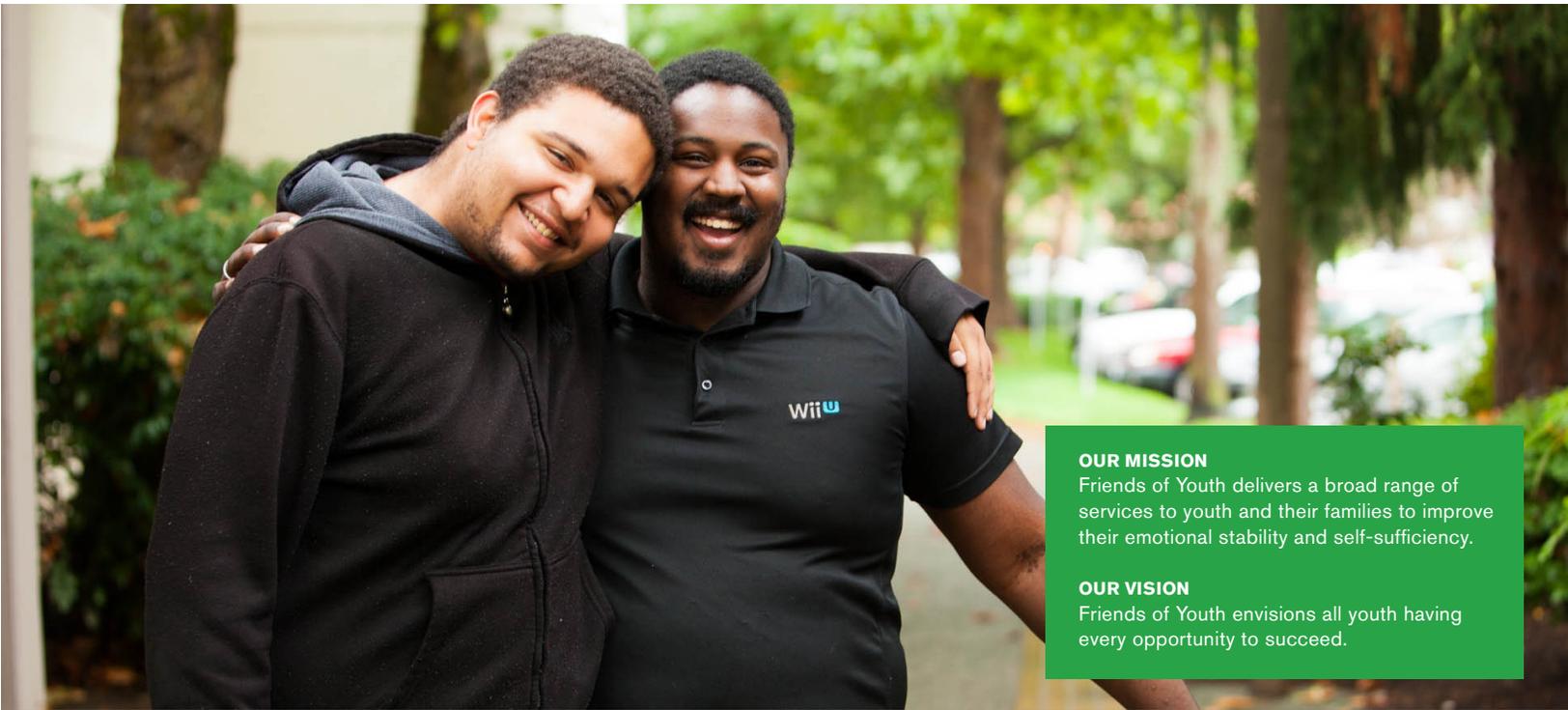


FRIENDS OF YOUTH FORUM



OUR MISSION

Friends of Youth delivers a broad range of services to youth and their families to improve their emotional stability and self-sufficiency.

OUR VISION

Friends of Youth envisions all youth having every opportunity to succeed.

Keeping Kids Safe When Crisis Strikes

Safe Place, a crisis response and intervention program for homeless and runaway youth, is a collaborative county effort of three agencies: Auburn Youth Resources, Friends of Youth, and YouthCare. We work closely with community businesses and organizations to respond when a youth in crisis needs help.

Friends of Youth's Safe Place coordinator, Courtney, recently received a call from a counselor at our Issaquah office who was with a youth who didn't feel safe going home. Courtney spoke with "Mark," a 17-year-old struggling with safety at home due to rising tensions with his father and they talked for a while. Before picking Mark up, Courtney called the two under 18 shelters in King County to see if there was an open bed. Our shelter, Youth Haven, had an opening. She then called a Safe Place volunteer. As a safety precaution, any Friends of Youth staff member responding to a crisis must be accompanied by another employee or volunteer. Volunteers are vital to Safe Place.

