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# *U.S. Coast Guard Family & Friends* **HOLIDAY STOCKINGS** *for Homeless Children*

HOLIDAY STOCKING, P.O. BOX 6392, BELLEVUE, WA 98008-0392



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## ✧ A Fish Out Of Water ✧

Spotlight Shelter: PKKS  
By Sue Kimpton

That was the feeling I had when I pulled up in front of the Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets shelter on Capitol Hill in Seattle. My eyes scanned a plaque that was posted prominently on the side of the building, "Dedicated to the Memory of Meghan Smith" (the first of the PSKS youth to pass, sadly, of a heroin overdose at the age of 16). A vague sense of uneasiness settled in as I checked my reflection in the rearview mirror. Was I overdressed? Would they wonder what a middle-aged woman from the suburbs, so completely from a different world, was even DOING here?

And then I met Elaine, and all of my self-analysis was thrown out the window. "Come in, come in! We're just getting started around here. Sit down, I'm getting coffee, this is our

dog and over there is my son." Elaine Simons, Executive Director and Co-Founder of PSKS, is on fire. Enthusiastic and compelling, she epitomizes what's right about this shelter (or, in her words, "Advocacy Center") she founded in 1995 with a core group of former students. Together, they staged a rock concert named "Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets Day" and the "Advocacy Center" concept was born. In the words of one of the youth it serves, "This place saves lives."

Indeed, the lives of homeless youth are under the constant threat of drug overdose, manslaughter, murder, suicide, physical and sexual assault, and any number of accidental causes. However, "a lot of youth and young adults make it off the streets from this Center", says Elaine. "By the time you are a core member, it's pretty typical to

## *"Our Mission..."*

*of the U.S. Coast Guard Family & Friends Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children is to provide and deliver handmade Holiday Stockings filled with new gifts and useful essentials to the Puget Sound Area homeless children ages birth to 17 years living in and out of shelters."*



have moved on with your life within six months.” She credits the unique participatory nature of the Center for its success, where the goal is to

“have kids at the table with the adults, making decisions and advocating for themselves.” While all are welcome here, Elaine is firm with the ground rules – belligerence or drug/alcohol-induced behaviors that are “taking away anyone else’s comfort level” are strictly prohibited. Drop in privileges are curtailed for those not respecting these rules and higher standards of responsibility and accountability are what separates PSKS from the larger, more well funded shelters. Those youth/young adults that have a sense of ownership will become core members and assume such duties as making coffee, taking out garbage, or working the desk. Eventually, they may become a board member, intern or a staff member, sit on commissions, or do public speaking.

Today, PSKS serves 300 street youth and young adults ranging from the age of 14 to 26 years. Roughly 5 programs are offered including support groups, High School Diploma/G.E.D. certification, case management, self-advocacy, internships, job referrals and community forums. Funding via grants and private foundations help a staff of four plus two interns to generate “a success rate in the hundreds.” HSHC is honored to be an integral part of this success story. As a supplement to the Center’s “Secret Santa” program, approximately 40 stockings are handed out each Holiday season to those “last minute” homeless that are not on their regular list and would have otherwise fallen through the cracks.

When asked about her dreams for the future, Elaine’s eyes light up and she leans forward in earnest as she says, “October marks our 15-year anniversary. We’d like to launch a capital campaign to assist us in purchasing a permanent home that will eventually support itself. I’d like each program to have its own director with its own staff. And I’d love to have a better feeding program.” We at Holiday Stockings hope you get your wish, Elaine. For the sake of Meghan and every other homeless youth or young adult whose lives you have touched, we hope you get your wish. Editor’s note: For more information, visit [www.PSKS.org](http://www.PSKS.org)

\*Holiday Stockings will be providing for 700 street youths this December

## *Healthy Smiles and Warm Toes*

“A new toothbrush and toothpaste in every stocking”. That is our mantra at HSHC as good dental hygiene is critical to our mission. You can help by requesting spare hygiene packets from your dentist at each cleaning and bringing them to the stuffing event in December. Socks of all sizes (thermal socks for street kids) and hand & foot warmers, packaged healthy snack bars, fruit leathers or tuna snack paks are also items we need.



We kindly request that you e-mail Marianne Parsons, [Marianne@holidaystockings.org](mailto:Marianne@holidaystockings.org) as to the number and type of brushes (toddler, child, youth or adult), paste, floss, and any socks or hand/foot warmers you have procured by December 1st if possible. Your input will assist us in determining quantities we may need to order. Thank you!



