



Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://pchomeless.org/> - info@pchomeless.org

COMPASSIONATE TACOMA RECOGNITION

Remarks on Behalf of the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness

Maureen Howard

August 10, 2021

Mayor Woodards

Members of the Tacoma City Council,

My name is Maureen Howard and I volunteer with the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness. It is my honor to accept this recognition on behalf of all who make up the volunteer network that we know as the Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness.

To those who picked up and distributed water - thank you. Whether guided by faith, by commitment, by politics, by duty ...thank you.

And thank you to a retired Tacoma public health nurse, Janet Runbeck and her husband retired Tacoma businessman, Mike Mowat. Mike used his Nourish Pierce County volunteer driver status and Nourish Pierce County's lift truck and pallet jack to pick-up and deliver 11 pallets of water to the Stability Site.

By 3pm Saturday, the water at the Stability Site was gone. You couldn't buy the quantity of water we needed. We went out to the community and they brought in about two pallets of water. Heartening but not nearly enough water. Not with the two hottest days still to come.

And then I called Mayor Woodards and within the hour, we had water coming. Lots of water. Wonderful life saving water. Ten pallets of water delivered by midnight Saturday from Niagara Bottling. Ten more pallets delivered Monday and a promise of water whenever we need it. A promise we rely on the City to keep. A promise Catholic Community Services Stability Site Staff make possible.

We in the Coalition don't have to source the water anymore or try to figure out a central distribution site. We can concentrate on making certain the rest of the system works - so that every person living unsheltered in our midst and every pet, on the street, in a tent, a car, a truck, a van, an RV has water.



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We're grateful for this recognition but we're not done. We're following John Lewis and we'll continue to "make some noise and get in good trouble. Necessary trouble."

In a Compassionate Tacoma, everyone is housed with as much water as they need, whenever they need it.

Thank you.