Courtney and the volunteer drove to Issaquah to meet Mark and his counselor. While Mark spoke to Youth Haven on the phone, Courtney spoke with his counselor. She revealed that Mark's father had physically assaulted Mark during an argument that morning, and noted she had already made a CPS report on the incident.

Youth Haven is required to run a background check and contact the guardian for permission before granting admittance. While they waited to hear back, Courtney and the volunteer bought Mark some dinner at McDonald's and talked about school, music, and sports. Once Courtney learned that Mark had been granted a shelter bed for the night and he finished his meal, they drove to our shelter.

Because of Safe Place, Mark had a warm bed and safety in a crisis. He didn't end up on the streets. With the help of a supportive community, kids across the county know there's a 'Safe Place' when they need it. To learn more about our Safe Place program, visit our webpage at www.friendsofyouth.org.

CEO COLUMN: IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK

As I return to Friends of Youth, I've had the opportunity to listen to our staff as they share the shining moments they've experienced in the last six months. I have heard many stories of success that reinforce for me the importance of the work we do, and the professionalism, and heart our staff members bring to their job each day.

Challenges remain, however.

A challenge keenly felt by the homeless young adults accessing our overnight shelter, the Landing, are the negative assumptions the community can make about them. Did you know that most of our guests are working or in school, and doing all that they can to permanently exit homelessness? One of our guests eloquently describes the struggle they experience:

"We come from backgrounds that most people can't even imagine... there's a story behind [every guest] and that's where you learn not to judge. I've met tons of people coming from rape backgrounds and running from abusive families and drug families and all types of crazy things. They're here because they want to do better and move on with their lives. I myself can speak from that because that's why I'm here."

In the months and years ahead, we will be working to address the needs of our youth and helping to amplify their voices. All of our youth have a tough journey to make, from challenging circumstances to brighter futures. Join us as we walk the path with them—we need your help. Together, we can be the caring community that all young people need and deserve.

It's good to be back with you!



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

We Couldn't Do It Without You

Eastside Baby Corner

Eastside BabyCorner distributes children's and maternity items to families across our region, partnering with nearly every organization helping families in our community. Families at three of our housing programs – New Ground Avondale Park, New Ground Bothell, and Francis Village – benefit from our collaboration with Eastside BabyCorner. Every week, families at these sites order items that are essential to improving the lives of their children, including: formula, clothing, beds, toys, and more. Friends of Youth is extremely grateful for our partnership with Eastside BabyCorner and cannot thank them enough for their hard work and dedication!

Farms4Life

Farms4Life supports Friends of Youth by providing fresh produce and delicious recipes each week during the summer to three of our housing programs: New Ground Totem Lake, Youth Haven, and New Roads Kingsgate. These wonderful vegetables help to diversify the diets of the youth and young adults we serve and give them an opportunity to try new things such as beets and turnips!

Saint Brendan Catholic Church

Each Thursday, St. Brendan Catholic Church in Bothell provides a delicious home cooked meal to our young adult shelter, The Landing, as well as our transitional living program, New Ground Totem Lake. They are a pleasure to work with and we know that we can count on their generosity each week to help feed the youth and young adults we serve.

Starfire Sports

For the past six years, students at Griffin Home's "Amigos de Jovenes School" have had the privilege of playing soccer at the professional indoor soccer fields at Starfire Sports Complex in Tukwila. This weekly physical educational enrichment activity is the highlight of the week for our students. Not only do they get to play their favorite sport (soccer) on one of the best indoor fields in the Seattle area, they also have the opportunity to see and talk with the players and coaches from the Seattle Sounders team who use Starfire as their practice facility. This experience provides students with the opportunity to feel included in our community, as well as fostering their hopes and dreams to develop their skills as soccer players.

SUPPORTING

Immigrant & Refugee Youth

Since 2009, Friends of Youth has been providing support and shelter to immigrant and refugee youth. Our partner in this work is Lutheran Community Services NW (LCSNW). Our partnership began in August of 2009 when we opened El Puente, a staffed residential program for 5 unaccompanied immigrant youth ages 14 to 17 located on our Griffin Home campus. New Roads Renton opened its doors just three years later in 2012, welcoming young men aging out of the foster care system and offering supportive services for youth through the age of 20. Friends of Youth and LCSNW continue their partnership with the newly opened New Roads Kingsgate, two new homes on our Kirkland campus where 10 refugee and immigrant youth and young adults find the guidance and support they need as they journey to adulthood.