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## *Rolling Out the Red Carpet*

Let's give a round of applause for our "Over \$250 Club", those special folks who have donated that amount or more to our cause this year. They are:

- Fred Meyer Stores
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Matching Gifts Program
- Tami Micheletti
- PACLAB Employees
- Delgene and Cordellia Phillips
- Robert and Ruth Porter
- Qwest Foundation Employee Volunteerism Matching Time Program and Betty Prapasirikul
- C.A. and M.A. Sales
- Savage Color, for printing our newsletter in color!
- Beth Cook and Ken Sparks
- Suquamish Indian Tribe
- Ernest M. and Audrey R. Turner Foundation
- Washington Dental Association

### **Can you help?**

Any amount you feel you can share will make a difference, whether it is a financial or an in-kind donation. An easy way to make a financial donation is through Pay Pal, which you can access on our website at [www.holidaystockings.org](http://www.holidaystockings.org) under the "Donations" tab, or if you prefer, by mail to:

Coast Guard Family and Friends' HSHC  
P.O. Box 6392  
Bellevue, WA. 98008-0392

All donations are tax deductible as we are a tax-exempt 501C3 charitable organization, and fully 98% of your money goes directly into the stockings themselves. For in-kind donations, please contact Bobette Scheid at [Bobette@holidaystockings.org](mailto:Bobette@holidaystockings.org)

Our Santa hats are "off" to all of our donors!

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## *Play the Match Game!*

How? It's easy! Contact your employer's Human Resource or Donation Office and ask if they will provide a dollar for dollar match for your personal donation of time or money to the Holiday Stocking program. Microsoft, Boeing, Qwest and Safeco are currently providing matching funds to our organization – chances are, your employer may, too. We are an approved 501c3 nonprofit charity and will supply any and all supporting documentation needed by your company.

For more information, please contact Marianne Parsons, Treasurer at [Marianne@holidaystockings.org](mailto:Marianne@holidaystockings.org).

Thank you!

*3,335 stockings stuffed and  
delivered to 90 shelters in 2009.*

*In Memory of  
Captain Albert Daniel Grantham*

February, 10, 1930 to February, 16, 2010

On February 16th, HSHC lost a cherished friend and long term volunteer in Al Grantham. Since Holiday Stockings' inception in 1996, Al had assisted his wife Pearl Grantham (our Donations Chairperson) with shopping for, sorting, organizing and transporting materials and supplies for our cause. As his last and final gift to us, he requested that any donations in memoriam go to HSHC. We thank his many friends who honored that request with over \$2,600 of needed contributions to our program. We all miss Al and our hearts are with Pearl.

**Editor's Note:** For donations in memoriam, please contact Marianne Parsons at [Marianne@holidaystockings.org](mailto:Marianne@holidaystockings.org). Gift acknowledgements will be sent on behalf of the donor to the families of the deceased. Donations to: Holiday Stockings for Homeless Children, PO Box 6392, Bellevue, WA 98008

*A Tightly Knit Group*

Where do a passionate commitment to volunteerism, warm hats and hand-sewn stockings intersect? With Kerry Thompson and her group of eight women who, over the past two years, have pooled their multi-generational talents to sew stockings and knit hats for HSHC. Thompson says her group of eight is diverse – “one is almost blind, one speaks very little English, the youngest is 12 and the oldest, 88” - but share a common ideal that “no child shall be forgotten at this Holiday time”.

After she had made 100 hats last year with nowhere to donate them, a fellow volunteer at a food bank told her about Holiday Stockings and a perfect match was made. Thompson credits her childhood involvement in Camp Fire and her parents' efforts to “instill in me the whole idea of sharing myself with others” as her catalyst. “Hats and stockings are projects I use to fill in my time when I'm not doing intensive volunteering elsewhere”, she says.

When asked about her plans for continuing her important work Kerry says, “I'm planning to continue as long as my sewing machine holds up!”

**Editor's note:** Kerry Thompson's group is just one of our many volunteer groups. HSHC continually seeks yarn and fabric donations for our volunteer knitters and sewers. If you can help, please contact Pearl Grantham at [Pearl@holidaystockings.org](mailto:Pearl@holidaystockings.org)





## *Happening Now: Volunteer Registration*

We are fortunate to have a growing number of dedicated volunteers each year at our annual stocking-stuffing event. For reasons of safety and efficiency, we must limit our group to 300 on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We also need 200 additional volunteers to assist with gift sorting and miscellaneous tasks on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Our **registration deadline is December 3<sup>rd</sup>** and space fills quickly, so sign up early at [www.holidaystockings.org](http://www.holidaystockings.org). Please specify the Friday and/or Saturday event in your registration and be aware that our policy is for one adult to attend for every three children under the age of 18.

