



SIGMA GAMMA RHO SORORITY, INC.

Zeta Phi Sigma Alumnae Chapter

"A Non-governmental Organization Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information"

Sylvia Cook

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"Sleepout for the Homeless"

During the Western Region Conference this past April 2019, the Rhoers discussed an all too common issue as a collective group to sponsor a community service project called "Sleepout for the Homeless". They agreed to do this project for the following reasons:

Homeless youth, sometimes referred to as "unaccompanied" youth, are individuals under the age of 18 who lack parental, foster, or institutional care.

- The National Center for Housing and Child Welfare states there are between 1 million and 1.7 million homeless youth who have runaway or have been asked to leave their homes.
- According to the US Department of HHS, 61.8% of homeless youth reported depression, 71.7% reported experiencing major trauma such as physical or sexual abuse, 79.5% experienced symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder for more than a month.
- According to the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, in 2014, 11-37% of former foster youth reported having experienced homelessness and 1/4 to 1/2 experienced housing instability of some sort after aging out of the foster care system.
- Homeless youth are evenly male-female, although females are more likely to seek help through shelters and hotlines.
- According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, between 6% and 22% of homeless girls are estimated to be pregnant.
- 75% of homeless or runaway youth have dropped out or will drop out of school.
- Between 20% and 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBT.

Source: <https://nationalhomeless.org/issues/youth/>

Fundraising efforts begin Monday, August 12, 2021, to September 30, 2021. Donations can be received via Cashapp (\$ZPSRhoerClub) or cash donations. Our Rhoer Club is looking to raise \$1500 to award to Tacoma's Comprehensive Life Resource Center. Comprehensive Life Resources (CLR) runs a homeless youth and young adult drop-in center and a young adult shelter at the Beacon Center in Tacoma. They reach out to vulnerable youth and young adults throughout Pierce County and offer them first and foremost, a safe place to be. CLR also offer clothing and hygiene services, a daily meal, storage and case management opportunities, and a variety of referral and community engagement options. They



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help them develop skills that will enable them to leave a life of homelessness, vulnerability, and endangerment and create one of self-sufficiency and independence.

Sleepout Instructions

On Friday, September 17, 2021, from 6 p.m. to September 18, 2021, 8 a.m., our Rhoers will spend the night in Ms. Sylvia's back yard with tents and sleeping bags if COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. If the event can't be in person, then we go virtual and the Rhoers will camp from their homes. We are asking all Rhoers to turn in all electronic devices and experience an evening as a homeless youth. Parents are encouraged to participate with every aspect of this community service project.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Cook

Rhoer Advisor