



# Friends of Youth

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December 2013

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## #GivingTuesday

Friends of Youth is joining nonprofits across the country on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the second annual #GivingTuesday, a day of giving to kick off the holiday season.

You can get your #GivingTuesday off to a great start by joining us at our Issaquah Youth and Family Services breakfast at the Pickering Barn, where we'll be raising awareness about the importance of counseling support for youth in our Issaquah School District community. Register online [here](#). Doors open at 7am and the event starts at 7:30.

If you can't get to Issaquah, consider a drive past our Kirkland site, where you might be surprised to see a 'flamboyance' of supporters helping us get the word out about the joy of giving. Join in the giving this holiday season. Learn more at [givingtuesday.org](#).

## Baby, It's Cold Outside

The weather has definitely gotten colder, and the number of young adults seeking shelter at our Landing shelter, the only one on the Eastside, has increased. Almost every night we must hold a lotto to fairly assign scarce shelter beds. Many nights we have to turn several youth away. Sometimes we can find a place for a youth in another shelter, but just as often there is no alternative except to sleep outside.

In the past months more of our youth have been unable to find safe shelter. In response, the City of Redmond is planning to make an emergency allocation of funds to Friends of Youth to increase the number of beds at the Landing, from 15 to 20, during the cold winter months.

We are so grateful to the City of Redmond for its compassionate and caring response to youth homelessness and its partnership with Friends of Youth in making sure every young person has a safe place to sleep.

## Giving Tree

Each year, Friends of Youth partners with local companies, merchants and friends to brighten the holidays for a child in our care. Our **Giving Trees** can be found in many places, including Microsoft, Swedish Medical Center Issaquah, Bellevue Christian School and University Village. Trees are decorated with tags that describe a holiday wish from a child in need. Take a tag, purchase the item and return it (unwrapped) to the designated location before December 20<sup>th</sup>. We'll make sure it gets delivered to one of the 4800+ served by Friends of Youth. Thank you for brightening the holidays for our kids!

## Upcoming Events

### **Holiday Volunteers Needed**

If you're available, and eager to help celebrate the holidays with kids in need, we need you! From December 13th through the 21st, we'll need enthusiastic volunteers to help us pick up gifts, wrap presents, organize donations, and provide snacks and cookies for our Giving Tree "elves". If you or a group would like to help, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Will Lemke, at [volunteer@friendsofyouth.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofyouth.org).

## **Celebration of Youth**

Save the Date for our 9th Annual Celebration of Youth Luncheon. **Friday March 7, 2013 at the Bellevue Westin, 11:30 to 1 PM.** To volunteer to be a Table Captain, or to learn more, e-mail [info@friendsofyouth.org](mailto:info@friendsofyouth.org) or call (425) 869-6490.

## **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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