

Fighting Homelessness: Multi-Sector Partnering to Promote Community Engagement for Social Change

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Abstract

Tent City was founded in the Seattle area in 1990 in response to the chronic shortage of shelter beds. (As of October 2004 there were 2500 shelter beds for 8000 homeless people.) Tent City is a group of up to 100 homeless men and women who live together in a group of tents on the property of a host, where they are invited to stay for periods of 30-90 days. In the almost 15 years of their existence, Tent City has moved over 30 times in the greater Seattle area. Tent City is sponsored by SHARE/WHEEL — an organisation of homeless and recently homeless men and women who advocate on behalf of homeless people in the Seattle/King County area. In addition to Tent City, SHARE/WHEEL coordinates and oversees 15 overnight church-based shelters for men and women, serving up to 325 men and women each night.

In the fall of 2004, Seattle University invited Tent City to take up residence on the campus during the month of February 2005. Prior to this, Tent City had only been hosted by churches, and in one case, on publicly owned land.

As an expression of the social justice mission of the university and its Jesuit Catholic education mission, the hosting of Tent City 3 was an extraordinary success. Participation levels were extremely high in both service and education activities, and the participants in these activities included students, faculty, and staff, as well as, neighbours and other institutions in Seattle and the region. The broader public became more informed about the significance and reality of homelessness through extensive nationwide media attention on the hosting project.

Students presented at a regional student conference on homelessness and, motivated by their commitment to engage fully in issues related to social justice, they decided to develop a proposal to host the National Student Campaign Against Homelessness and Hunger. They won the competition and will host this conference — held for the first time on the West Coast — at Seattle University, 11-13 November 2005, when they expect approximately 500 student leaders from across the USA to come together to address these important social justice and social policy issues.

Inspired by the efforts of Seattle University, students at the University of Washington have committed to hosting Tent City on their campus in the near future.

Introduction

At convocation in September 2003, Father Stephen Sundborg, President of Seattle University, invited the university community to read *Radical Compassion* by Gary Smith, SJ, as a way to learn more about the reality of homelessness and to feel closer to the needs of the poor. Nearly 400 faculty, staff and board members requested and read *Radical Compassion*, a sign of the significant interest generated by the president's initiative and of its resonance with our mission to "empower leaders for a just and humane world". In response to the reading of this book and to advance the ways in which our campus learns about and engages the reality of homelessness, the Mission and Ministry Division proposed that the university host Tent City 3 — a transitory, encampment of approximately 100 males and females — in February 2005.

There were three major objectives to the hosting of Tent City 3:

1. To educate the Seattle University and surrounding community about the issue of homelessness
2. To express the university's commitment to serve those on the margins in our city, congruent with our educational mission
3. To deepen links with other important institutions in Seattle who are engaged with the issue of homelessness, including Catholic institutions, government agencies and non-profit organisations.

The offering of hospitality to this community of the homeless was envisioned as a very influential educational moment in the formation of our students. It represents a powerful modelling by the university of the importance and possibilities of including the disadvantaged in our community. The university wanted to demonstrate that the poor and marginalised can be integrated into mainstream community in positive ways to the benefit of all.

Tent cities and the Seattle University experience

A brief history of tent cities

In their thorough exploration of the history of tent cities in the USA, Hellegers and Mercier (2003) describe tent cities as "intentional communities organized by the unhoused", which are "a form of political protest against the material conditions and social policies that create and perpetuate homelessness". They are a response to a problem that goes back to the Middle Ages. Although they have recently gained much press, 'tent cities' have been in existence in the USA since the Depression when southern farmers and sharecroppers who were evicted from land for organising, established makeshift tent camps. In 1960 in

Fayette County, Tennessee African American families who had been evicted from land because of their political organising set up a community called 'Tent City' (Hellegers and Mercier 2003).

In the past 25 years, tent cities have been established in many US cities including, San Jose, California, Corpus Christi, Texas and Las Vegas, Nevada, among others. Some tent cities are short-term political protests such as those that were created in front of state capitols in California, Illinois and Washington states to lobby for long-term solutions to homelessness. Others, such as Tent City 3 in Seattle, are a more permanent solution that are based on principles of self-determination (Hellegers and Mercier 2003).

