



2019 Annual Report



Working together for change

safest.org

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I look back at 2019, I'm inspired by the neighbors, community partners and youth who took time to connect with one another and undertake actions to improve community conditions so greater numbers of people can thrive in safe and healthy environments. We continue to rise up to fear by encouraging people to get organized and create solutions in neighborhoods, schools and business areas.

We launched the year with a new five-year strategic plan that expands our reach to diverse communities so we can better address the inequalities of power, privilege and prejudices that shape our current systems and institutions. To that end, the staff and board have committed themselves to learning more about systems of oppression as well as examine our internal policies, culture, program practices and evaluation to support equitable justice and access to education, services and business.

We have remained committed to the core value of listening to the community and providing structure, support and inspiration to meet their needs. It is our desire for communities to partner with us alongside other the grassroots organizations to find solutions that enact positive change. Fueled by that desire, Safe Streets continues its shift from a focus on crime prevention to an emphasis on community engagement with the intent of building stronger and more connected communities for everyone.

Last April, I had the honor of witnessing the power of community come alive through our Lacamas Valley Safe Streets Group. One of the elders in the neighborhood was victimized by squatters who took advantage of her and created conditions of blight. She felt isolated and fearful for her safety. Thankfully, a community member reported the situation and several Lacamas Valley group members took it upon themselves to remove nearly 8 tons of trash off her property with their own vehicles and volunteer power. But their support didn't stop there. The group members went as far as to help connect the elder with social services to ensure her safety and health needs were met. This was a shining example of caring.

Other Safe Streets organized groups focused on reaching a bigger group of community members with their messages of connection, solidarity and demands for peace. In September, staff assisted our First Creek Neighbors group in partnership with the Puyallup Tribe to unite folks and march against the gun violence that had been occurring in July and August of 2019.

Additionally, in August 2019, we continued to support our future leaders through our innovative Youth Leading Change program. 26 of our youth attended our Summer Leadership Academy program to enhance their personal and professional development as well as strengthen their leadership abilities. Our Youth Leading Change (YLC) staff developed a strong curriculum that highlighted the importance of understanding a person's historical background, culture, systemic racism and the inequities that disadvantage communities of color. Students in all nine of our YLC chapters benefitted from these important social-emotional learning techniques.

These were just the surface of the many layers of communities working together for the common good.

With the generosity of donors, we launched our vision for **Whole Neighborhoods** which seeks to create safe, healthy and thriving communities that support whole child development. Building on our Neighborhood Organizing program, we engaged, supported and motivated neighborhood members to improve conditions and environments for children, youth and families.

We are incredibly grateful for your devotion to community building. It is through the faithful efforts of our staff and partners, and the tremendous generosity of our donors and supporters, that we can make a significant impact on the quality of life of neighbors and youth in Tacoma and Pierce County.

Thank you so much for your heart to see communities safe, healthy, and thriving.



In service of change,



Priscilla Lisicich

THANK YOU!

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LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

This year's Leadership Academy was a huge success. Twenty-eight Youth Leading Change members attended to enhance their personal and professional development. Youth engaged and learn from several workshops to include Project Planning, Budgeting with Reality Check, Cross the Line, Messaging Through Art, Finding Your Voice, Low and High Ropes, and a Career Fair. One of the most memorable workshops was titled "Perceptions About My Hood." Youth were asked to describe their perceptions about the various areas of Pierce County by spending three minutes writing down what they thought. It was very interesting to see what our youth think about their own community as well as others in Tacoma and Pierce County.