**Boy, Girl, Cub and Brownie Scout volunteer registration** is open year 'round. Scout leaders may register now and up until the event with Jan Maxson at [Jan@holidaystockings.org](mailto:Jan@holidaystockings.org). Jan will direct you toward projects that will fulfill your service hour goals in advance of the actual stuffing event such as serving as shelter captains, overseeing the snack table, post-event cleanup, recycling, taking inventory and loading boxes. We request a 3:1 Scout/Adult ratio.

**NEW THIS YEAR** is that all vehicles must have proof of insurance and ALL adults must have photo ID to be allowed on the facility premises. **All volunteers must be registered and meet insurance and ID requirements to be allowed on the site.**

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO:**

**\*Act as Shelter Captains to oversee a shelter at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.** Duties include accounting for and delivering stockings to your shelter of choice. Most deliveries are made on weekdays during business hours.

**\*Host a Donation Box** at your church, school or place of business to collect small toys, hats, socks, gloves and other new items for children from birth to 17 years. Duties include delivering donations to one of the board members or arranging a pickup of your items on or before December 8<sup>th</sup>. Packets of flyers, a donation list and a stocking sample for display are provided.

**If you can help, please contact Bobette Scheid at 206-232-9854 or e-mail [Bobette@holidaystockings.org](mailto:Bobette@holidaystockings.org)**

**Thank you for helping the holidays be a bit brighter for a homeless child!**



DONATIONS NEED TO BE RECEIVED BY THE WEEK OF DEC. 8TH

## Toy and Gifts Wish List

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN THESE HOMELESS CHILDREN.  
YOUR DONATIONS ARE WELCOME AND GREATLY APPRECIATED.  
GIFTS MUST BE NEW, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED, AND SAFE FOR CHILDREN.**

**FOR PICK UP OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT  
BOBETTE SCHEID AT 206-232-9854, PEARL GRANTHAM AT 425-641-8577 OR  
MARIANNE PARSONS AT 425-957-0469  
HOLIDAY STOCKINGS P.O. BOX 6392, BELLEVUE, WA 98008**

**THE ITEMS THAT ARE STARRED\* ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY**

### **For Infants & Toddlers:**

Infant washcloths  
Baby rattles  
Small stuffed animals,  
for infants  
Infant bibs & \*hats  
\*Diapers, or  
Pull-Ups for 25 lb. child  
Small chunky books  
\*Bath toys, small  
Bubbles  
Three-inch balls  
\*Fat crayons  
Any small toy  
Baby thermometers

### **For Elementary School Age:**

\*Boy & Girl socks  
\*Child toothbrushes, wrapped  
\*Travel size toothpaste  
Small brushes & combs  
Chap sticks  
Crayons or Markers  
Colored pencils  
Sidewalk chalk  
\*Small craft kits  
\*Yo-Yos  
\*Bendable characters  
\*Game cards, Uno, Go Fish, ect.  
Trading cards

Punching balloons

\*Stickers  
Play clay  
Bouncy balls  
\*Action figures

### **For Teen Age Youth:**

\*Adult size socks  
\*Toothbrushes, wrapped  
\*Travel size toothpaste  
\*Dental floss  
\*Small brushes, combs for girls  
\*Nail clippers & Emery boards  
Deodorants for men & women  
Body Wash, small size bottles  
Small size colognes  
Chap sticks  
Key chains  
\*Jewelry making bead kits  
\*Playing cards  
Chap sticks  
Small notebooks & pens  
Hacky-Sac balls  
\*Sudko/crossword game booklet  
Make-up  
\*Hair pics, wide toothed comb  
iTunes gift cards  
Breath mints & chewing gum  
\*Lunch box snack foods  
Travel alarm clocks

\*Batteries (AA & AAA)

### **For Street Youths:**

\*Adult size socks  
Knitted stocking caps, dk colors  
Gloves, dark colors  
\*Toothbrushes, wrapped  
\*Small toothpaste  
\*Hand or Foot warmers  
Purse size hand sanitizes  
Disposable razors, wrapped  
Comb  
\*Pocket size kleenex  
\*Travel size games  
Nail clippers & file  
iTunes gift cards  
\*Breath mints & chewing gum  
\*Lunch box snack foods, fruit  
leathers, Trail mix, nuts, cheese  
& crackers, granola bars, tuna  
packets, ect. (no plastic  
containers)  
\$5.00 food coupons  
Phone cards

