



Friends of Youth

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April 2014

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April 17th - Join Us for a Special Celebration

We're Helping End Homelessness

Count Us In, the annual one night count of homeless youth in our community, identified 779 homeless and unstably housed youth on January 22, 2014. Friends of Youth is working hard with our partners to get that number to zero, and one way we'll achieve is to build and open more housing for youth in need.

We are so pleased to announce that on April 17th, at noon, we will be cutting the ribbon on two new homes that will provide safe spaces, support and hope for ten homeless young adults. Join First Lady Trudi Inslee, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Representative Roger Goodman, Kirkland Mayor Amy Walen, and many others as we celebrate the official opening of this much needed housing.

We're Preventing Homelessness for Foster Youth

Each year 500 youth in our state 'age out' of foster care and 35% will face housing instability or homelessness before they turn 19. Fewer than 44% will graduate from high school. We can, and must, do more to support our foster youth. The recent expansion of extended foster care, for foster youth 18-21, gives Friends of Youth and the entire community a new way to support our foster youth. On April 17th, while cutting the ribbon on our homeless housing, we will also break ground on two new homes to support foster youth in Extended Foster Care. These homes will open for ten youth in extended care as they pursue employment and education opportunities and become self-sufficient adults.

Join us for the celebration, RSVP to info@friendsofyouth.org.



Our brand new transitional living homes are undergoing the final stages of construction and will be completely finished for our celebration on April 17.

From Few Options to Independent Success

At just 19 years of age, Ricardo has already endured many challenges in coming to America from Mexico. As a homeless youth speaking only Spanish, he found refuge in a Seattle shelter and was then referred to Griffin Home for treatment and housing. At Griffin Home, Ricardo displayed a determination to succeed and move toward independence. He responded well to his treatment, applied himself academically and dramatically improved his English. In addition, he learned and demonstrated independent living skills, marking his readiness to move on.

His next move was to our New Ground Everett transitional living home, where he began attending Cascade High School. Ricardo excelled, receiving one of Cascade's Most Outstanding English Language Learners awards as well as the Snohomish County Youth Challenge Award. He began working as a dish washer in Mill Creek, attending New Ground's Saturday night activities whenever he wasn't working. Ricardo was a model resident during his year and a half stay at New Ground. Now, Ricardo has his own place to live, is employed and living independently. We are so proud of Ricardo and were honored to work with him on his journey to independence.

We Love Our Volunteers!

On Tuesday, May 13, 2014 from 5:30 - 7:00 PM, please join us as we acknowledge and celebrate our volunteers at an awards ceremony. We will be honoring the people who support us with their donation of time. We hope to see you there.

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:

Sign up for our e-mail list [here](#).

[Mailing list](#) – sign up for our quarterly newsletter

[Blog](#) – get in-depth blog posts delivered directly to your inbox

[Facebook](#) – find us and "like" us

[Twitter](#) – breaking news

[LinkedIn](#) – business news and announcements

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