



SAFESTREETS

Oct. 15, 2015

Streets Stories: Social worker helps man get off the street and into treatment

EVERETT – From time to time, we'll share streets reports and successes from our police, social worker and other City staff. Today's story comes from Lauren Rainbow, a Snohomish County social worker embedded with Everett Police:

On Sept. 30, I received a referral from Officer Jack Jessup, who had contacted a 32-year-old man found trespassing near a school. The man, whom we'll call Todd, explained to Officer Jessup that he had been homeless in Everett and addicted to heroin for one year, and that he needed help. Rather than citing him for trespassing, Officer Jessup instead dialed my phone number and handed the phone to him so we could talk. I met with Todd shortly after and together we came up with a plan to get him off the streets and off heroin.

By the end of the day I had secured Todd a detox bed and also placement in a 12-month residential chemical dependency treatment program in Seattle. We transported him to detox the next day, stopping for breakfast on the way there. After he completed his 5-day detox, Sergeant Mike Braley and I picked Todd up and drove him to the treatment center. He already looked better and was smiling when we dropped him off to begin his treatment; he had a really positive outlook about this opportunity for recovery. In this case, we were able to help just by opening doors to services that this man likely would not have found on his own.

Learn more about the [Community Streets Initiative](#) or the [Everett Safe Streets Plan](#).

Learn more:

For more information on the Community Streets Initiative, visit www.everettwa.gov/streetsinitiative.

For more information on the Safe Streets Plan, visit www.everettwa.gov/safestreets.

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