Seattle Mayor and County Executive declare a state of emergency on homelessness: What does it mean?

You may have heard that Mayor Ed Murray and King County Executive Dow Constantine recently declared that homelessness is in a state of emergency in King County. While this may seem surprising, as we are used to those declarations for things like floods and fire, the move was made in the hopes of securing additional federal funding and to find better ways to combat the problem itself. As of September 2015, 66 homeless people have died in King County this year alone—a number that is higher than those in many natural disasters. The emergency declaration will allow the authorities to search for new shelter opportunities and allow more flexibility in permitting and zoning processes, to make sure homeless families, including those with children, are housed. According to All Home, King County’s committee to end homelessness, “our community has rallied to provide shelter and support for others in crisis—from international refugees to local and national disaster victims—and we should also do the same for our neighbors without a permanent place to call home.”

December 1st is “Giving Tuesday” and it’s your chance to wish a Merry Christmas to those in need!

After spending and shopping on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, we invite you to give back on Giving Tuesday. On December 1, people all over the world will participate in the 4th annual Giving Tuesday, a global day of generosity that celebrates and encourages giving! You can kick off this season of charitable giving by donating to SSHA. Your support goes to help a homeless family feel hope and find stability. You can make a real difference in the lives of families by making a donation to St. Stephen Housing online at: StStephenHousing.org or mailing your donation in the enclosed envelope. Thank you!

How your gift helps:

- $25 buys a new pair of shoes and socks for a child.
- $30 pays for one GED test for an adult.
- $50 pays for the gas for a family to get to school, work and job interviews.
- $75 helps a family pay its electric bill.
- $100 helps a family put dinner on the table for a week.

You can help today by sending your donation in the enclosed envelope or by donating online at:
StStephenHousing.org

Please give today!

#GIVINGTUESDAY

“You have not lived today until you do something for someone who can never repay you.”—John Bunyan
Because of YOU, we can live our dreams!

My name is Cha’Let Robinson, and I have 2 beautiful boys. My family went through a very hard time not so long ago. I was headed towards a divorce from an 8 year marriage and I wasn’t even working at the moment. I was a housewife and that’s how my husband wanted it to be until he walked out on us. We ended up homeless and having to surf couches in many different cities. My oldest who is in school switched school at least 3-4 times. We had no vehicle. We had only ambition and prayer. We ended up in a homeless shelter. I was so excited when I received that phone call from SSHA. Patti, my Housing Case Manager was so awesome and loving. She was always there for me when I needed her. She helped me with anything I needed and was a big encourager. I knew I could become better if I just had a home to be stable for my children. No matter how down I was on myself for not being where I thought I should be, Patti always knew how to put a smile on my face and some strength in my heart.

During our year in the program, we had a lot of goals to reach. I’m proud to say that because of St. Stephen Housing I have reached most of those goals. I have my Cosmetology license and I’m now a student in college for my Associates in Business Entrepreneurship. I have a permanent stable home for my family. My boys are happy and so am I! Please remember, what you give to help programs like these, your giving is not in vain!

We couldn’t do it without YOUR help!

MANY, many people and organizations give generously to help our families! We thank them from the bottom of our hearts—we couldn’t do it without you!

Every year, our families benefit from the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness’ Project Cool Program, which gives out backpacks and school supplies for homeless children in King County.

Our dedicated weekly office volunteers, Barb Brownlow and Mary Marler, are angels in disguise. Gene and Karen Smith and Dar Raftis keep our donations organized and ready for families to use.

Our Hope for Housing fundraiser auction was put together by Vicki Kennerud, Marge Staszak and Reva Lackie.

Our landscaping and maintenance volunteers help keep our housing units in good shape: Charles Mack, Dennis Marek, Pat Bader, John Chromy, Tony Morfin, and Dan Pretare.

Brian Ogilvie, Victor Gomez and Ike Tarabi have provided countless hours of muscle moving furniture to and from families’ homes.

Jerry Flagel is our computer and IT guru who has saved our files more than once.

Many, many people and organizations give generously to help our families! We thank them from the bottom of our hearts—we couldn’t do it without you!

