



TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Karl R. Amylon, City Manager

DATE: January 18, 2021

RE: **Women in Safe Homes (WISH) Quarterly Activity Report – October Through December 2020**

Pursuant to paragraph (a) of Section 14 of the 2020 Community Agency Funding Agreement between the City of Ketchikan and Women in Safe Homes, attached for City Council review is a copy of the agency's quarterly activity report for the period October through December 2020. Should Councilmembers have questions regarding the quarterly report, staff can attempt to respond accordingly.

Women In Safe Homes
Prevention and Education Department
Activity Report for October – December 2020
Prepared for the City of Ketchikan
January 2021

Women In Safe Homes received funding from the City of Ketchikan Community Grant program to support primary prevention programs and violence prevention education in the community and schools. This funding supports full-time violence prevention specialists that coordinate primary prevention programs including Let Me Run, Girls on the Run, Coaching Boys Into Men, Athletes as Leaders, and the Green Dot Bystander Intervention program. Additionally, these violence prevention specialists spend a significant amount of time in the KGBSD classrooms, providing education on topics including child sexual abuse prevention, healthy and unhealthy relationships, sexual assault, and teen dating violence prevention. With this funding we have been able to greatly expand school-based programs that support students, educators, and parents or caregivers. We also provide training accessible to all community members that enables us to create a community where every person has an equal opportunity to live free of violence.

Student presentations facilitated.....	117
Individual interactions with students during groups and presentations.....	1,698
Youth Trained in Bystander Intervention Skills.....	32
Youth Involved in Ketchikan Youth Alliance leadership program.....	15
Presentations for adult community members.....	19
Adult community members participating in presentations.....	153

Project Goals

Goal 1: Inspire community engagement in intimate partner violence and sexual violence prevention

WISH continues to support community engagement in violence prevention. The COVID-19 pandemic has made engaging the community in intimate partner violence and sexual violence prevention challenging. We were able to amend programs quickly and continued to collaborate with other local agencies during this time. To assure safety of our community, we moved our events to virtual or asynchronous methods.

October was **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. We participated in outreach and activities in collaboration with Ketchikan Indian Community. The goal of these activities were to inform community members about the epidemic of violence in Alaska and to inspire their engagement in violence prevention and crisis intervention.

Due to the pandemic, we moved our annual **Steps for Change** to a virtual format. Before the pandemic, we would host a single event at the Recreation Center and invite community members to walk 7 laps around the track to symbolize the average number of times a victim attempts to leave an abuser before leaving permanently. This year, we encouraged people to walk 7 laps anywhere they felt comfortable and post it to social media with the hashtag #StepsForChangeKTN. We promoted this event on local radio stations and social media. We encouraged community members to consider the importance of domestic violence prevention since it is all too common in Alaska where women are more likely to be killed by a current or former intimate partner than any other state in the nation. We are grateful to all our community members who participated and helped bring awareness to these community epidemics.

We held one in person event for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, **Art For Healing**, in partnership with KIC and Vibrance - A Creative Space. We restricted the amount of participants to maintain social distancing and provided information on domestic violence, local resources and how to seek help while Vibrance led an art activity.

We were also invited to support a Domestic Violence Awareness Event held on the Coast Guard base, giving information on local resources to Coast Guard service members and building relationships with them as they are part of our community. During this event, members of the Coast Guard and community walked or ran along the bike path that goes south of town, which had been decorated with fact sheets and stories about domestic violence. We would like to thank the Coast Guard for allowing for this partnership.

Goal 2: Expand youth and male engagement in intimate partner violence and sexual violence prevention.

WISH has been collaborating with the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition on a youth coalition that is engaging young people in addressing issues they identify as being significant to youth in Ketchikan. The newly developed **Ketchikan Youth Alliance** has the mission of "Youth betterment through youth leadership". Many of the issues they have identified are linked to violence, such as healthy relationships, mental health, and privilege and oppression.

WISH Prevention and Education began accepting applicants to our **youth peer educator internship** program. We will be hiring two youth peer education interns who will work directly with other young people in the school and community to provide education on healthy and unhealthy relationships and how to seek help. The peer educator interns will also assist adult staff in better understanding how to support youth in the community.

We hosted three **youth bystander intervention trainings** with a total of 32 youth participants. This six hour training aims to empower young people with the tools they need to speak up when they see potential violence in the community. Youth who participated in the training reported an increase in willingness to intervene when they see potential violence and reported that they would recommend the training to their peers.

Goal 3: Implementation of primary prevention programs

We have adjusted many of our class presentations to COVID-19 restrictions, presenting in person while adhering to social distancing guidelines or via Zoom. We have been able to present in person in Ketchikan High School and middle school classes at Ketchikan Charter School. However, we have presented virtually in Point Higgins Elementary School and Ketchikan Charter School elementary classrooms. WISH Prevention and Education staff completed a total of 114 in class presentations during this quarter, educating students from preschool through high school about body safety, healthy relationships, teen dating violence and how to seek help.