

Give Today

October 2017



The Profound Impact of 100-Days



As challenges go this was not one for the faint-of-heart. Three counties in our state (King, Pierce, and Spokane) accepted the challenge to house as many youth and young adults possible. Supported by [A Way Home Washington](#) and funded by the [Schultz Family Foundation](#) and the [Raikes Foundation](#) Friends of Youth was on the King County team.

The kickoff event in April set the clock running. Our team set a lofty goal to not only house an unprecedented number of young adults, but we also committed to addressing

disproportionality by ensuring 60% of those housed identified as LGBTQ+ or as people of color.

When the final day arrived King County had housed 330 youth and young adults, Pierce County -168 and Spokane -100 — a total of 615 youth all together.

"We are proud to have taken part in the 100-Day Challenges," says Friends of Youth CEO, Terry Pottmeyer, "It was an all-out effort to find immediate housing for homeless youth. We will apply the lessons learned during the 100-Day Challenges to our work to make sure NO youth spends even one night unsheltered in our communities."

Now comes the task of putting what we have learned into action and to continue those conversations with other community organizations about how we can work together to end youth homelessness.

Friends of Youth sends a special shoutout to two of our team members who supported the challenge: Karina Woodruff Wiggins, Senior Project Manager for Shelter, Outreach and Support and Derek Wentorf, Director of Homeless Youth Services. It took an extraordinary effort to achieve our 100 Day goals and we are grateful for Karina and Derek's dedication.

Check and Connect... for Kids



As a new middle school student "Amanda" was struggling. She wasn't completing her school work and she wasn't getting along with classmates. Her school referred Amanda to the Friends of Youth **Check and Connect** program. Through the program Amanda was partnered with an adult mentor who would check in with her -- monitoring her grades, but also her social and emotional behavior. The mentor would then connect with her -- creating personalized ways Amanda could solve problems and figure out strategies for coping with the challenges that inevitably crop up in middle school. As a sixth grader Amanda had a hard time studying for tests and often didn't do well.

At the start of 7th grade Amanda became more determined, telling her Check & Connect mentor she was going to really make an effort to get all her work done. Amanda used her planner, stayed organized, studied for tests, and for most of the year turned in all of her assignments. At the end of 7th grade Amanda told her mentor that 6th grade had been a bad year, but 7th grade was a good year. Amanda's mentor nominated her for "Student of the Month" in June.

It's stories like Amanda's that make us realize the importance of programs like **Check & Connect**. The evidence-based Dropout Prevention Program works hard to make sure students stay on the

right path and stay in school. But it's not just academic progress mentors are interested in, it's also the social and emotional behavior of the students.

But the program is short funding and right now we need to find \$20,000 to fund the rest of the program through the end of 2018. Your donation can make all the difference to students like Amanda.

Contact devsupport@friendsofyouth.org to make a contribution. Everything helps.

There's a Lot Going On This Fall at Friends of Youth

Sign Up and Join us at One of Our Upcoming Events



Youth and Family Services Breakfasts: Our Friends of Youth Breakfasts are just around the corner. Rise and shine to support students in three school Districts: Snoqualmie Valley on October 25th, Riverview on November 1st, and Issaquah on November 8th. We can't wait to have coffee with you. Click [here](#) to register.

Friends of Youth Foundation Legacy Event: Come and join us in the garden for the Friends of Youth Foundation Legacy Event on Monday October 16th. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Learn How To Become a Respite Foster Parent: Can you foster a child for a weekend and give our foster parents a break? Attend our information night on October 24th from 6pm-7pm at Friends of Youth, 13116 NE 132nd Street in Kirkland.

Keep In Touch with Friends of Youth

With so much happening at Friends of Youth, we have many ways for you to keep up with the latest news.

Love working with youth? Learn how you can [join our team!](#)

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