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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Friends of Youth Celebrates Construction of Four New Homes for Youth

Kirkland, WA—Friends of Youth celebrated another step forward in its journey to fully respond to youth homelessness today, cutting the ribbon on two new homes for homeless youth ages 16 to 22, and breaking ground on two new homes for foster youth ages 18 to 21 in the extended foster care program.

Friends of Youth President & CEO Terry Pottmeyer thanked the standing room only crowd for their support of the agency’s vision to create a world where all youth have every opportunity to succeed.

“The four new homes we celebrate today will become a landing pad where homeless and foster youth will find a place of refuge and growth, and a launching pad where those same young people will leave us for stable, independent, and successful futures”.

First Lady Trudi Inslee, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Kirkland Mayor Amy Walen and State Representative Roger Goodman and a host of other officials were on hand for the celebration, which took place at Friends of Youth’s Kirkland campus, 13116 N.E. 132nd Street.

Representative Goodman noted that the rainy day was a fitting backdrop for the event, as the homes would provide a safe, warm and dry alternative for youth living on the streets. First Lady Inslee remarked that these homes, and programs, should be available in every community across our state and issued a call to action to the attendees to make this a reality, eradicating homelessness for young people in Washington.

The first homes will open for residents in June, 2014, while the extended foster care homes are slated for completion and occupancy before the end of the year.

**Friends of Youth** delivers a comprehensive range of therapeutic services for youth, young adults and families. With over 60 years of experience, national accreditation and 20 program sites, the agency provides safe places to live and emotional support for youth and families in challenging circumstances.

For more information, visit [www.friendsofyouth.org](http://www.friendsofyouth.org).

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**Photo cut lines: Photos credit © Friends of Youth**

Elected officials join Friends of Youth officials to cut the ribbon for Friends of Youth's new transitional living homes for homeless youth.

From left: State Senator Andy Hill, Kirkland City Councilmember Doreen Marchione, Bellevue City Councilmember Lynne Robinson, King County Councilmember Jane Hague, Kirkland Mayor Amy Walen, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Washington state First Lady Trudi Inslee, Medina Mayor Michael Luis, State Representative Roger Goodman, Friends of Youth President and CEO Terry Pottmeyer, State Representative Larry Springer, Friends of Youth Board Chair Nick Merriam, King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert and King County Councilmember Rod Dembowski.

