to our organization over two days. This amounted to $75. By the completion of our project, we raised approximately $11,000. Not only did we bring awareness to over **10,000** members of the community, we were finally able to fulfil our aspirations of helping those souls that were just a window away.

Jan 24th - Feb 2nd

Promoting Awareness in the Community

To educate students & adults about the prevalence of homelessness in our community and encourage them to donate to our drive, we employed various advertising techniques throughout our school. We also visited five Redmond Microsoft Campuses & the KCLS Library to post flyers and pass out bookmarks with information about homelessness.



Bulletin February 3-7, 2020

...on Window from February 18, 2020 ...l day on February 27, 2020. Students ... Registration window will incur a $50 ...196 per exam fee. If your student is ...s during the LATE AP Registration ...d.org . Students receiving Free and ...or exams, only late fees.

IGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED ...OOL DAY ON FEBRUARY 27, 2020.

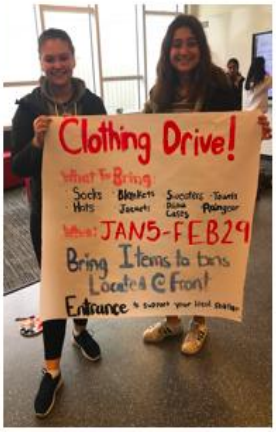
NHS and Awareness for Homelessness Clothing Drive DONATE

Juanita NHS and The Awareness For Homelessness Student Organization are hosting a clothing drive starting **Wednesday, January 29th to February 5th,** to support local homeless shelters. Suggested donations include new socks or underwear, slightly used winter clothing, including items such as hats, scarves, sweatpants, or sweatshirts.

All donations will be sent to Friends of Youth or The Sophia Way!

500+
items of clothing collected

$3000
worth of clothing raised



School-Wide Advertising - Students & Parents were informed through:

- Informational Cards Distributed at Lunch
- Weekly School Bulletin
- Clothing Drive Poster Making Session
- School Monitor Screens
- Flyers
- Bookmarks

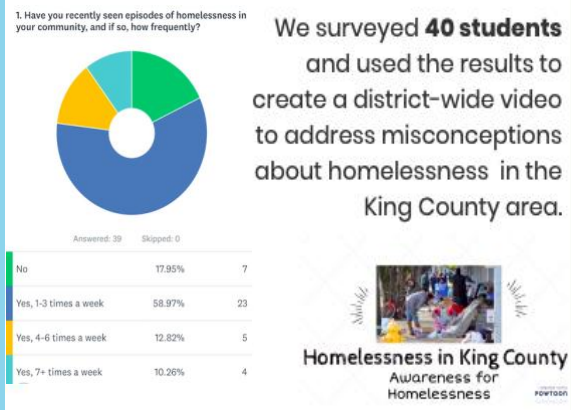
Jan 29th - Feb 5th

Clothing Drive

We held a clothing drive at Juanita High School to collect items for the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and the Ronald United Methodist Church. In order to collect more donations, we partnered with the **Value Village** located in Kirkland, WA and **Cyan Swim Academy**.

March 15th

District-Wide Video + Survey



We surveyed **40 students** and used the results to create a district-wide video to address misconceptions about homelessness in the King County area.

March 15th- April 18th

T-shirt Fundraiser

We held a "Sweet Home Seattle" T-shirt fundraiser to raise money for care packages for the homeless. **131 people** bought a t-shirt or made a donation.

$4,950

raised in t-shirt sales & donations

$9000

sent to Tent City 3 through Microsoft Matching

Partnership - Bartell Drugs

62

items of food donated

March 16th

Website & Instagram

4000+

website views

We built a website and social media page for people to learn about ways they can help the homeless in their community, statistics about homelessness in King County & America, COVID-19 updates, links to our various social media platforms, and HOSA information.

March 20th- May 25th

Making Care Packages

Using the money raised from the t-shirt fundraiser, we purchased materials such as granola bars, bottled water, sanitary napkins, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and cloth face masks to put in care packages for the homeless.

Partnership - Bob's Liquor & Glass Distillery

110+

hand sanitizer bottles donated

March 19th - May 28th

Donating Care Packages

We delivered the care packages to many homeless shelters in the Greater Seattle Area including The Sophia Way, Tent City 3, Friends of Youth, REACH, Safe Parking United Methodist Church, and Immanuel Community Services.

