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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### Friends of Youth Honors Three Retiring Board Members

Kirkland, WA— At the agency’s monthly Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, June 24, Friends of Youth honored three retiring board members – Jeff Barager, Nick Merriam, and Rick Antezana – who each completed their sixth and final year of service. During the past six years, all three board members helped to advance the agency’s mission of delivering a broad range of services to youth and their families to improve their emotional stability and self-sufficiency.

- **Jeff Barager** is the Strategic Program Lead for the Gates Archive, and he served as Vice-chair of the Board for three years. As a drummer in a local band, Jeff and his band held a benefit concert to raise proceeds for the Friends of Youth capital campaign that funded the development of the Kirkland Campus.
- **Nick Merriam**, who worked at a Friends of Youth housing program early in his career, is currently the Director of Operations of Vittana – a Seattle-based organization that specializes in international microfinance loans for students. During his last year of service on the Board, Nick served as Chair, providing leadership for the Board’s work.
- **Rick Antezana** is the Vice President of Dynamic Language Center. Rick’s company has helped support the agency’s interpretation efforts to make services more accessible for non-English speaking clients. Rick was also instrumental in organizing a Thanksgiving food program that provided Thanksgiving meals to clients at Friends of Youth’s housing programs.

“The commitment demonstrated by Rick, Jeff, and Nick over the six years of their board service is inspiring,” said Friends of Youth President and CEO Terry Pottmeyer. “We are so grateful for their leadership, service, and heart for children.”

**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, 22 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](http://www.friendsofyouth.org).

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

Photo of Jeff Barager



Photo of Nick Merriam



Photo of Rick Antezana

