**Sleepless in Seattle 2015 Executive Summary**

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# Mission

1. Meet the immediate needs of people who are homeless in King County through sleeping bags, friendship, and referrals to community services.
2. Develop awareness, sensitivity, and confidence in volunteers.
3. Raise awareness about the challenges people who are homeless within King County face.

# History

* Eddie Wang first became aware of the challenges of homelessness as a freshman at UW in 2010. He started meeting with homeless persons on the streets and serving with ROOTS Young Adult Homeless Shelter. He went on to study Economics and Social Work which heightened his awareness of the needs in the community. Sleeping bags stood out as a key need for the majority of homeless persons who sleep without adequate warmth.
* Eddie brought together a team of volunteers in the fall of 2014 to found Sleepless in Seattle. This [Seattle Times story](http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/showing-seattlersquos-homeless-a-little-warmth/) relays part of that story.
* The team worked together in an entirely volunteer capacity to:
  + Fundraise over $75,000 through an [Indiegogo crowdsourcing campaign](https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/sleepless-in-seattle-seattle-gives-backsleeplessinseattle.org) and other outside donations.
  + Partner with 17 non-profits to raise awareness and distribute sleeping bags.
  + Host a “[Big Give](http://www.komonews.com/news/local/More-than-3200-homeless-in-King-County-rec-285755091.html)” event on 12/13 where 220 volunteers distributed sleeping bags in 50 teams all around the county.
* The Sleepless in Seattle team is currently planning for the 2015 fundraising campaign (10/13/2015-11/6/2015) and Big Give on 11/21/2015.

# Differences from 2014 to 2015

1. **More People –** Since 2014, the number of people sleeping outside [increased 21% in King County](http://www.homelessinfo.org/what_we_do/one_night_count/2015_results.php) to 3,772.
2. **More than Sleeping Bags –** In addition to sleeping bags, the team will purchase 4,000 care packages consisting of warm weather socks, gloves, hats, rain ponchos, water bottle, and 2 granola bars. Volunteers will have the opportunity to add to the care packages with any additional items they so choose.
3. **Improved Big Give Experience –** Feedback from 2014 Big Give volunteers provided valuable insights that will be used to streamline the 2014 experience. Greater emphasis will be placed on training volunteers on who to approach and how to engage with people who are homeless.
4. **Structural Challenges Training –** Greater emphasis will be placed on increasing volunteer awareness of available community resources so that they can refer individuals to appropriate resource centers.
5. **Corporate Partnerships –** With a successful track record from the 2014 Big Give, greater emphasis will be placed on reaching corporations who have a capacity and willingness to provide in-kind support.
6. **Ongoing Opportunities for Engagement –** Following this year’s Big Give, volunteers will have the option to form teams with other volunteers to care for people who are homeless in a specific neighborhood on an extended basis. These volunteers will be supported by one another and be given priority access to SIS resources.

# 2015 Plan

1. **Fundraising (10/13-11/6)**
   1. Fundraising conducted through Indiegogo crowdsourcing campaign & corporate donations.
2. **Big Give (11/21)**
   1. 2:30pm-4pm – volunteer arrival and orientation
   2. 4-8pm – teams released
   3. 8-10pm – volunteer debrief and cleanup
3. **Post-Big Give (11/21~)**
   1. Excess sleeping bags donated to non-profits.
   2. Option for volunteers to join neighborhood groups that will aim to serve people who are homeless in a particular area on a continued basis.

# Team

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# Press from 2014

[Seattle Times - Showing Seattle's homeless a little warmth](http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2025040430_jdlcolumn17xml.html)

[KING 5 / Evening Magazine (TV show) - Seattle man launches campaign to give homeless sleeping bags.](http://www.king5.com/story/entertainment/television/programs/evening-magazine/2014/11/17/sleepless-in-seattle-homeless-sleeping-bags/19196575/)

[KOMO News (Seattle Refined) - Sleepless in Seattle: The movement not the movie](http://www.komonews.com/seattlerefined/lifestyle/Sleepless-in-Seattle-The-movement-not-the-movie-281700211.html)

[KOMO 1000 AM - 4 Minute Interview](http://sleeplessinseattle.org/files/KOMORadioInterviewwithTomandJulie.mp3)

[Mercer Island Reporter - A Warm Place to Sleep](http://www.mi-reporter.com/community/282302141.html)

[Bellevue Reporter - Group hopes to provide warmer nights for King County homeless](http://www.bellevuereporter.com/news/282342941.html)

[Redmond Reporter - Redmond native Wang's Sleepless in Seattle project helps homeless population](http://www.redmond-reporter.com/news/283421601.html)

[NW Asian Weekly - COMMENTARY: Sleepless in Seattle – the city gives back (and bags)](http://www.nwasianweekly.com/2014/11/commentary-sleepless-seattle-city-gives-back-bags/)