

SAFE STREETS CAMPAIGN
ANNUAL REPORT
2021



SAFE ST[®]

Take charge, make CHANGE



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Priscilla Lisicich

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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.

When I reflect on the year 2021 three words come to mind: **resilience, rebirth and commitment.** We at Safe Streets found ourselves adapting to COVID-19 and its impact on how groups met to address neighborhood problems, such as crime and blight, and how they could get volunteers to help with improvement projects. We, along with so many of you, were called to adapt and push beyond our comfort during the pandemic. We remained optimistic and focused on not what challenges lay before us but what opportunities presented themselves from the pandemic. The power of this organization is the ability to connect with each other.

CONNECTING IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF A STRONG ORGANIZING PROJECT LIKE SAFE STREETS.

The great news is our volunteers proved their worth in gold by continuing to meet in new ways. We were grateful that 50% of the organized neighborhood groups across Pierce County stayed active, which amounted to over 50 groups. Those groups proved their commitment to keep the lines of communication open and stayed connected to over 10,000 households in their neighborhoods. They showed great resilience by adapting the way they connected with each other and the way they addressed unsafe conditions in the community. Those organized neighbors continued to be our wizards in cleaning up their neighborhoods, school areas, parks and business districts.

Neighbors and business community members joined us to keep our community free of graffiti through a collaborative partnership with the City of Tacoma. But that did not stop Parkland/Spanaway/Midland and eastern Pierce County neighbors from keeping their area graffiti free. We supported all of our neighborhood and youth groups to utilize virtual platforms such as Facebook to communicate important information and host gatherings. While COVID-19 forced us to stay away from each other, neighbors were resilient in finding ways to connect and support each other. Richard Friedman, a psychiatrist at New York Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center stated, "I think people can look forward to appreciating just how resilient they are by taking a look back at how they've endured the past two years." I could not agree more – our neighborhood leaders have led the way to keeping the mission and vision of Safe Streets because of their resilience. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Another exciting set of activities were visible in the rebirth of the mission of the organization. Through COVID-19 and racial unrest we learned so much about the inequities that exist in the systems of health, education and justice. During the 2021 Washington State Legislative session, we had the opportunity to work closely with Senator Steve Conway and got a bill adopted to support engaging marginalized communities to bring their voice and vision to our work about safety. This has been and will continue to be very important work to increase our awareness about the experience of safety in Black, brown, Indigenous and other communities of color.

We helped Senator Conway get the bill unanimously adopted (ESSB 5353) by the legislature and then successfully competed for funds to partner with the Tacoma Urban League, Asian Pacific Cultural Center, Tacoma Community House, Oasis Youth Center, Consejo Counseling and the Puyallup Tribe. With the funding provided by the State Legislature we are reaching out with our partners to learn about the barriers in getting substance abuse and mental health services and how we can connect with each other and elected officials to address some of the gaps identified. Through our partnerships we learned more about how to change our work so that we can improve our service of building and sustaining a safe, healthy and thriving community.

The information provided by community members will help us to improve our services and increase engagement of more people who live in Tacoma/Pierce County, and who should have the opportunity to live in a safe and healthy neighborhood. In 2021, we laid the groundwork to learn about ourselves and to take community feedback and make improvements to our programs. It is imperative that we do this so we can continue our outreach work to engage everyone.

I love the commitment of our able and dedicated staff. Safe Streets, like so many other organizations, saw resignations as people decided to move away from Pierce County to be closer to family or to seek a new job opportunity. This has turned out to be a great opportunity to bring in new talent who are smart, engaging and care deeply about building a strong and vibrant community. **The work of building community takes action every single day – never wavering when crime and violence seem to be destroying the fabric of our community.** Our workers go out every day and “mobilize” neighbors and youth and build a force for good works. We are committed to the vision of Safe Streets – Where Every Neighborhood Is Safe.

YOU CAN COUNT ON US TO SHOW UP EVERY DAY TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF SAFETY AND SECURITY BECAUSE WE LOVE OUR COMMUNITY AND KNOW THAT THE ANSWERS TO OUR PROBLEMS COME FROM THE POWER OF COMMUNITY.



Priscilla Lisicich

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

OUR MISSION

Is to unite and inspire youth, neighbors, and businesses to build safe, healthy, and thriving communities.