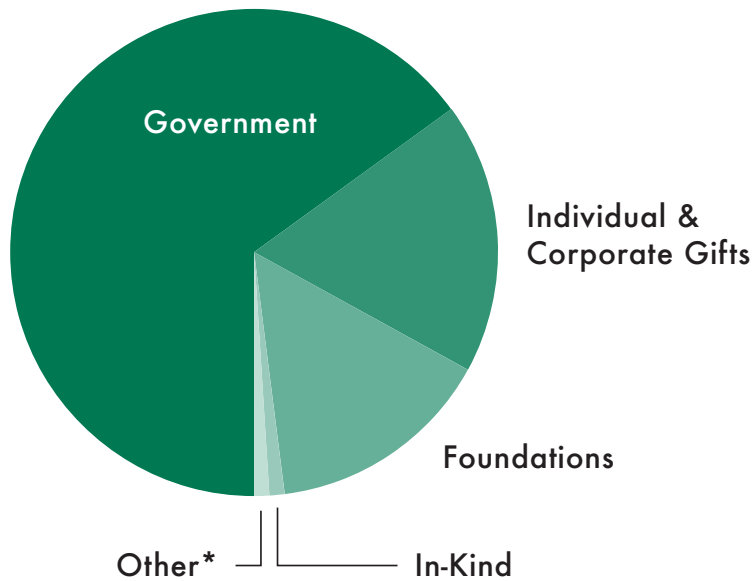
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You can make a lasting impact on your community for generations to come. Have you considered a legacy gift to Safe Streets? Have you included Safe Streets in your estate plans? We would love to honor your intentions and thank you. Please contact us for any questions or information about planned giving.

2019 REVENUE



Government	\$883,328
Individual & Corporate Gifts	\$235,012
Foundations	\$200,388
In-Kind	\$9,021
Other*	\$7,682

*Work Studies & 990 Tax Refund

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



ADVOCACY DAY

On their day off from school in February 2019, eleven Youth Leading Change members came together early in the morning to attend Prevention Policy Day in Olympia, Washington. The youth divided into three groups to meet with five Senators and two Representatives about issues that affect the youth and their peers. The bills that the youth supported were Tobacco 21 HB 1074 and SB 5057, Opioid use disorder treatment HB 1331 and SB 5380, and improving crisis planning to prevent youth suicide HB 1221. Additionally, the youth shared several issues that concerned them such as school safety, preventing school shooting and factors that lead up to those tragic events such as bullying.



DRUMS NOT GUNS PROTEST

On September 25, community leaders and members from Safe Streets' First Creek Neighbors group partnered with the Puyallup Tribe and Tacoma Cease Fire to organize the Drums not Guns Peace Walk in response to the wave of gun violence that occurred this summer. Between 4 and 5 PM, people assembled at Portland Avenue Community Center to create signs and later listen to opening prayers and statements by tribal and city community members and youth. Afterwards, everyone marched down to the Puyallup Tribe Administration Building where more youth and community members spoke. Nearly 200 people were present, including residents, police, and elected officials such as Council-member Catherine Ushka, Mayor Victoria Woodards, and Speaker Laurie Jinkins.



YOUTH LEADING CHANGE

- **9** Youth Leading Change middle and high school chapters
- **123** middle and high school student members
- **1,304** YLC member hours spent working towards safe, healthy, thriving communities
- **19** Youth-led community action projects impacted **5,105** people

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING

- **80** active neighborhood groups
- **2,000** registered neighborhood group members
- **3,720** group member hours spent working towards safe, healthy, thriving communities



NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP LEADERS FORUM

On January 30, a multitude of Safe Streets group leaders gathered together at South Lakeshore Christian Church to promote collaboration and connectivity. They also brainstormed ways to make neighborhood group meetings more effective. The first part of the event was a phone bank in which group members called state legislators to advocate on Safe Streets' behalf and to try to secure additional funding. Following the phone bank and dinner, Safe Streets staff Erik Hasstedt and Sarah DuBois gave a presentation on best practices for facilitating meetings. They focused on action steps to take before, during, and after meetings. Some practices that attendees found particularly useful were setting ground rules and utilizing a "parking lot" for meeting topics. After the presentation, the group proposed some potential topics for the next group leader forum on April 29th, including: staying motivated, neighborhood patrols, delegating roles and tasks, block captains, neighborhood group structure, recruitment and more.



Take charge, make CHANGE

**Building a Better
Community for You**

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