There are tent cities in Nishinari Park in Osaka where, as of 27 June 2005, residents were fighting eviction by park officials (Hellegers and Mercier 2003). Other tent cities in the USA include Dignity Village in Portland, Oregon, which was started on 16 December 2000, when a group of eight homeless men and women pitched five tents on public land (then called Camp Dignity). It was established in response to the overturn — on the basis of two constitutional grounds — of Portland's camping ban (Hellegers and Mercier 2003). New tent cities are also being established around the world. On 22 April 2004, Vancouver's City Council's Planning and Environment Committee heard a proposal put forth by the Hope Village Council — a group of homeless persons, people at risk of becoming homeless and their organisational and individual supporters — to establish a 'Tent City' in a green space already being used by homeless people in the Downtown East Side neighborhood (Hellegers and Mercier 2003).

Tent City 3 (TC3)

Tent City 3 is a temporary shelter sponsored by Seattle Housing and Resource Efforts (SHARE) and Women's Housing, Equality, and Enhancement League (WHEEL), two non-profit organisations that provide services to the homeless in Seattle. TC3 is approximately 100 men, women and in rare temporary cases, children, who live together in a group of tents on the property of a host, who invites them to stay on their property. The community consists of a large 20-person tent, a big tent for single women, and smaller tents that can sometimes accommodate only one person (Share/WHEEL Tent City 2004b). A large supply tent and welcome/information centre, where residents can receive two bus tickets a day, address concerns or raise issues. Since 1990, when the first Tent City was organised in Seattle, the group has moved over 45 times (Share/WHEEL Tent City 2004b).

From their hosts, Tent City does not ask for anything more than a place to stay. Residents buy their own food and prepare it offsite and most residents also eat offsite. They have infrastructure to bring in water and haul out garbage daily. Wastewater is emptied in the nearest city drain. A hosting church may provide electrical and water hookups and some may even offer use of their inside facilities (Share/WHEEL Tent City 2004b). SHARE/WHEEL's budget for TC3 is USD\$4500. This amount covers

truck rentals for moves, portable restrooms and a dumpster, two daily bus tickets per person for transportation, and a cellphone shared by 100 people.

At Tent City, an elected council of residents governs the community, and enforces a strict code of conduct. This code has zero tolerance for drugs, alcohol or weapons, violence, verbal abuse, degrading ethnic, racial, sexist or homophobic remarks, intimidation or physical punishment. No women are allowed in men's tents and vice versa. The rules prohibit loitering, disturbing the neighbours and trespassing. Those in violation of the code of conduct must leave the community (SHARE/WHEEL Tent City 2004c). Additionally, no sex offenders are allowed in Tent City and SHARE/WHEEL checks the public registry of sex offenders on a daily basis. Attendance is required at one of the several community meetings held each week. Quiet hours are observed from 10 pm to 8 am. Two security workers from the community are on duty at all times and check in with all visitors.

The agreement between the City of Seattle and TC3 requires that notices be provided to properties within 800 feet or two blocks of the encampment location and that a public information meeting be held at least five to 14 days prior to the establishment of an encampment. SHARE/WHEEL sponsors TC3 on an ongoing basis and provides garbage pick-up and removal, portable toilets, short and long-term storage lockers, and bus tickets.

TC3: A brief history

The first Tent City in Seattle was established during the 1990 Goodwill Games, which were held in Seattle that year. It existed for ten years before becoming the Aloha Inn Transitional Housing Project. In 1998, Tent City 2 was established but it lasted only a few weeks before it was destroyed by the city. In 1999, Tent City 3 was started by SHARE/WHEEL as a project to highlight the issue of homelessness during the World Trade Organization (WTO) conference to be held in Seattle that year. City officials denied their request because they wanted to discourage the establishment of other tent cities. Then Seattle mayor, Tom Byer, was worried about negative public reaction to a "visible and not very picturesque homeless encampment" and had a concern that tent cities would become a "magnet for drugs and crime".

To avoid city closures, and despite the mayor's opposition, SHARE/WHEEL established Tent City 3 (TC3) on church property and moved from church to church until August 2000. In August of 2000, El Centro de la Raza, a community-based health and human service organisation, applied for a permit to house TC3 on their property but their request was denied. A protracted legal battle ensued that resulted in a win for TC3, which stated that they could remain in any commercial or residential spot for up to three months at a time (Hellegers and Mercier 2003).

Under the federal *Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act* of 2000, churches have been given special status that prohibits any government agency from imposing or implementing “land use regulation in a manner that imposes a substantial burden on the religious exercise of a person, including a religious assembly or institution” (Congress 2000). As a result, TC3 has been hosted by dozens of churches in the King County area. The only exceptions have been El Centro de la Raza and Seattle University.