Every year, our families benefit from the Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness’ Project Cool Program, which gives out backpacks and school supplies for homeless children in King County.

Our dedicated weekly office volunteers, Barb Brownlow and Mary Marler, are angels in disguise. Gene and Karen Smith and Dar Raftis keep our donations organized and ready for families to use.

Our Hope for Housing fundraiser auction was put together by Vicki Kennerud, Marge Staszak and Reva Lackie.

Our landscaping and maintenance volunteers help keep our housing units in good shape: Charles Mack, Dennis Marek, Pat Bader, John Chromy, Tony Morfin, and Dan Pretare.

Brian Ogilvie, Victor Gomez and Ike Tarabi have provided countless hours of muscle moving furniture to and from families’ homes.

Jerry Flagel is our computer and IT guru who has saved our files more than once.

2015 One Night Count finds a 21% increase in the number of people without shelter

On January 23, 2015, volunteers spent the night counting the number of homeless people in King County living outside (on the streets, in their cars, and other places not meant for human habitation) and inside (in shelters and transitional housing). This count found the number of homeless people living outside had increased from 3,123 in 2014 to 3,772 in 2015. Even those numbers are probably too low. Because the count is conducted in only select areas of King County, not everyone is counted. Including the number of people who are living in shelters and transitional housing, the total number of people experiencing homelessness on that night was 10,047. This number includes 1,768 children under the age of 18.

With numbers like these, it will take a community-wide effort to bring everyone in from the cold.
2015 Hope for Housing Fundraiser Raised $10,000!

This year’s Hope for Housing fundraiser was a wonderful success! With the help of our generous sponsors, donors, volunteers and over 100 guests, we raised more than $10,000 to help the families in our program get closer to their goal of regaining stability. Steven Garberding, a former tenant, gave an inspiring speech about his journey from felon to becoming a loving Dad of his beautiful daughter Angel. His gratitude and humility was so genuine and we applaud the hard work he has done to get to where he is today. We are so grateful to those who came and gave from their hearts. THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to our fundraiser sponsors!
Mike Scarff Subaru
Lumber Market
Pacific Medical Centers
Joan and Tony Mladineo
Jan and Nelson Davis
A very special thank you to Total Wine & More for their donation to our event!

Your giving makes what we do possible!

As a small non-profit, we could not do this work without the generosity of the many people who give. We need your help too! Below are a few of the ways you can help:

DONATIONS
We accept many donated items, including sheets, towels, blankets, dishes, pots and pans, cleaning supplies, beds, dressers, and other basic household items. We are always in need of food and gas cards for our families.

VOLUNTEERING
We are always looking for good people to join us!

Some of our current needs include:
- Furniture movers
- House cleaners and painters
- Fundraiser helpers
- Website and social media assistance

FINANCIAL
Enclosed is an envelope to use for a check or credit card donation. You may also donate through:
- Payroll deduction at your place of employment: some employers even match your gift!
- Donate online: find options to give through our website at Ststephenhousing.org under “Ways to Help”.
- Fred Meyer rewards: enroll online at fredmeyer.com/communityrewards and link your rewards card to St. Stephen Housing Association. Our account number 83120. Help families while you shop!

Thank you for your support.

Day of Caring Volunteers Rock!

This September, 9 volunteers from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco-Seattle Branch participated in the United Way’s Day of Caring by volunteering an entire day at our housing units in Kent. They completely transformed the landscaping of 8 of the units and repainted the inside of one unit to make it clean and welcoming for the family who moved in. A special thank you to these amazing people! A shout out also goes to the Lowes on Pacific Highway in Kent who gave us an amazing deal on the landscaping, plants and painting supplies.

“Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.” — Booker T. Washington

As a small non-profit, we could not do this work without the generosity of the many people who give. We need your help too! Below are a few of the ways you can help:
Thank you to our generous donors, partners and funders!

Thank you to our generous donors, partners and funders!

