

**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION**

Day of Sharing and Caring – Program Update

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**DIRECTION NEEDED FROM COUNCIL****INFORMATION  
ONLY**

Staff will update Council on the Day of Sharing and Caring program. Tonight's update is informational only and no formal action is being requested by Council at this time.

**RECOMMENDATION**

N/A

**BACKGROUND & ANALYSIS**

“Day of Sharing and Caring” is a partnership between the City of Bellevue and Jubilee REACH, a Bellevue-based non-profit. Now entering its twelfth-year, the partnership leverages City resources and the labor of community volunteers, providing transforming one-day yard clean-ups or single-story exterior home painting on up to 20 owner-occupied homes. The program connects vulnerable residents with a community network of resources, creates a “sense of belonging” and increases comfort to age-in-place.

In 2008, the City entered into a partnership with Bellevue First Presbyterian Church and Jubilee Services, recognizing “a mutual community-based interest in addressing the needs of Bellevue property owners who are unable to maintain their homes due to economic and physical limitations.” Since its inception, community volunteers have worked through the Day of Sharing and Caring to improve 164 homes (through 220 projects). Home improvements have included modest home improvements and yard maintenance, removing over 61 tons of green debris. The Memo of Understanding with Jubilee REACH is reviewed every two years.

In 2018, the Day of Sharing and Caring provided improvements on 34 homes. Approximately 80 residents on average submit requests for either painting 45 percent, yardwork 55 percent or both. While the program is free to the resident, extensive tree work, fence replacement or waste disposal fees may be paid by the homeowner.

The Day of Sharing and Caring currently operates over an expanded program schedule (from March to September) and utilizes an average of 500 volunteers, allowing Jubilee REACH to revisit and assist residents from previous years as well as those new to the program. Jubilee REACH also coordinates over 3,000 volunteers on August Service Day assisting Bellevue School District elementary teachers with preparation of their classrooms for the first day of school.

## **Partnership Roles**

The City's primary role is in marketing and promotion. Brochures are designed and printed in-house and the City incurs postage fees to mail brochures to prospective homeowners in need, as well as, promote the community volunteer opportunity. The program is publicized through Neighborhood News, "It's Your City" and City communication channels. Additionally, brochures are provided to Human Services, Development Services (Code), community centers and community partners. The City receives, acknowledges and tracks the applicant response card and provides copies to Jubilee REACH. The City will also contract for dumpsters to assist with removal of organic yard debris where appropriate.

Jubilee REACH is responsible for coordinating a minimum of 10-25 home improvement projects. Jubilee REACH provides follow-up with all interested applicants, evaluates and administers the selection criteria and provides the volunteer labor and materials required for the successful completion of each identified home improvement project.

Jubilee REACH provides a project manager for each site and is solely responsible for the volunteer participants, the workmanship for each home improvement project, and for all work necessary to complete each project. There are some home improvement projects, however, that are excluded from consideration, including; asbestos abatement, lead-based paint removal, pesticide/herbicide application, and removal/ disposal of household hazardous waste.

## **Program Impact**

Day of Sharing and Caring helps residents who have pride of home ownership, but due to financial hardship, medical conditions, caregiving or age, have become overwhelmed by the demands of outside home maintenance. For these homeowners, community volunteers have provided a measure of relief and a tangible expression of neighbors caring for neighbors.

Since 2008, over 115 homes have received yard cleanups including hauling of debris to the transfer station, coordination of removal of hazardous waste, and assistance with donation of vehicles that are no longer operational. Approximately 40 single story homes have been painted. Countless applicants have received handyman services such as fence, deck, railing repair and power washing. Through this program, residents have been connected to the City's Home Repair Program. Additionally, many residents opted-in to receive information about other resources for assistance such as Sound Generations "Minor Home Repair Program" for inside improvements.

The Day of Sharing and Caring is a program of community caring. It is to this community that the residents turn in times of both additional assistance with their homes and for connection during pivotal moments in their lives. Programs such as this can extend the time that many older residents remain in their homes and age-in-place.

## **POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS**

### **Policy Impact**

Bellevue is a community of diverse and vibrant neighborhoods. Bellevue residents live in a variety of distinctive, safe and attractive neighborhoods that provide amenities and opportunities for a high quality of life. The Neighborhoods Element within Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan addresses the importance of

the strength of the fabric of social connectivity amongst neighbors in recognizing the need and caring for the City's most vulnerable populations.

**Fiscal Impact**

The City promotes the program and partnership to residents and will also contract for dumpsters to assist with removal of organic yard debris where appropriate. The City's annual program budget will not exceed \$10,000.

The program is free; eligibility is need-based.

**OPTIONS**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS**

A. Description of Community Impact – Provided by Jubilee REACH

**AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY**

N/A