We do this by organizing neighborhoods and communities for action – through forming block organizations and planting seeds of grassroots community leadership. Safe Streets was born as a grassroots initiative in 1989 to empower neighbors to unite against crime. For over thirty years, Safe Streets has engaged thousands of neighborhood members, community partners

and youth in proven and research-based strategies designed to build community capacity and increase public safety. We continue to build communities' capacity to address their local concerns and to improve their quality of life. In response to changing community needs, our work is increasingly focused on creating safe, positive, and inclusive neighborhood environments and engaging and supporting young people to become tomorrow's civic leaders.

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M AGENCY

Emeritus:

MIKE DUNBAR

FINANCIAL INSIGHTS

TEX WHITNEY

COLUMBIA BANK

Retired

THANK YOU!

Funders

The Bamford Foundation
 Gottfried and Mary Fuchs Family Foundation
 Foundation for Tacoma Students
 COVID Vaccine Paid Campaign
 Sequoia Foundation
 Multicare Health System
 CHI Franciscan
 Marco Heidner Charitable Trust
 KeyBank Foundation
 Rotary Club of #8
 William Kilworth Foundation
 Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
 Florence B. Kilworth Foundation
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 Puyallup Tribe of Indians
 Coordinated Care of Washington
 Rotary Club of Parkland – Spanaway
 City of Tacoma - City Treasurer
 Department of Commerce
 Franklin Pierce Public School District
 Metro Parks Tacoma
 Pierce County Budget and Finance
 Tacoma Housing Authority
 Tacoma Public Schools
 Washington State Health Care Authority
 Washington State Service Corps
 Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America DFC Grant
 Greater Tacoma Community Foundation – Civic Cohort
 Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

President's Circle

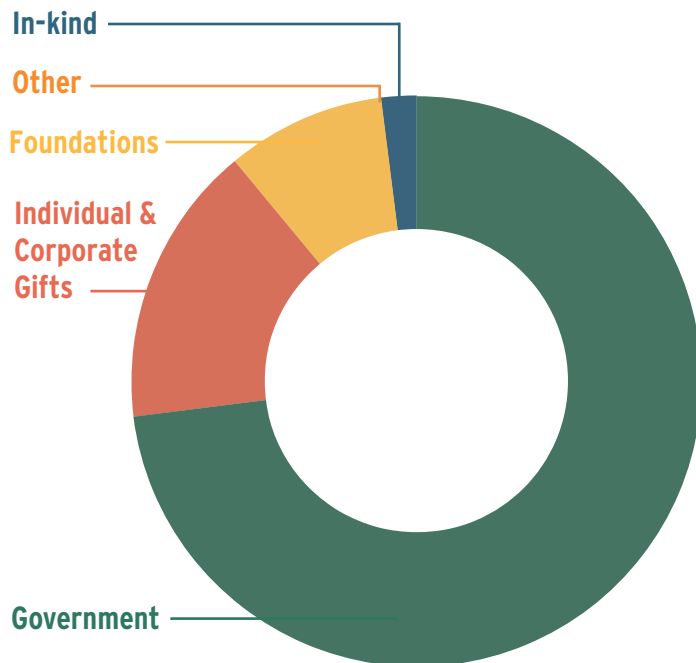
Holly Bamford Hunt
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 Mike & Liz Dunbar
 Edward & Jacki Fischer
 Sharon & David Holcomb
 Charleen Kenyon
 Enrique Leon
 Priscilla Lisicich & David Haapala
 Kathi Littmann
 AJ Losoya
 Patricia & Wayne Mannie
 Jeffrey & Sarah McInnis
 Constance Miller
 Justin & Amy Natali
 Anthony Panagiotu
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 Nancy Polich
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 Bryan Snider
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 Donna Thompson & Stephen Williams
 Jim Waldo
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 Natalie & William Whitcomb
 Tex & Carole Whitney
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 Rachel Young



