## Holiday season opportunities to help an Everett Public Schools "Kid in Transition"

## DID YOU KNOW ...

... there are **almost 1,000 students** currently enrolled in Everett Public Schools who qualify as a "<u>Kid in Transition</u>" (KIT)? This means they are either in foster care, unsheltered (they don't know where they will sleep tonight), doubled-up with another family because they have nowhere else to go, in a temporary shelter, living in a car, or in another unstable home situation. The holidays and cold winter months can be particularly rough on these youth and their families.

Some of these students experiencing homelessness are also "unaccompanied" -- not in the care of a parent or legal guardian. These young people often miss out on community holiday gift or food basket opportunities because they do not have an adult to go shopping for them at Christmas House, or to fill out the required applications for a food basket. They do not have "proof" they live in the required zip codes, as they do not typically have a lease or any identification ... these are the youth who are really "hidden" in homelessness.

Currently, we have identified over 130 students in our Everett Public Schools high schools who are unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY).

The EPS Family Resource Center and KIT Department **need your help** supporting these students and families this holiday season!

## WHAT YOU CAN DO ...

**DONATE** to Washington Kids in Transition, who provides short-term hotel stays for our EPS families in crisis. This is critical during the cold months, when it may be dangerous to live in a car or at a campground. Be sure to **click the Everett button** if you want to directly impact those in the Everett school district area. Recurring donations help to better plan and budget for student needs throughout the year.

**DONATE** a gift card in \$25 or \$50 denominations to the Family Resource Center (FRC) to help send our UHY high schoolers off for winter break feeling better about their holidays. Any excess gift cards will be used by the FRC to meet the needs of EPS families experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

**REMEMBER** that you can donate year-round to the Family Resource Center to meet the needs of our students and families. You can do this by making a one time or recurring donation to our <u>FRC account</u> or by donating <u>specific items</u> needed.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE—ANY AMOUNT HELPS!