In addition to offering life skills training and educational support, these programs offer individualized services and mental health counseling. Many of the youth served in our programs have been through traumatic and

harrowing experiences that separated them from their families and their country of origin. Our dedicated staff works closely with the youth to develop life skills, increase English language proficiency, and encourage community integration. We look forward to continuing to serve this group of resilient young men and have enjoyed seeing many of them leave our programs with jobs, on track to obtain high school diplomas and preparing for bright futures ahead.



CLARK NUBER Donor Spotlight

Clark Nuber, the sixth largest accounting firm in the Seattle metropolitan area, designated Friends of Youth as the charitable organization recipient for their February Denim Days donations. Denim Days is a monthly opportunity for employees to contribute to a selected nonprofit by donating a minimum of \$10 to wear jeans on Friday, just one aspect of Clark Nuber's "Caring, Serving, Giving" initiative. We appreciate all the care they have given to our community and are grateful for their generosity. Corporate involvement is key to the success of our agency, and we are delighted by the creative way in which Clark Nuber has chosen to spread the word about Friends of Youth and support our mission.

Clark Nuber ^{PS}

TOOLS 4 SCHOOL

Backpack Supply Drive

Tools 4 Schools provides backpacks and school supplies to children and teens in the Issaquah area. It is a partnership between non-profits, service groups, and churches, and is coordinated by the Issaquah Schools Foundation. Families that are interested in receiving supplies for their children must pre-register through the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank at www.issaquahfoodbank.org. All items will be given out at the Tools 4 Schools event on Saturday, August 22nd from 10am-3pm at Eastridge Church, 243205 SE Issaquah Fall City Road. If you are interested in donating to the drive please visit www.isfdn.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Get Involved!

Outreach Volunteers Needed

Our Outreach Program helps runaway and homeless youth find safety and stability by connecting them to basic needs for food, first aid, and clothing and case management resources so they can rebuild their lives. The Street Outreach Volunteer works as part of a team to develop community awareness through weekly visits to places where at-risk and homeless youth congregate. Shifts run M-F, 2:30pm-5:30pm and volunteers need to be at least 21 years of age or older.

Milieu Volunteers Needed

The newest transitional home for young adults in Kirkland is looking to recruit milieu volunteers to help out with the day to day activities at the program site. A milieu volunteer assists the staff by interacting and socializing with residents, playing board games, watching movies, and/or leading a fun activity. Shifts run M/W/F 5:00pm-8:00pm and T/Th 12:00pm-9:00pm in three hour increments.

If you are interested in volunteering at Friends of Youth, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 425-869-6490 x309 or volunteer@friendsofyouth.org.



13116 NE 132nd Street, Kirkland WA 98034
(425) 869-6490 info@friendsofyouth.org

Join Us

AUGUST

School Supply Drive Aug. 1-15

We are collecting back-to-school supplies for the children we support in our Youth and Family Services program and our boys at Griffin Home. In Issaquah, we are participating in the Tools 4 School drive. Items can be dropped off during business hours at:

Kirkland: 13116 NE 132nd St
Issaquah: 414 Front St N
Duvall: 26420 NE Virginia St
Snoqualmie: 7972 Maple Ave SE

SEPTEMBER

National Recovery Month

Recovery Month promotes the importance of prevention, treatment, and recovery for mental health and substance abuse disorders. Learn more at recoverymonth.gov.

Day of Caring

Want to be part of the biggest volunteer event of the year? Sign up to participate and make a difference in Snohomish County at www.uwsc.org or King County at www.uwkc.org.

OCTOBER

Issaquah Salmon Days Oct. 3-4

Salmon Days, a community celebration, is presented by the Issaquah Chamber of Commerce. Visit us at our booth as you celebrate the annual return of the salmon.

Rise & Thrive Fundraising Breakfast

Riverview - Oct. 28

Please join us to support school counseling services for youth in the Riverview School District Community.

NOVEMBER

Rise & Thrive Fundraising Breakfast Snoq. Valley - Nov. 3

Please join us to support school counseling services for youth in the Snoqualmie Valley School District Community. RSVP at community.friendsofyouth.org/pages/events-general/yfsbreakfasts

Thanksgiving Supply Drive - through Nov. 13

Give thanks by donating to our Thanksgiving Food Basket Programs.

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