



Seattle Youth Commission Youth Homelessness Forum Curriculum

- Introduction on what the Seattle Youth Commission is and why we hosted this forum
- Group ice breaker activity, “Step into the circle”
 - We read a series of statements aloud to the group and asked anybody who could identify with the statement to step into the circle. The point of this activity was to show the group that they have many things in common with one another and have experienced hardships that contribute to homelessness.
- Discussion and brainstorm on the causes of homelessness
 - We wanted to make the point that homelessness isn’t always what people *think* it looks like and is more prevalent than many believe it to be.
 - One of the service providers, Charlotte Tucker, then took over the group discussion to further delve into the systemic issues that contribute to homelessness.
- As a group, played an interactive online game, called SPENT (at playspent.org)
 - We did this to give the group a sense of the kind of struggles people living in poverty and/or without a home have to face every day.
- The peer leader who came, Star, shared with the group the types of services she has received, what has been most difficult about accessing them in her experience, and what she wants other people to understand about what it is like to be homeless.
- The service providers each gave the group a brief description of what their organizations do and how they help homeless and at-risk youth.
- We then passed out a list of volunteer opportunities for minors at some of these organizations.
- The students filled out surveys and everyone ate pizza!

Youth Homelessness Forum - Evaluation Summary

At the end of the forum, we handed out a survey to all of the students who attended. We asked them to answer the following questions on a scale of 1 to 5 -- 1 being negative and 5 being positive. These were the average results:

- Did you enjoy the forum? - 4.4
- After this forum, how easily do you feel you relate to this issue? - 4.2
- How much did you learn about this issue that you didn’t know before? - 4.2

The fourth question asked for additional comments and questions, some of which included:

- A suggestion to have some of the service providers table at the 2012 Youth Town Hall
- “Let’s try and get more Bulldogs involved!”
- “Amazing! Do every year. Call an assembly.”

- “Thanks so much for holding this eye-opening forum.”

Volunteer Opportunities with Homeless Youth Organizations **For Youth Ages 15-18**

Peace for the Streets by Kids From the Streets (PSKS):

- Tutor students ages 16-25 who are homeless, at risk for homelessness or under-served at the RISK Learning Center (small alternative school on Cap Hill open Mon/Tues/Wed/Fri 1-4pm). Help them prepare for the GED test. Tutors don't need special training but should be comfortable in math, reading, writing, science and social studies. Prefer people with a background in tutoring/mentoring and familiarity with challenges at-risk youth face. Tutoring materials will be provided. 1-2 times a week for 1-4 hours a day, at least 12 weeks. Training/information session required and a background check if over 18.

Contact olivia.pryor@psks.org for application.

Teen Feed:

- Meal Team - groups of 5-15 people provide meals to youth at the Teen Meal Program. The group provides the food (buys it or gets it donated), cooks it, serves it, and cleans up when done. Food served 7-8pm, prep starts as early as 5:30. Serve 40-70 youth in a night, typically under \$200. Teen Feed can help plan the meal so it is nutritious.

- Weekly volunteering - one night a week 6:30-8:30 pm for students 18 and under. 6 month commitment. Volunteers may help set-up/break-down basic needs closet, help with guest registration, help food team w/ meal preparation/serving/clean-up, etc.

- Other volunteer opportunities available.

- All volunteers required to attend orientation on 1st Wednesday of the month 5-6:30pm at the

University Congregational Church.

Contact volunteer@teenfeed.org

Catholic Community Services of King County - University District Youth Center (UDYC):

- Friday Cleaning: help keep the building clean by mopping, sweeping, doing laundry, organizing donations, vacuuming, yard work, scrubbing, and other general cleaning.

Contact Christopher at christopherh@ccsww.org

- Prepare a Meal: help on a “meal team” to prepare a nutritious and balanced meal, and deliver it to UDYC on the day of service. Mon-Thurs. Serve 30-40 homeless youth through drop-in program. Meal examples: burrito bar, chili and cornbread, lasagna or pasta w/ side salad, enchiladas.

Contact Vivian Pauley at vivianp@ccsww.org or 206/526-2992

YMCA:

- One time volunteering opportunities available (the fair, drives, etc.)

Contact Brooke Knight at bscharnke@seattleyymca.org

YouthCare:

- Can volunteer doing behind-the-scenes or administrative work

- Organizing clothing bank, deep cleaning, stuffing goody bags for prom or outreach,

organizing hygiene bank, helping at front desk in administrative office, etc.

- Cleaning and painting/office upkeep projects on weekends
- Host drives for socks, hygiene products, etc.
- Put on meals
- Smaller group for putting together outreach kits, washing and folding donations, doing inventory, and organizing/labeling/distributing supplies

- Parent/guardian supervision required (more than one for a large group)

Contact Randi McKenna at randi.mckenna@youthcare.org or (206)267-3076

Neighborcare Health- 45th Street Clinic:

- Sock and hygiene (shampoo, etc.) drives
- Help at fundraising events

Contact Charlotte Tucker at charlottet@neighborcare.org

ROOTS:

- Ropes training: Wednesday, May 9th at University Presbyterian Church. The Ropes: Understanding and Engaging Youth Homelessness specifically addresses youth and young adult homelessness in a hands-on three hour training. Here you will find out about the causes and characteristics of youth homelessness, the nature of street life and culture, and tools for engaging with these at-risk youth and young adults.

- Breakfast Cook: Volunteers help prepare a simple hot breakfast, serve food to guests, and clean up kitchen. Volunteers under 18 may participate with adult supervision. Any day of the week, 6:30-8:30AM.

- Friday Feast: All-ages meal program serving a hot dinner to 100 people. Volunteers help with meal preparation between 3-6PM, serving dinner from 6-7PM, and clean up until 8PM. Volunteers under 18 may participate with adult supervision. Fridays, flexible hours, 3-8PM.

- Volunteer application required, download at <http://www.rootsinfo.org/volunteer/opportunities/>

Contact volunteer coordinator at volunteer@rootsinfo.org