Friends of Youth

626
care packages delivered to 6 homeless shelters

REACH Organization

Lake Washington
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

May 22, 2020

Dear Awareness for Homelessness,

Thank you so much for the donation of care packs, food, wipes and coffee, delivered by Angelyiah, Fiona and Aleksandra, for our guests in the Lake Washington United Methodist Safe Parking program. We are

The Sophia Way
Ending Homelessness for Women

April 22, 2020

Angelyiah Lim
Sent via email to: awarenessforhomelessness@gmail.com

Items donated: $101.75 for pads, $35.97 for wipes, $8.97 for water, $55.96 for trail mix, $31.96 for protein bars, $35.89 toothbrushes, $8.97 for gallon bags, $8.11 for fruit snacks, $18.99 for tissues, and $94.14 for masks material.

SHARE
Seattle Housing and Resource Effort

P. O. Box 2548
Seattle, WA 98111
(206) 448-7889
www.sharewheel.org
shelters@sharewheel.org

A 501 (C)(3) Non-Profit Organization
Tax ID#91-1577965/31362

SHARE/WHEEL acknowledges that a non-cash donation was received from:

Name: Awareness for Homelessness Please **DO NOT** add me to your mailing list ____

Address:_____

Phone:_____ Email: _____

For your records, use this space below to itemize your donation. (IRS regulations prohibit charitable organizations from establishing or affirming the value of contributions.)

Donation: (item(s), quantity, and value)

Item	Quantity	Value
Covid-19 Personal Packs	100	

March 29th - April 17th

Donations to Organizations

Excess money from the fundraiser was used to purchase Amazon Wishlist Items for various homeless shelters such as The Sophia Way, Amara (Organization for Foster Kids) , REACH, and Seattle Humane Animal Shelter.

April 1st

Instagram Livestream

We held an Instagram Livestream to educate students on the causes & significance of homelessness in America as well as its connections to crime & unaffordable housing. At the end of the video session, we had a Quizizz competition to test their comprehension.

60
participants informed about homelessness

April 4th

Yearbook Page

Our Juanita High School Yearbook staff dedicated a page to our organization to bring more awareness to the prevalence of homelessness in King County.

HOSA:
Awareness for Homelessness

Did You Know?

Angelyiah Lim (11), Fiona Wang (11), and Aleksandra Cholewinska (11) have been working on helping the homeless in the Seattle area for the past few months. Their efforts to spread awareness in the school and help the community were recognized at the HOSA State Leadership Conference, earning them 1st Place Community Awareness and qualifying for the international competition (see adjacent page for information about the conference and award winners).

Angelyiah, Fiona, and Aleksandra organized a clothing drive at school, also partnering with Valor Village and Cyan Swim Academy to collect clothing. In total, they raised over 530 items of clothing, which they donated to the YWCA and Renald United Methodist Church.

They also created care packages for the homeless, designing shirts and partnering with local businesses to raise money and materials for the packages. Then, they made the packages and donated them to a local homeless shelter.

"I think it's great how the project not only collected tons of clothes for homeless people but also promoted awareness for them because of how they're so often ignored."
- Isaac Hoyt (11)

April 5th

Radio Station Segment

We reached out to Michael Fashana, the director of sales at four radio stations - MOViN92.5, WARM 106.9, 98.9 The Bull, and KIXI AM 880 - who agreed to air our segment **120 times** pro bono.

The advertisement had a text code – if the listener texted "home" to 37667 they would be linked to our website.

April 6th

Featured on KUOW News

We were also featured on the **KUOW All Things Considered 94.9 FM podcast** at 4:44 PM on 4/6/2020 by Zaki Hamid and Kim Malcolm as well as **2 KUOW articles** "Hopefully when all this over, we can be closer to each other as a community" and "What's Good? Silver Linings in the time of coronavirus".

There's lots to worry about during this pandemic, as we try to stay isolated and healthy. And there's lots to be grateful for.

KUOW's Zaki Hamid has been keeping an eye out for acts of kindness in the community, and people who are working to help others. He told me about the efforts of some young people in Kirkland.

Three students from Juanita High School – Angelyiah Lim, Fiona Wang , and Aleksandra Cholewinska – started an organization called Awareness for Homelessness, to give people that are experiencing homelessness some aid. They started with a clothing drive.

Now, they're putting together almost 200 COVID-19 stay-safe care packages. These packages are going to include hand sanitizer, face masks, water, feminine hygiene pads, tissues, wipes, toothbrushes and toothpaste.

Each care package is going to sustain each person for multiple days. It's also going to include some note cards that have instructions on how to stay safe during this time of coronavirus.

These kits are going to go to two organizations: The Sophia Way in Bellevue, which is an organization dedicated to ending homelessness for women by providing shelter and social services; and to Tent City 3 in Seattle.

