



TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Acting City Manager

DATE: January 25, 2022

RE: **Women in Safe Homes (WISH) Quarterly Activity Report – October Through December 2021**

Pursuant to paragraph (a) of Section 14 of the 2021 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 2021. 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 2021
Prepared for the City of Ketchikan
January 2022

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, Green Dot Bystander Intervention and Safe Bars programs. 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.

Community Members Served July – September 2021

Youth involved in WISH's Peer Education Program.....	5
Number of youth participating in Ketchikan Youth Alliance.....	8
Number of community members who attended an event hosted by WISH.....	350
Number of service providers trained.....	180
Number of youth trained in bystander intervention.....	17
KGBSD students engaged in Bree's Law lessons.....	48

Project Goals

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

WISH continues to support community engagement in violence prevention. This quarter we hosted several trainings for staff of local agencies and attended two outreach events. WISH Prevention trained four of the five elementary school staff in how exposure to domestic violence in the home impacts children. Trainings such as these help agencies interact with victims and survivors of violence in a more trauma informed way. It helps school staff look for signs that a child may be impacted by domestic violence in their home and how to connect those children with local resources.

WISH partnered with the Ketchikan Indian Community's victim services department to host the annual *Steps for Change* event in October. This event invites community members to walk 8 laps in the recreation center to represent the 8 times a victim tries to leave their abuser before leaving permanently. This year, nearly forty community members participated in the event. WISH also hosted an open house for the new Shelter building, inviting community members to tour the building before participants move in, and learn more about WISH's programming.

WISH continues to be the backbone organization for the Revilla Island Resilience Initiative (RIRI). This quarter, RIRI hosted a strategic planning meeting that was well attended by representatives from many community partners, including Community Connections, Residential Youth Care, KGBSD, the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition, PeaceHealth and Ketchikan Indian Community. This strategic planning meeting allowed RIRI to set new goals for the upcoming grant cycle, and ensure that collaboration across agencies remains effective, allowing us to combine efforts to prevent and respond to childhood trauma in Ketchikan.

WISH staff facilitated eight presentations to KGBSD school staff on a variety of topics. KGBSD staff were trained on how exposure to domestic violence in the home impacts children, including how staff can support children who have been impacted by violence.

WISH also trained KGBSD staff on how to refer students to WISH's mental health counselors, who have a presence in every school in the district. WISH staff also facilitated a training on LGBTQ+ terms and identities for Schoenbar and Revilla staff. LGBTQ+ youth experience higher rates of homelessness, suicide, and depression, so understanding the LGBTQ+ population is an important part of supporting all youth.

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

WISH's peer education program **Ketchikan Youth Peer Education (KYPE)** continued work on helping WISH staff ensure that lessons provided in the high school classes are addressing the issues youth are seeing their peers struggle with. KYPE interns were able to assist with in-class presentations this fall and will be assisting in the spring as well.

WISH continues to collaborate with the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition on hosting the **Ketchikan Youth Alliance (KYA)**. This fall, KYA partnered with the Ketchikan Youth Court, the Rotary Interact, and Ketchikan High School theater class, to host a Halloween Festival for children. This event was attended by approximately three hundred families. This event helped KYA members learn how to organize a public event, including planning, collaborating with other groups, advertising and hosting the event.

Goal 3: Implementation of primary prevention programs

WISH continues to collaborate with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District to provide Alaska Safe Children's Act (ASCA) presentations to students. This quarter, WISH staff were able to present lessons to all ninth-grade students in the health class at Ketchikan High School. COVID levels continue to be high, so WISH staff decided to wait to see if levels would fall before scheduling more presentations. WISH staff is now scheduling lessons for the spring semester to ensure all students are able to receive ASCA lessons. Lessons will be facilitated virtually as need be.

Thanks to a grant from the Alaska Travel Industry Association and Royal Caribbean, WISH was able to continue hosting youth bystander intervention workshops. This quarter, WISH hosted one workshop. It was attended by 17 teens and WISH plans to train at least 15 more youth in the spring of 2022. This workshop helps youth better recognize signs of potential violence and safely intervene early to prevent violence from happening.