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Friends of Youth Breakfast Supports Counseling in Snoqualmie Valley School District

North Bend, WA— Friends of Youth held its second annual Youth and Family Services Breakfast yesterday at Meadowbrook Farm to support counseling for youth in the Snoqualmie Valley schools.

City of Snoqualmie Mayor Matthew Larson emceed the event, and Snoqualmie Valley School District Superintendent Joel Aune spoke about the community's shared commitment and responsibility to support its youth. As Mr. Aune noted, "our youth face many pressures and challenges as they grow and work towards independence. Friends of Youth counselors provide a much needed resource critical for many kids to strive and flourish – academically, socially, and emotionally."

Community leaders John Belcher, Principal of Mount Si High School, and Phoebe Terhaar, Prevention Counselor of the Snoqualmie Valley School District, delivered a joint keynote address, focusing on the important role that in-school counseling plays in promoting positive outcomes for students. As a testament to the effectiveness of in-school counselors, Friends of Youth client Sarah Cloes shared her story of hope and transformation through working with Friends of Youth's Youth and Family Services counseling program.

"In a high school of 900 students, it's easy to fall into the cracks and be forgotten," said Miss Cloes. "Friends of Youth paid attention, cared about me and showed me a different way."

At last year's breakfast, the agency raised enough money to increase its in-school mental health and substance abuse treatment services in both Mount Si High School and Two Rivers School. With funds raised from today's breakfast, Friends of Youth hopes to continue to support students during school.

"Our in-school counselors provide vital support for students struggling with depression, anxiety, and substance abuse," said Friends of Youth President & CEO Terry Pottmeyer. "We have been providing counseling services in this community for over 22 years, and with the generous support of the community, we will continue to build our supportive services for youth."

Friends of Youth provides a comprehensive range of therapeutic services for youth, young adults and their families to improve their emotional stability and self-sufficiency. With 63 years of experience, 25 program sites and services in 18 cities, we provide safe places and emotional support for youth facing challenging circumstances. Our vision is that all youth have every opportunity to succeed, and our services are designed to fulfill that vision. For more information, visit www.friendsofyouth.org.

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Snoqualmie Valley School District Superintendent Joel Aune discusses the importance of Youth and Family Service counselors.



Friends of Youth client Sarah Cloes (right) is pictured with a Friends of Youth counselor from which she received support and encouragement.



Friends of Youth President & CEO Terry Pottmeyer and City of Snoqualmie Mayor Matthew Larson celebrate the generous support of the community.