FINANCIALS

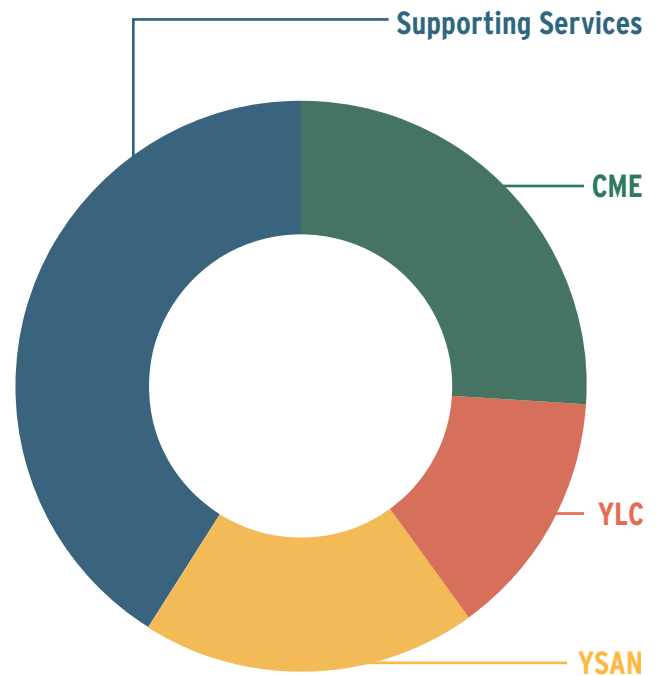
Revenue 2021

Government	\$1,091,270
Individual & Corporate Gifts	\$133,414
Foundations	\$244,524
In-kind	\$2,000
Other*	\$33,173
TOTAL:	\$1,504,381



Expenses 2021

CME	\$599,604
YLC	\$272,074
YSAN	\$208,349
Supporting Services	\$373,915
TOTAL:	\$1,453,942



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Susan Adams	Bill & Ann Evans	Jason Lee	Tiffany Shireman
Steve & Jillian Adkins	Glenn & Helen Everitt	Marjorie Leon	Robin Sierra
Lisa AF Schultz	Jake Fey	Sarah Lewandowski	Pablo Simon
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Rick Backman	Steve Gendreau	Marlene Lovstrom	Nicolette Slaughter
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Esther Evans	Melissa Lee	Robert & Mary Sheehan	Alicia Zumwalt

CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT



JANUARY

Alling Park Pollinator Garden

In late January, neighborhood group members spent a couple of hours removing weeds and spreading beauty bark at the pollinator garden in Alling Park.

FEBRUARY

First Creek Clean Up

First Creek neighbors gathered at the creek near E Fairbanks Street in East Tacoma. The volunteers filled about 20 large bags with trash they collected from the area. The group then gathered the trash bags in one spot where a City of Tacoma crew could pick up and dispose of the bags.

MARCH

Claremont Food Truck Event

On Saturday, March 14th, the Claremont Neighborhood Group hosted a food truck event for their neighborhood. Featuring the Sugar + Spoon food truck, almost a hundred neighbors lined the block to get some cookie dough and ice cream while group members signed up neighbors for their email list and a gift card raffle.



APRIL

Litter Free 253 (in celebration of Earth Day)

Safe Streets staff and neighborhood groups members helped beautify Tacoma by participating in Litter Free 253 and cleaning up litter in Tacoma on Saturday, April 17.

MAY

DeMark Garden Party

Neighbors at the DeMark Apartments gathered in May to plant new foods in their community garden.

JUNE

Stewart Heights Supply Drive

Neighbors led by group leader Justin gathered one large box of toiletries and several bags of used clothing to donate to residents of the 60th and McKinley TEMS site.



JULY

DeMark Pantry Installation

In July, a little free pantry was installed at the DeMark Apartments with assistance from Building Beyond the Walls and Andersen Construction. These pantries rely on the community to take what they need and give what they can to help combat food insecurity in areas that need it most.

AUGUST

Solar Sprint

The Youth Leading Change program hosted a walk-a-thon at Wright Park. A total of \$780 was raised for the Hilltop Heritage Middle School Watts Up project – enough to cover one full solar panel.