Tent City 4 is a new tent city that operates outside Seattle’s city limits, primarily in the eastern suburbs of Seattle. The conflictual relationship that has developed between TC4 and its wealthy suburban neighbors has been in direct contrast to the experience of TC3, which primarily operates within Seattle’s city limits.

TC3 does not collect demographic data such as age, gender, date of birth or race/ethnicity and there are no permanent records of who has lived in TC3 or for how long. To enter TC3, one must present identification that documents their name and that they are at least 18 years of age. Once someone has left TC3, there is no way of tracking where they went. This is for two main reasons: TC3 receives no regular stream of funding that requires that this data be kept and there is no institutional support within the organisation that would allow for ongoing collection and maintenance of this data. Although it is acknowledged that this does limit their ability to advocate for better services.

Tent City at Seattle University

The idea for Seattle University (SU) to host TC3 was first explored in the Fall of 2003 as a doctoral level group paper which developed into a full proposal to the university. The proposal was put forth to the governing bodies in April 2004. In September of 2004, the trustees of the university agreed to host TC3 in February 2005 (Seattle University 2004). The site was to be the tennis courts on the south side of the campus in between the sports facility and student housing. Because of the location, which was chosen for its relative dryness in the continuous rains that are a feature of Seattle winters, February was selected because it was a time when there was little use of the tennis courts due to the rain. The area also allowed for ample space for TC3 residents to erect their shelters, which are raised off the ground on wooden pallets. Lastly, and most importantly, the site provided access to water and electricity through a small building directly to the south of the tennis courts.

To coordinate the event, several committees were established in the fall of 2004, including a planning committee, educational committee (of which the authors were members) and service working group. To involve the key stakeholders in the local and broader community, members of the various committees, and spearheaded by Joe Orlando, met with previous hosts, community members, and representatives from various agencies and large institutions that surround the very urban campus. Students from a social work class (Social work with communities, organisations and groups) were recruited to distribute flyers to

households and businesses in a two-block radius of the campus. This was to reflect the longstanding practice of TC3 to do patrols within a two-block radius of their encampment. Other students undertook leadership roles in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project.

A variety of educational events on campus were incorporated into the initiative. Firstly, campus forums on homelessness linked to a larger campus educational theme for Academic Year (AY) 2004-05: Poverty and Consumption. These forums included not only reflection on the nature and causes of homelessness and its inherent suffering, but also on the themes of political and community change towards achieving social justice. Secondly, Tent City was connected with the ongoing educational life of the university. A specific course, 'The politics of Homelessness', was offered by Bill Hobson, the Executive Director of Downtown Emergency Homeless Center — one of the largest non-profit organisations serving the homeless community of Seattle. This was the second time this class had been offered as an elective in the social work program and it was more broadly marketed as a result of the TC3 initiative. Members of Tent City spoke in classes across the curriculum.

There were many opportunities for directed service offered through the Center For Service — the on-campus resource and coordinating agency for service learning activities. Related extracurricular educational activities were coordinated with Student Development. A reader on issues associated with homelessness was prepared as a resource to the school community for courses and educational events. Thirdly, students took significant leadership roles in planning and arranging the hosting. Two students from the social work program sat on the planning committee; a senior undergraduate social work class conducted community analyses of TC3 and led the community engagement process by disseminating information on the purpose of the initiative and other information. Students were further engaged in internship and research projects linked to the impacts of the hosting on the university and its surrounding community.

The engagement process

There were three phases to the SU hosting of TC3. The first phase was the community engagement phase, the second was the preparation phase and the third was the hosting phase. After the TC3 left there was also an ongoing evaluation phase, which is still in progress. Joe Orlando, Director of Jesuit Identity and Mission, and who was the leader of the TC3 initiative, recruited several members of the SU faculty to serve on working groups. As head of the social work program, Madeline Lovell was chosen to be head of the Educational Working Group and Kent Koth, head of the Center for Service, was head of the Service Working Group.

