

## Spokane Homeless Coalition

### December 1, 2011

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week Review

SHC thanks Madelyn Bafus and her cohorts for their hard work during Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week 2011.

Funds raised: 180 people used the Winter Wear Drive at First Covenant Church, 3 trucks, more than 600 dollars raised.

November Minutes approved and seconded.

James Fulwider and Shane Taylor elected to SHC Leadership Team, Reese McMullin-Holford elected to advisory board.

### Community Presentations

Christmas Bureau: Judy Lee

More Info: <http://www.catholiccharitiesspokane.org/?page=146>

**Details:** December 9-20, not open Sundays. Spokane County Fairgrounds. No prior sign-up required. Bring proof of address.

- Collaboration between Catholic Charities, Spokesman Review, Spokane community, Volunteers of America
- Sixty-sixth year: Last year served more than 11,000 households and 35,000 people.
- Event at Spokane County Fairgrounds for 10 days
- Grocery store food vouchers, new toy or age appropriate gift and book for each child 17 and younger.

Tree of Sharing: Ann Floch

**Details:** Three local malls: Northtown, Valley, River Park Square. Dates: Begins first Friday before Thanksgiving, ends December 12.

More info: [www.treeofsharing.org](http://www.treeofsharing.org), treeofsharing@gmail.com

- Began 1982 with 6 agencies: 29<sup>th</sup> Year.
- This year: **6,300 tags** from age 0 to 101. Represent organizations only -60 agencies this year. Agencies send client information/needs in October
- Volunteer-run.

Community Toy Store: Brad Hauge

More info: [bradh@spokanefpc.org](mailto:bradh@spokanefpc.org)

**Details:** First Presbyterian Church, December 10. Time: 10 am- 4 pm.

- First Presbyterian Church
- Collecting brand new toys, selling them for 80 percent off. Use money to fund non-profit groups they work with.
- Ticket system
- Working with local elementary schools
- Providing a bus to transport families to church, providing childcare @ church during shopping
- Still need: more toys.

Media Presentation:

Liz Backstrom

Consider using SHC Google Groups and like us on Facebook! Use Google Group as a list serv for political messages, family resources, etc.

Google Group URL: <https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en#!forum/spokane-homeless-coalition>

Donations to Homeless Connect: \$ 99.02

### **Committees:**

School Districts: Central Valley: 303 students in homeless situations. Increase of 49 percent from last year. Three valley school districts total: more than 500 students identified as homeless

Housing Providers Network: (Third Tuesday of the month) December 20: 10 am, Emmanuel Life Center. Shelters have longer wait time than usual. Community Warehouse needs beds! Short-term housing available for 6-9 months. Contact 624-9788 for intake. (St. Margaret's.)

Interagency Outreach: Outreach teams have three days prior to one day count to count unsheltered homeless. Next meeting Monday December 5 at the Rocket on Main. Time: 1:30.

Advocacy: WA State Homeless Coalition and Housing Alliance are one agency. Seth Dawson is lobbyist –he's asking for HEN success stories. Please send success stories and unique letters of support. State legislators are a current high priority over federal.

One Day Count: Meetings immediately after Homeless Coalition meeting. Volunteers needed.

Homeless Connect: T-shirts in progress, letters to vendors in progress. Please consider buying a T-shirt to support Homeless Connect. Sponsor: \$250. Cost: \$15. Registration deadline for tables is December 31. Contact 228-3200 for general info or use the Google Group or email Lareesa McMullin-Holford [ [mcmullin-holford@snapwa.org](mailto:mcmullin-holford@snapwa.org) ]

Announcements:

Providence: Needs assessment 2012 coming up. Qualitative results needed! Currently meeting with faith-based organizations to seek out new resources, find gaps, meet needs.

SNAP: Homeless preference vouchers frozen for December.

DSHS: North Community Services Office (CSO) closed. Office served 6,000 visitors per month that must be served at other sites. Need a safe crosswalk near the office.

Question: Safe parking lot for anyone living in their cars in Spokane?

HEN Contact Number: 329-2738

Open Gate Update: New house, new lease, getting supplies at low cost. Setting up a new community voicemail number, offering classes: "Getting that Job," "Financial Access."