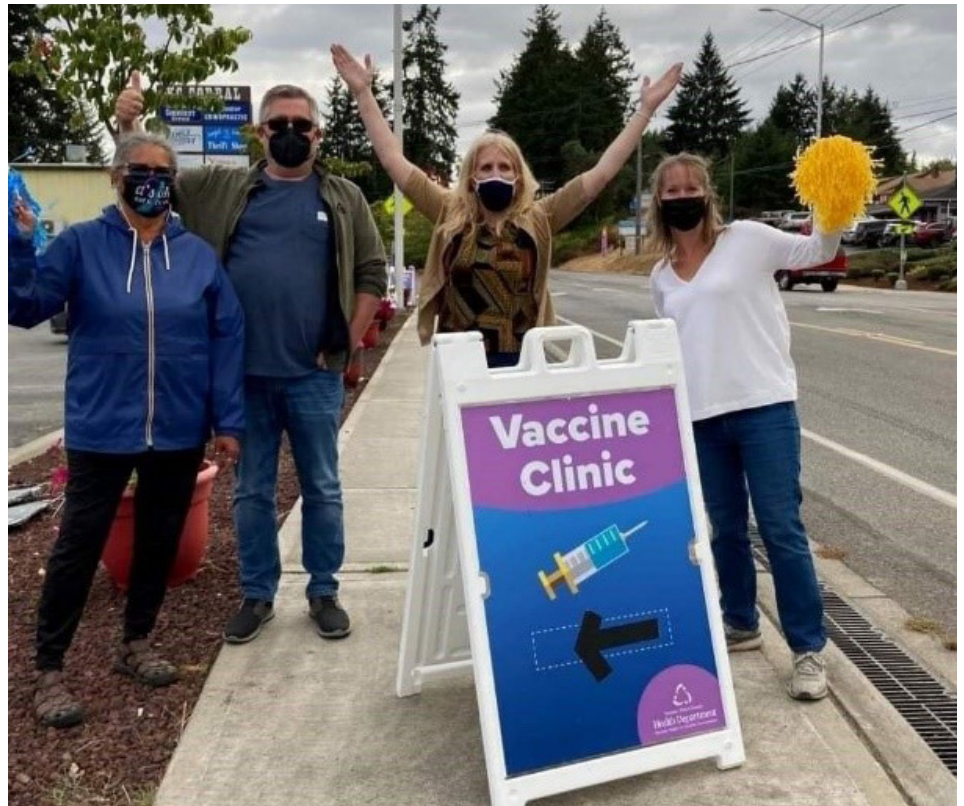
CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT



Before



After



SEPTEMBER

Rapid Graffiti Removal Program

Work continued in assisting the City of Tacoma with the Rapid Graffiti Removal program in both business and residential areas. As of September, waivers had been collected and graffiti removed at almost 40 sites throughout Tacoma.

OCTOBER

Community Conference

Over 4 weeks in October, the annual community conference hosted by Safe Streets was held virtually for the second year over Zoom. Sessions included building community through service, working together to help end homelessness, disaster preparedness, and how to engage others in community work.

NOVEMBER

Key Peninsula Casual & Connected Immunization Clinics

Safe Streets partnered with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to hold vaccine clinics at the Key Center Community office. Beyond providing COVID-19 vaccinations to Key Peninsula residents, staff and volunteers also provided directions and answered questions.

DECEMBER

Block 101 Training for 3 new groups in Parkland, Tacoma and Spanaway

Block 101 Training is one of the first steps in creating a new Safe Streets group. It is meant to teach neighbors how they can successfully organize to create positive community change and outline meaningful steps for moving forward.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Neighborhood Organizing

Through our Neighborhood Organizing program, we offer support to individuals interested in engaging with their community as well as established neighborhood groups. We provide connections, support, and supplies to each of our neighborhood groups, and we're with you every step of the way from training to event planning. Each mobilizer serves a different region, which allows them to attend neighborhood group meetings and understand how best to serve you. We also regularly provide educational offerings tailored to your community, giving you ample opportunities to learn how to connect better with your neighbors.