The initial phase of the community preparation process began with the neighborhood closest to the proposed site of TC3: Squire Park. On 5 October, Joe Orlando met with members of the Squire Park

Community Council to discuss with them SU's decision to host TC3. The response from this group was enthusiastically positive as some of them lived nearby a site that had previously hosted TC3 without any problems. Students from an undergraduate social work class taught by the lead author of this paper, were recruited to do informational leafleting of the community. Students mapped out their territory and took their flyers and hit the streets in mid-October. The flyers provided information on TC3, Seattle University's educational mission and information regarding informational forums that would be held in the community and on the Seattle University campus. These forums had a very low attendance and this could be attributed to Seattle's well-known 'liberal' political leanings and a willingness to work towards a more just world.

The outcome

As the first university in the nation to host a homeless encampment, the TC3 initiative was a historical moment in the life of Seattle University. As evidenced by the expansive press coverage and the invitations for presentations at various conferences, the university will be in a position to continue to make a significant contribution to the dialogue about homelessness in Seattle, King County and the nation as a whole.

The overall measures of success of the TC3 project was the active engagement of the campus-wide community in the hosting experience, positive and extensive media response that was nationwide, numerous local, regional, national and international conference presentations, documented positive impact on students, faculty and staff and interest from other universities to host homeless encampments on their own campuses. In particular, the University of Washington, which has a large campus of more than 40,000 students in Seattle, has made formal contact with SU to explore the TC3 experience so that they can use the lessons learned in their own hosting experience. Another local university has also made contact to discuss how they may also host TC3 in the future.

Educational activities

A very prominent feature of the educational aspect of the TC3 initiative was the creation of a website, <<http://www.seattleu.edu/tentcity>>, with links to online resources to issues of affordable housing, poverty, and homelessness. One of the features of the website were pictures and profiles of some of the residents of TC3. Below each picture and profile was relevant data about the issues (such as healthcare, mental health, employment, etc.) that each was facing. The most touching outcome of this aspect of 'engaging community' was the story of one resident of TC3 whose son had been removed from her care over ten years ago and was currently living thousands of miles away in the state of Michigan. Her son was interested in attending Seattle University and was perusing the university's website. He was drawn to the tent city page and there on the page he saw a picture of his mother whom he had not seen since he was a child. He contacted the university and this led to a reunion of mother and child and the son has now

decided to attend Seattle University. A reader of articles on homelessness was compiled by a group of faculty and was requested by faculty on-campus to assist in their integration of homelessness into their curriculum and by the broader community who wanted to learn more about homelessness.

Twenty on-campus groups (n = 343), including 26 staff members who attended in three groups, and 300 students from 17 classes (with seventeen faculty members) toured TC3 while it was at Seattle University. The 17 class groups included students and faculty from theology, nursing, anthropology, communication, English, education, psychology, sociology and Spanish.

Eleven off-campus groups totalling 235 people also visited TC3 during its stay at Seattle University. This included parishioners of a local church that were interested in hosting, students from: a nearby community college, Language Center, Seattle Academy — an elite preparatory school in the neighbourhood, and from middle and high schools from surrounding suburbs.

There were two learning panels (community dialogues) with Tent City residents. One that was held at Seattle Academy had 81 people including 72 8th graders and nine faculty and staff. Almost 150 students came from two Edmonds middle schools with their teachers, who also happened to be doctoral students in education at Seattle University.

Discussion forums

There were a total of eight public events, including three evening events and five midday events, which were attended by a total of 875 students and citizens from the community. Over 200 people attended an evening discussion titled *Mobilizing our Community to End Homelessness*, which was led by Seattle University President, Stephen Sundborg, SJ, King County Executive Ron Sims, United Way board member Dan Brettler and two TC3 residents. The ecumenical discussion 'Faith Community Response to Homelessness' was attended by 42 people who heard presentations from various denominational leaders. *Just Housing?* was a discussion that featured leaders of various non-profit organisations including: Shane Rock, executive director of the Washington Low-Income Housing Coalition; Josephine Tamayo-Murray, Director of Catholic Community Services of the surrounding county; and Kris Stadelman, CEO of the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County, and was attended by 30 people.

Participation in midday forums included 59 attendees at 'Advocacy Service Learning'; 225 participants (including 110 law students) at 'Conversation with TC Residents'; seven people came to hear a discussion titled 'Street Papers', which was led by members of *Real Change* — a weekly newspaper published by homeless persons in the Seattle/King County area; 'Dynamics of Homelessness' was attended by 31 people; and lastly, a very engaging presentation titled 'Peace on the Streets by Kids on the Streets' was attended by 45 people.