What did the teens tell you about why they decided to do this?

Since a young age, they would see people experiencing homelessness around their communities. Now that they're older, they actually feel that they can do something about it.

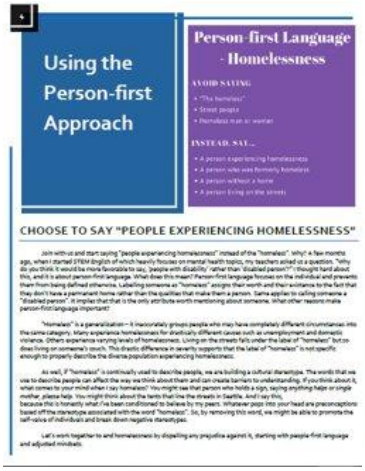
With COVID-19, they wanted to direct all of their efforts to helping people who are experiencing homelessness stay safe. They chose The Sophia Way in Bellevue because they are a homeless shelter for women, and that means a lot to them.

They chose Tent City 3, they said, because of the need to shelter in place. They wanted the residents to have what they need without having to leave, so they didn't have their spread or catch the virus.

April 17th - May 29th

Newsletter

We began a bi-weekly newsletter to raise awareness about current events surrounding homelessness in WA state.


Using the Person-first Approach

Person-first Language - Homelessness

AVOID SAYING:
- "The homeless"
- Street people
- Homeless man or woman

INSTEAD, SAY...
- A person experiencing homelessness
- A person who was formerly homeless
- A person without a home
- A person living on the streets

CHOOSE TO SAY "PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS"

Join with us and start saying "people experiencing homelessness" instead of the "homeless". Why? A few months ago, when I started STEM English of which heavily focuses on mental health topics, my teachers asked us a question, "Why do you think it would be more favorable to say, 'people with disability' rather than 'disabled person'?" I thought hard about this, and it is about person-first language. What does this mean? Person-first language focuses on the individual and prevents them from being defined otherwise. Labelling someone as "homeless" assigns their worth and their existence to the fact that they don't have a permanent home rather than the qualities that make them a person. Same applies to calling someone a "disabled person". It implies that that is the only attribute worth mentioning about someone. What other reasons make person-first language important?

"Homeless" is a generalization – it inaccurately groups people who may have completely different circumstances into the same category. Many experience homelessness for drastically different causes such as unemployment and domestic violence. Others experience varying levels of homelessness. Living on the streets falls under the label of "homeless" but so does living on someone's couch. This drastic difference in severity supports that the label of "homeless" is not specific enough to properly describe the diverse population experiencing homelessness.

As well, if "homeless" is continually used to describe people, we are building a cultural stereotype. The words that we use to describe people can affect the way we think about them and can create barriers to understanding. If you think about it, what comes to your mind when I say homeless? You might see that person who holds a sign, saying anything helps or single mother, please help. You might think about the tents that line the streets in Seattle. And I say this, because this is honestly what I've been conditioned to believe by my peers. Whatever pops into your head are preconceptions based off the stereotype associated with the word "homeless". So, by removing this word, we might be able to promote the self-value of individuals and break down negative stereotypes.

Let's work together to end homelessness by dispelling any prejudice against it, starting with people-first language and adjusted mindsets.

32
subscribers informed

May 12th

New Bethlehem Day Center Meal

We prepared and donated a meal of stuffed shell pasta, lasagna, salad, baguettes, and cookies to the New Bethlehem Day Center.

70
homeless fed

May 24th

"Lending a Hand" Children's Book

We wrote a children's book, "Lending a Hand", and placed them at free libraries to educate younger children about how they can help the homeless.

ing you requested. Thanks for the opportunity to work with your company.

Below are your detailed production specifications for this quote.

Aleksandra - Saddle Stitch book

20 page self cover: Final Size : 8.5 x 11

100.0 lb Blazer Digital Satin Book

4/4

Product 2 - 20 pg self cover

Quantity	Prices	Per Each	Tax	Total Price
20	$117.59	$5.8795	$11.88	$129.47

55+
youth educated

25
people wrote letters

May 13th

Writing Letters to the Homeless

To encourage others to learn more about homelessness and connect more with their community, we had an option for students to write small messages for the homeless. All letters were put into the care packages!

May 22-23rd

Shake It Fundraiser

We partnered with Shake It Bubble Tea in Kirkland, WA where **50% of all profits from Mango Milk Tea** sales on May 22nd & 23rd were given to Awareness for Homelessness.

$75
raised

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