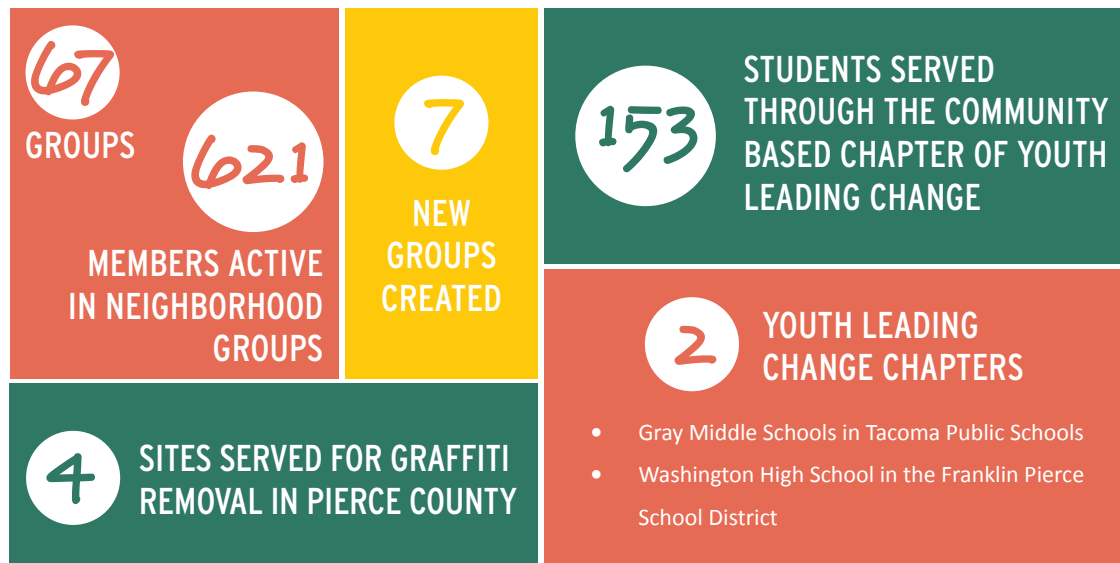


Youth Programs

Youth Leading Change prevents violence by and between youth in two ways: 1) by building youth protective factors for program participants; and 2) by building community protective factors that impact a much larger audience through student-led community action projects. These protective factors include emotional self-regulation and impulse control, good peer relationships, the presence of mentors and adult role models, school engagement, positive community norms, and physical and psychological safety.

Youth Leading Change is rooted in the belief that our youth are the creators of change! We aim to inspire youth, build safe and healthy communities, create long lasting connections, and develop leaders.

IN 2021...





In The News

- **Board Member Rachel Young on CityLine on July 23, 2021**
- **Executive Director Dr. Priscilla Lisicich being interviewed on KOMO News**
- **Neighborhood Organizing Program Manager, RoxAnne Simon's article in the Key Peninsula News on April 28, 2021**

Events

- **Champion Luncheon | May 19, 2021**
- **Virtual A Night at the Movies | July 31, 2021 - Lemay Car Museum**
- **Golf Tournament | August 20, 2021 Highland Golf Course**

We Moved

Safe Streets' office is now located inside the first floor of the Goodwill Milgard Work Opportunity Center at 714 S 27th St, Tacoma, WA 98409. The Safe Streets staff and Board of Directors is honored to have the opportunity to collaborate with more organizations to make a bigger impact in our community.

OLD OFFICE LOCATION

621 Tacoma Ave S
Tacoma, WA 98402

NEW OFFICE LOCATION

714 S 27th St, Floor 1
Tacoma, WA 98409



SAFE STREETS SPEARHEADS LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

Senate Bill 5353: Improving Police-Community Relations, Building Trust & Equitable Practices

This initiative was formed by Senate Bill 5353 that was introduced and sponsored by Senator Steve Conway & Senator Jeannie Darneille during the regular 2021 legislative session. The bill passed on the Senate floor (49-0) on 3/9/2021 and the State House floor (97-1) on 4/9/2021. These bill directs the Department of Commerce to create and maintain a grant program to foster community engagement through neighborhood organizing, law enforcement-community partnerships, youth mobilization, and business engagement. Safe Streets is one of the recipients in the state that demonstrate a commitment to community engagement in public safety.

Objectives in Senate Bill 5353

- Provide a framework to facilitate community-law enforcement partnerships that will help improve police-community relations and increase equitable practices in public safety. This can be a powerful alliance that can build mutual trust and respect and mitigate the polarization we now experience between police and community groups.
- Provide law enforcement and community member training on racial bias, racial profiling and anti-racist practices.
- Ensure design and implementation of this work will be locally driven.





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