Services

There were many donated services to the TC3 community from the broader Seattle community and the Seattle University community. This included a visit by the Washington Dental Service (WDS) Foundation SmileMobile, which screened patients, performed x-rays, filled cavities and extracted teeth. This project was guided by a Seattle University Trustee who is also the president of WDS and the dentists were recruited by a dentist who lives in the neighbourhood.

Nursing students in clinicals for their class, 'Healthcare in Communities', participated in a health desk program during the one-month stay of TC3 on campus. They conducted a community assessment and planned the health desk intervention with the ultimate goal of improving the health status of the population. A total of 12 faculty and 26 students provided healthcare services to a total of 82 members of the 100-member TC3 community, including many that were repeat visits. There were four weekly 'health desks': blood pressure screening; hygiene/oral care/hand care; mental health; and foot care.

A Law Clinic was facilitated by the Access to Justice Institute — a Seattle University entity affiliated with the law school, the Ronald A Peterson Law Clinic — the law clinic that is a part of the Seattle University Law School, and assisted by four Seattle University law faculty, 15 Seattle University law students and four local attorneys who are not otherwise affiliated with Seattle University. A total of six, 2.5 hour sessions were provided to approximately 40 per cent of TC3 residents in a format that included an informational presentation then simultaneous individual consultations with an attorney and/or Seattle University law student. The topics covered were: 'Unemployment Benefits and Unclaimed Property', 'Family Law and Custody Issues', 'Debt Issues', 'Social Security and Disability', 'Sealing Juvenile Records' and 'Reinstating Drivers Licenses and Getting rid of Outdated Warrants'.

Volunteer service

Over 600 members of Seattle University and surrounding communities provided thousands of hours of service to TC3 during their stay at Seattle University, and this does not include the people that were involved in raising funds. Some of the activities in which volunteers participated included move-in and move-out (55 volunteers), the provision of 24 evening meals that involved 276 volunteers, the making of almost 2000 sack lunches on 27 days by 157 volunteers, and social activities such as board games, card games, movies, basketball, tennis, dancing and a Super Bowl party that involved over 150 volunteers.

Fundraisers and donations

The TC3 planning committee had set a fundraising goal of USD\$4500, which represents the monthly expenses of TC3 that are paid by SHARE/WHEEL. The various fundraisers held by the Seattle University community almost tripled that goal for a total of USD\$13,345.20. These fundraisers included a raffle, a

residence hall casino night, a virtual auction, a residence hall 'penny war', a controller's auction, a collegium coin collection and a benefit concert. Individual donations totaled \$6230.

Over 40 calls were screened from individuals, groups and organisations that were seeking information on donating materials to TC3. In the end, the donations included more than 1000 cans of food, 15 new tents and several new tarps from REI — a large, Seattle-based cooperative business that features products for outdoor activities, 144 Navy-issued toothbrushes, 36 flashlights, approximately 100 batteries, 20 lbs of coffee, first aid materials, over 50 wool blankets, 125 'care kits' (toiletries) that were assembled by middle school students and multiple bags of clothing and food.

Media coverage

The hosting of TC3 by SU received widespread coverage by the press. There was over 100 stories nationwide, including 63 press or online articles and 54 broadcast stories. Locally, a total of 12 feature-length stories and four positive editorials ran in both daily newspapers, which reach almost half a million people. There were 13 on-air stories on all four local TV networks when the hosting was first announced and 19 on-air stories the weekend that TC3 moved onto campus. Spokespersons from Seattle University, including Seattle University president Stephen Sundborg, SJ, and Joe Orlando who headed the Planning Committee were featured on public radio stations on aspects of homelessness and housing.

Nationally, the story was carried by the Associated Press, and it was also featured on the back page of the *Chronicle for Higher Education* — the most widely circulated publication related to higher education in the USA. Although TC3 has moved on to another site, there is still interest in the outcomes of the initiative, some of which is presented in this paper.

Seattle University community response

There were several instruments, including a focus group protocol, short survey and online pre/post-surveys, used to evaluate the impact of TC3 on the SU community and some of this data is still being analysed. However, from the data that have been analysed some consistent themes have developed.

First, most students who visited TC3 as part of a class found the experience to be educational or enlightening. A third of them commented on the connectedness of hosting TC3 with the social justice mission of the university. Almost 100 per cent thought it was a good idea for Seattle University to host TC3. The 2.5 per cent who either thought it was a bad idea or had mixed feelings were responding to the 'zoo-like' effect of having poor people in the midst of a wealthy private school. Although it should be noted here that Seattle University worked hard with the TC3 community to limit visits but that TC3 has an open-door policy that made them resist any restrictions that were to be placed on visits. Many students explicitly stated that Seattle University's hosting of TC3 was a gateway to social change and action.

