



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PUBLIC SAFETY TAX FUNDS TO ASSIST SAFE HARBOR – MY FRIENDS’ PLACE

Media Announcement Event to be held August 3, 2016 at 2 p.m. at
Safe Harbor Support Center, 1111 N. Grant Place, Kennewick

Kennewick, WA – Benton County has signed a service contract with Safe Harbor Support Center to provide funds to the My Friends’ Place Overnight Emergency Youth Shelter in return for services. Benton County will be contracting with Safe Harbor Support Center to compensate a total of \$123,850.00 to be prorated monthly, for August 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018.

Media Event

A media announcement event has been scheduled for Wednesday, August 3 at 2 p.m. to be held at Safe Harbor Support Center, 1111 N. Grant Place, Kennewick.

Use of Funds

Following passage of the public safety tax, My Friends’ Place instituted a temporary pilot program for case management services. Funding from the public safety tax will allow My Friend’s Place to refine their case management program and implement a stable system for case management services. Compensation provided via the contract will fund the wages of a case manager and outreach services, as well as drop in services such as food, laundry, bus passes, hygiene kits, and tutoring materials. Numerous studies have found that homeless teens are at high risk to commit crime and be a victim of crime. The case management services funded by the public safety tax are designed to prevent crime and reduce these risks.

About My Friend’s Place

My Friends’ Place is a program under Safe Harbor Support Center, which keeps at risk children ages three to 17 years safe by providing supportive services. My Friends’ Place is Southeastern Washington’s first safe overnight sanctuary for homeless teens, age 13 to 17 years. Safe Harbor is “committed to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing a safe and nurturing

environment for children and teens when there are no other alternatives.” Safe Harbor also provides outreach and training to families to assist in establishing a safe and stable environment.

Public Safety Tax Background

In August, 2014, the citizens of Benton County approved Proposition 14-5, a 3/10 of one percent sales and use tax, pursuant to RCW 82.14.450, applicable to most sales and use registrations, within Benton County. Expenditures are managed independently by Benton County and the cities within Benton County, for their respective shares of Public Safety Sales Tax revenue.

About Benton County

Benton County is located in south-central Washington. The county seat is located in Prosser, and its largest city is Kennewick. Benton County was created on March 8, 1905 and was named after U.S. Senator Thomas Hart Benton. Benton County operates under the plural executive form of government with three commissioners and seven other elected officials. Benton County has offices located in Prosser, Kennewick, and Richland. For more information, please visit www.co.benton.wa.us.

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