Facts About Homeless Youth and Young Adults

- The King County Committee to End Homelessness estimates that between 5,000 and 10,000 youth and young adults experience homelessness each year in King County.¹ On Jan 22, 2014, Count Us In volunteers surveyed more than 1,500 at-risk youth and young adults ages 13-25 who accessed services on that day and counted 779 among them who were unstably housed and/or homeless.² It is estimated that 1,000 youth and young adults are homeless on any given night in King County.³

- In King County, the number of homeless students counted by school districts rose 19% between 2010-11 and 2012-13, from 5,214 to 6,188.⁴

- Family crisis is the most prevalent reason youth and young adults identify for becoming homeless.⁵

- Contrary to popular stereotypes, approximately 70 to 75% of homeless youth are "local kids" who are from the immediately surrounding geographic area.⁶

- 20-40% of homeless youth experience sexual abuse, compared to 1-3% of the general youth population.⁷

- Up to 60% of homeless youth have experience physical abuse in their homes before ending up on the streets.⁸

- 20-50% of homeless youth have been placed in foster care or an institutional setting at some point in their life.⁹

- Up to 40% are LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, or Questioning).¹⁰

- Studies have found high rates of mental problems among homeless youth; mental health issues manifest both as a cause and a consequence of homelessness.¹¹

- Homeless youth are remarkable young people with tremendous futures.

FOOTNOTES:

1. King County Committee to End Homelessness, *Priority Action Steps to Prevent and End Youth and Young Adult Homelessness: An Implementation Plan* (2012)
2. United Way of King County, *Count Us In 2014 Final Report* (March 6, 2014)
3. King County Committee to End Homelessness (see footnote 1)
4. Schoolhouse Washington (assembling publicly available data from school districts across Washington State)
7. *Sexual Abuse Among Homeless Adolescents: Prevalence, Correlates, and Sequelae*