501 Commons
5th Avenue Theater
909 Coffee and Wine
ACT Theater
Adrift Hotel
Agave Cocina
Allegro Dance Studio
AMC Theaters
Anne Brannan
Applebees
Archdiocese of Seattle—Missions Office
Argosy Cruises
Arthur Murray School of Dance
Barb & Bob Brownlow
Benihana
Bigs
Blissfully Jewelry
Bob & Patti Pitt
Bruce Allen
Buds and Blooms
Charles Lotto
Charles Lynch
Cheryl & Richard Heerdt
Cheryl Rolfson
Children's Museum of Tacoma
City of Kent
Clare Ettensohn
Colleen & George Bantalin
Cosmo Nail Parlor
Dar & Don Raftis
Darren Bassen
David & Darla Kennerud
David Buhr
David Dittmar
David Isola
Davy L. Lilly
Dawn Smith
Debbie Zito
Dennis & Lavon Arndt
Dennis Tesch
Distant Lands Coffee
Donald & Millie Kennerud
Donna Collet
Elliott Bay Brewhouse
EMP
Ernest & Lurida Ibale
Eyes on the Landing
Fairwood Golf & Country Club
Father Ed White
Foster Golf Links
Gabrielle Patti
Gina Bellisario & Chris Riesgaard
Glenacres Inn
Golden Steer
Grace Daniel
Greg & Karen Mladineo
Grocery Outlet
Guy & Christine Rudolph
Hands on Children's Museum
Heavy Restaurant Group
Heritage Blossoms
James & Sue Sels
James Proulx
Jeannine & Mark Kuolt
Joan & Tony Mladineo
John & Rosella Flanigan
Julia Corneliuson
Kathleen Boyle
Kathy & Scott White
Kattwalk Salon
Kaula Derrick
Kent Teaching and Toys
Kent Valley Ice Centre
Kerusig
Kid's Quest Museum
Kidd Valley/Ivars
King County
Kirsten & Mike Staszak
Kitty Hynds
Kroger
Le May Museum
Les Schwab-Renton Highlands
Linda Fix
M.J. Durkan Inc.
Mama Stortini's
Marge & Zig Staszak
Marjorie Heutmaker
Marshall's/TJ Maxx
Mary & Michael Elsner
Mary Lampert
Mary Moran
McLendon Hardware
Michele Bader
Mike & Karen Nolan
Mike & Nancy Ligon
Morning Dew Candles
Museum of Flight
My Gym
Napoleon company
New Day Northwest
Nordic Heritage Museum
Norm Matheson
Norman & Avigail Melendres
NW Trek
Ocean Spray Beach Resort
Otterbox
Panera
Paolo’s Restaurant
Patrick Riordan
Paul & Hilda Holland
Paul Pasquier
Paula’s Hallmark
Perla Whiston
Peter & Hildy Vengalil
Pizzeria Pulcinella
Pogi Bonsi
Point Defiance Zoo
Quinault Beach Resort
Rachel’s Body Shop
Renton Flower Shop
Renton Police Department
Reva & Hugh Lackie
Robert Lorbeski
Rosemary Forte
Seattle Art Museum
Seattle Seahawks
Seattle Shakespeare Co
Seattle Thunderbirds
Seattle University Redhawks
Shakeys Fairwood
Shawn & Ted’s Quality Meats
Sounders FC
Southwest Airlines
St. Stephen the Martyr
St. Stephen’s Women’s (Visitation) Guild
Steve Olson
Steve & Heather Scheer
Steven P. Clark
Sue Okobu
Sunset Ale House
Taco Time
Tess Shearer
The Cheesecake Factory
The Little Gym
The Reptile Zoo
The Seattle Foundation
The Spot Bar and Grill
Tokeland Hotel
Tom & Karen Weeks
Tom & Kathleen Shirk
Top of the Hill Produce
Torer’s
Tracy Gibbs
Tutta Bella
Urban Float
UW Huskies
Verl Canterbury
Vicki Kennerud
Virginia Harmon
Wallace Fitzgerald
Wild Waves
Wine Alley
Wolfhaven
Woodland Park Zoo
WSU Cougars
Z-Ultimate Self Defense

Every effort has been made to make this list as complete as possible. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please let us know by calling so that we can correct our records.