



SAFESTREETS

May 16, 2017

Community generosity supports individuals transitioning out of homelessness

EVERETT – Many individuals often ask how they can get involved in the Safe Streets program. Thanks to the establishment of the [Community Streets Initiative Flex Fund](#), helping is easier than ever.

Since its creation in March 2016, more than 40 businesses, individuals, and foundations, have contributed over \$23,000 to the Flex Fund. These monetary donations help provide basic necessities for those who have been living on the streets. The [Everett Police Department's embedded social workers](#) have used these funds to help over 60 individuals take steps toward a new life.

“Some things we often take for granted, such as a photo ID or a bus pass, can be significant barriers to someone who is ready to go to treatment or find housing,” said Hil Kaman, Everett’s public health and safety director. “These Flex Fund donations make it possible to bridge the gap in services and financial obstacles for Everett’s chronically homeless residents.”

Thanks to generous community members and organizations, the City’s embedded social workers are able to fill these gaps for individuals who are ready to make a change. Some of the items they have purchased include nine bus passes, five tanks of gas, and 21 photo ID cards.

These small purchases make a big difference in helping homeless individuals access services and get to appointments and treatment. They have also paid for transportation and travel assistance to send 15 individuals to out-of-state treatment through the [Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative \(PAARI\)](#) program.

In addition to these items, the Flex Fund has helped to serve 38 warm meals, over which the City’s embedded social workers have been able to connect with individuals and discuss treatment plans. It has also provided 23 nights in motels while people wait for a treatment bed, or a night of respite from the trauma of homelessness.

Learn more:

For more information on the Community Streets Initiative, visit www.everettwa.gov/streetsinitiative.

For more information on the Safe Streets Plan, visit www.everettwa.gov/safestreets.

Sign up for email updates at www.everettwa.gov/notifyme.

The Flex Fund is a great way for community members to give responsibly and offer immediate assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness as they move into treatment and housing.

Please visit everettwa.gov/getinvolved if you would like to contribute to the Flex Fund. Learn more about the [Community Streets Initiative](#) or the [Everett Safe Streets Plan](#).

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