



Take charge, make *CHANGE*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 14, 2015

CONTACT:

Diane Bradley
Development/ Communications Director
dbradley@safest.org
253.272.6824

Safe Streets launches 'You Lead Change' sponsorship campaign for youth
Nonprofit begins crowdfunding campaign to send 50 students to Leadership Academy

TACOMA, Wash., July 14, 2015 – The youth will shape the future, but without opportunities for extended learning and leadership development, the future for underserved youth in Tacoma and Pierce County might not be so bright.

Safe Streets Campaign announced today it launched the “You Lead Change” sponsorship campaign to support 50 students attending Leadership Academy, a week-long summer leadership development and college readiness program hosted by Youth Leading Change (YLC).

The campaign will center on a crowdfunding project titled “You Lead Change – Empower 50 Teens,” in an aim to raise at least \$15,000 and provide scholarships to all students.

The students who will attend are officers of Safe Streets’ YLC chapters in seven schools across Pierce County.

“All students deserve an equal opportunity for success,” YLC director Hector Farias said. “Leadership programs give students opportunities to grow and learn skills necessary to excel in high school and college.”

Along with events and meetings throughout the school year, this program is designed to remind participating youth of their potential to lead and succeed. Students will learn skills in communication, group management and mediation.

According to the Office of the Public Superintendent, less than 80 percent of students in Washington state graduate in four years. However, 99 percent of YLC students graduate high school and almost 90 percent attend a post-secondary institution.

For more information about the Leadership Academy please contact the Safe Streets office at 253.272.6825 or email Hector Farias at hfarias@safest.org.

About Safe Streets

Safe Streets Campaign is the first private, non-profit organization that unites neighbors against crime—a model for other programs nationwide. Serving Tacoma and Pierce County since 1989, Safe Streets equal a safe community. Both private and public funds support Safe Streets’ community efforts. Learn more at www.safest.org.

About Youth Leading Change

Safe Streets founded Youth Leading Change in 1996 to provide underserved youth with skills and opportunities to take charge and make change in their lives and communities. Participants in Youth Leading Change (high school) and ENGAGE (middle school) create meaningful civic projects, promote safe and healthy lifestyles to their peers, and become engaged members of the community.

###