In an effort to calm the possible fears and anxieties of parents of students attending the university, a letter explaining the purpose and process of Seattle University's hosting of TC3 was sent to all parents. Although there were a handful that expressed concern, many parents wrote to the school expressing their appreciation for the kind of education their child was receiving as a result of a lived example of the school's mission and the opportunity for student engagement in a social justice issue.

Faculty and staff were given the opportunity to give feedback on the experience through an online pre/post-survey. In the pre-survey, faculty expressed pride that the university was leading the country in engaging so directly with the issue of homelessness. Many of them stated that they were pleasantly surprised by the nature of the TC3 community and that it had challenged their notions of what the homeless were like. Lastly, in the post-survey, many faculty and staff expressed their concern that the commitment to social action does not end because TC3 has left our campus, but that the engagement with each other and the broader community must continue if things are to change.

Discussion

The hosting of TC3 by the Seattle University campus provided a rallying point around which the Seattle University community and its neighbours and partners could work together to express Seattle University's educational mission of social justice and education of the whole person. It could be argued that it is the unique social justice mission of the university that provided the fertile ground for this unique experience that brought together thousands of people in service to, and in collaboration with, an encampment of homeless people that prior to this event was rarely in the public's eye.¹ That the idea for the initiative came from a student (graduate student in education) presents a challenge for academics in their role as teachers and guiders. Were the teachers and administrators not responsive to student ideas, the idea to host tent city may have stayed within the printed pages of a doctoral paper.

To plan and implement the initiative the whole campus had to be involved. It was the first time that many of the various departments on campus had sat together around a table to plan an event. Significantly, the key theme that arose from individual interviews with key leaders in the initiative was the engagement of the Seattle University community at a level that had not been seen or felt before.

Faculty and students from across the educational spectrum from communications to nursing and social work, and staff from campus ministry, alumni relations, media relations, housing and residence life, public safety and others were all an integral part of the planning and implementation process. Non-campus agencies which played a significant role included the United Way, the Squire Park Community Council and the Center for Ethical Leadership. That the effort was led by the Director of the Office of Jesuit

¹ This is only relevant to TC3, as TC4 has received volumes of press due to the objection of their encampment by neighbours of their church hosts in the outlying suburbs of Seattle.

Identity and Mission implies that this initiative was an expression of the university's identity, both to its internal constituents and to the community at large. It also must be clearly stated that the coordinator of SHARE/WHEEL was involved in all decision-making. As a democratic community, all decisions were made by majority vote at community meetings of TC3 residents.

The engagement process between SU and the TC3 community was positive for the TC3 community. In one article that compared the experience of TC3 at SU with the experience of TC4 in the Eastern part of King County, a resident of Tent City who participated in a panel presentation with Seattle University's president, the county executive and a business leader, stated that "I knew my voice was being heard, which made me feel important" (KOMO Staff & News Services 2005).

One of the most significant outcomes of the TC3 initiative is the planning and hosting of approximately 500 students from around the USA who will attend the 2005 National Student Campaign Against Homelessness and Hunger Conference (11-13 November) by ten SU students (many of whom have now graduated) who formed a student club called Students for Education, Empowerment and Dignity, which will organise and plan the conference. These students were active in the Center for Service and were attending the Regional Conference, which was held in Berkeley, California, in late February. When the organisers heard of the TC3 initiative at Seattle University, the Seattle University students were asked to deliver a presentation on the process. After participating in the conference, the Seattle University students were inspired to develop a proposal to host the national conference. This will be the first time this conference will be held on the west coast and provides the ultimate example of engaging community that resulted from the Seattle University hosting of TC3; the rippling effect has gone beyond everyone's expectation to include students from across the nation who are going to meet to discuss solutions to the complex, and seemingly intractable, issues related to homelessness, hunger and poverty.

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SHARE/WHEEL Tent City 2004c, *Tent City Code of Conduct*, SHARE/WHEEL, Seattle, Washington.

Resources on Tent Cities in the Pacific Northwest area of the USA:

Homeless not Helpless: <<http://anitrweb.org/homelessness/faqs/tentcities.html>>

Eastside Cares: <<http://www.eastsidecares.org/>>

Dignity Village: <<http://dignityvillage.org>>.