

TENT CITY 4 MAKES ISSAQUAH HOME IN 2010

→ January 23rd through April 24th ←

Community Church of Issaquah - 205 Mt. Park Blvd SW, Issaquah, WA 98027

Tent City 4 needs your help! The generosity of our community is essential for the residents of Tent City 4 to work themselves out of homelessness and into being contributing members of society. There are numerous ways that you can help.

What is Tent City 4?

Tent City 4 is an encampment of up to 100 homeless adults that live as a community on various church grounds around the Eastside for periods of 90 days at a time. The community consists of homeless or formerly homeless individuals and offers an extraordinary opportunity for residents to get off the streets and live in a community that offers safety, a sense of fellowship and community, and some of the basic necessities such as food and sanitation, including showers. Tent City 4 was started in 2004 and is in part supported by SHARE/WHEEL. This organization works with Tent City 4 to secure locations to live and their budget contribution covers some basic costs such as sanitation, refuse pick up, and bus pass allocation as many of the residents need access to transportation for jobs and services.

Ways to Help Tent City 4

- **Prepare and serve a nutritious, hot meal** - Local volunteer groups provide a hot dinner for the 80 to 100 Tent City 4 residents every day of the week. It takes 5 to 8 people to make this happen. Review our meals calendar at <http://prem.calendars.net/tcmeals>
Then **contact Steve Burk at (425) 260-3824, or email TC4meals@gmail.com**. Steve will help you with everything you need to know to make your meal a success.
- **Donate other food supplies** - Coffee, tea, cream, sugar, canned & packaged proteins (tuna, ham, chicken, peanut butter, chili, soups) canned fruits and veggies, butter, salt and pepper & seasonings. Items can be delivered to the camp at anytime, or call **contact Steve Burk** as above with questions or for an updated food needs list.
- **Donate non-food supplies** - Tents (large occupancy) with poles, tarps, ropes, sleeping bags, blankets, mats, flashlights and batteries, hand sanitizer, toiletries, and feminine hygiene. Items can be delivered directly to camp at anytime or **contact Elizabeth Maupin at (425) 313-8937, or email elipeter@juno.com** for the latest on needed non-food items.
- **Raise funds or make a cash donation** - SHARE/WHEEL spends over \$4000 per month on toilets, refuse, bus passes, and other administration. And the Community Church of Issaquah will have significant utilities and other monthly expenses as well.
To help the Community Church of Issaquah, send your checks to the address given above. Make them out to Community Church of Issaquah, and please put "Tent City 4" on the memo line.
Please **contact Brian Blank at (206) 849-6727, or email brian.blank@protiviti.com** for more information about the funding needs of Tent City 4.
- **FUNDING FOR BUS TICKETS IS DESPERATELY NEEDED!** In the middle of February 2010, the City of Seattle will end their sponsorship of providing daily bus tickets to residents of Tent City 4. Bus transportation is absolutely vital for the residents of Tent City 4. Please **contact Brian Blank, or SHARE/WHEEL at <http://www.sharewheel.org>** for information on how you can donate to help cover this gap.
- **Special Volunteer & Supply Needs** - Occasionally, unforeseen matters arise that need immediate attention. It takes the timely response from one or more volunteers to help on these occasions. If you would like to be on an email list that will be contacted when these special needs arise, please **contact Elizabeth Maupin at (425) 313-8937 or elipeter@juno.com**.

The Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition

The hosting of Tent City 4 at the Community Church of Issaquah (CCI) is being organized and supported by the **Issaquah Sammamish Interfaith Coalition** (ISIC), of which CCI is a member. All people of faith in Issaquah and Sammamish are invited to join ISIC to get involved in projects for the good of our communities...projects that would overwhelm lone individuals, single congregations or organizations.

Who is ISIC?

All world faiths remind us humans that we are not alone in the universe, and are not individually or collectively the rulers of the universe. At the heart of every religion lies a sacred moral imperative, a “golden rule” that calls us to move beyond self-centeredness and to care for the other as well as ourselves. ISIC is a group of faith communities and faith based non-profits who choose to work together to fulfill our calling to care for our community, especially for the most vulnerable among us, living out a common ethic of compassion and humility.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Maupin, the ISIC Coordinator at elipeter@juno.com, or phone (425) 577-0628.

Other ways for faith communities to respond to Tent City 4:

Individuals and congregations can all respond to the call for support as outlined on the previous page. Yet, many times, congregations look for still more ways to nurture their members’ yearning to grow, to reach out and help others in need. Here are just a few ideas of ways faith communities have responded to Tent City 4 (TC4).

- ✓ Put a focus on in-kind donations. Appoint a coordinator. Collect clothing and other general supplies.
- ✓ Provide transportation for TC4 residents to appointments, job interviews, worship services, and to presentations at future host sites.
- ✓ Host informational meetings about poverty and homelessness in general, and TC4 in particular.
- ✓ Know of job openings? Bring notices to camp.
- ✓ Know of available rentals? Let the camp know of any affordable housing, rooms, and shared accommodations when they become available.
- ✓ Provide companionship. Come to TC4 and sit and talk with the residents, listen to their stories, share your story or some special interest or skill, become a friend.
- ✓ Have a serious discussion about becoming a TC4 host in the future.

Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church – Is considering the following (We need your help to make it happen):

- **Move Day help (Jan 23)** – The Knights of Columbus and others will provide able bodied workers in two shifts 9-12 and 12-4 to help the residents move the encampment.
- **Donation Bin** – A donation bin has been setup in the north bell tower to collect items needed. See the list above the bin for current needs.
- **Serving Meals** – The Knights of Columbus have been serving regularly. Other groups are encouraged to sign up for a spot. See the meals coordinator contact info on the other side of this document.
- **Visit and Tour the Encampment** – Groups can arrange for a tour and visit with the residents. They want to tell their story and help you understand their situation.
- **Homeless Awareness Dinner** – A simple supper where we may learn more about the plight of the homeless from a guest speaker and some role playing games. (Looking for a coordinator and support)

MQP Contacts Focused on Tent City 4:

Brian Blank – (206) 849-6727 brian.blank@protiviti.com (Pastoral Council, Knights of Columbus)

Michele Simmons – (425) 868-4255 wdwminnie1@msn.com (Human Concerns Commission, MOPS)