



For Immediate Release

June 6, 2007

Don't Just Look Away Homeless Children Make a Stand, Again

SEATTLE – On the streets, in cars, motels and doubled up in houses around Seattle, on any given day, hundreds of children are homeless. These children are the most vulnerable, and also the most invisible side of homelessness. Today, this is going to change. Family Services of Seattle is shedding light on the nearly 800 children below the age of 6 who are homeless each night in King County. Surrounding Pioneer Square's Art in the Park on Thursday, June 7, 100 life-size cardboard cutout children will appear with a direct call to action ... *Don't Just Look Away!*



The idea

There are things we can all do to keep kids and families off the street. It starts with the awareness that they are *on the streets!*

Did you know nearly 800 children below the age of 6 and 2,900 people with their families are homeless in King County each night? They are hidden in cars, sleeping on couches and residing in temporary shelters. This is not typically who the public may think of when they consider who is homeless. Sadly, the reality is these children and their families are the fastest growing sector within the homeless population.

As a provider of services to homeless families, we also know that services throughout our region are over-stretched and at-capacity, unable to provide necessary resources to all of the families who are homeless, or those at-risk of becoming homeless. In 2006 Family Services' provided more than 3,100 homeless and at-risk adults and children with services such as transitional to permanent housing, eviction prevention services, child care and children's clothing and supplies. At the same time, nearly 6,000 calls for help could not be served.

Family Services is a participant in the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County, along with the City of Seattle, United Way of King County, and many other non-profits working to bring an end to this crisis. We believe in the vision to end homelessness, and we know there is a great need for participation and support across the board to turn this vision into reality.

Our intention with this campaign is to provoke some major thinking and discussion about this problem and to embolden the public to 'Not Just Look Away' from this crisis. Public will, participation and action are essential components, necessary to seeing this vision of preventing and ending homelessness a success.

Thank you for NOT Just Looking Away!

This project is made possible by the generous donations of our sponsors who chose NOT Just to Look Away! Thank you: Noland Homes, Getty Images, Hydrogen, Journal Newspapers and iMagic for taking action to end homeless for children and families in our community.

About Family Services

At Family Services our mission is to build emotionally healthy, self-sufficient families and a non-violent community where they can thrive.

Since 1892, Family Services has been working to strengthen at-risk families in King County. Strong families provide the foundation for the kind of community we all want to live in: one that is safe, nurturing, and vibrant. When families grapple with homelessness, poverty, violence and poor health, their unmet needs have repercussions that touch the entire community and future generations.

At Family Services, we're helping strengthen our community by addressing the root causes of homelessness, domestic violence and other societal ills with integrated, in-depth services for families in crisis. Through the generosity of our community, we help families find positive, lasting solutions to transform their lives and the community we share.

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For more information, please contact:

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Or find me around Occidental Square from 4-8 p.m.