



Holiday Giving Brings Hope and a Helmet

As the year ended, we shared the impact that receiving a bicycle as a gift can have on a child. Many of you responded with generous donations and stories of your own.

Thank you—your partnership makes our work possible.

Just before Christmas, a very special donor made a bike donation directly to a foster family connected to Friends of Youth. Their story moved us, and we wanted to share it with you. Here is what happened:

One of our foster parents received a call just before the holidays. It was from one of her former foster children, 'Sally'. Sally is now the mother of two small children, and, at 18, just barely out of care herself. She didn't have any Christmas gifts for her little ones, aged 2 and 3, and wondered if her former foster mother had any ideas of who she could turn to for assistance? Her foster mother thought of Friends of Youth, and called us.

When our Foster Care Assistant Director got the call she said she'd see what we could do.

The next day another family also called Friends of Youth. Grandmother Carol had given her ten year old granddaughter Cate some money for Christmas, and Cate wanted to spend it on gifts for other children. She wondered if we had any ideas for her.

We sure did.

Cate used her money to purchase gifts for Sally's children, including a bicycle and helmet for the 3 year old.

Sally's former foster parent wrote the following email to Cate, Carol and Cate's mother Eileen:

I am the former foster parent for the mother you donated gifts to. While I cannot tell you the specifics of her case, I will tell you that I work with teenagers who come into the system for significant reasons. The girls I have worked with have NO families and when they age out of foster care, they are essentially on their own. I try to maintain contact with them so they have someone they can call when they need to.

This mother you donated gifts to had a very hard upbringing, yet she is one of the sweetest girls deep down inside and just wants to be a good mother to her little boys. It is very hard to be 18 and age out of foster care, but with two small children it is even harder.

But she is doing a good job. She called me and asked if I knew any agencies that could help her with Christmas gifts. I contacted Friends of Youth, the private agency that I work with (they place foster children in my home) and asked if they had any suggestions. Shawn at Friends of Youth is always so helpful. The very next day you contacted Friends of Youth and offered help.

I don't know if you believe in God or Christmas miracles but I do, and I want you to know that you saved Christmas for this little family. On Friday I delivered the gifts to this mother. She has a small tidy apartment with very little furniture. There was a small Christmas tree in the corner and now it will have many presents underneath tomorrow morning. The mother was very, very happy and grateful and said what a blessing this was. I actually have never seen her this happy and grateful. Some of these kids do not know that there are nice people in the world. You are helping to change that.

I want also to say that I am extremely impressed with Cate who donated her own money to this family. She must be such a special girl to be so giving and loving at her age. She made a HUGE difference for this family and I hope she knows that this is what makes our world a better place. We have to keep loving each other and accepting people and helping where we can. God bless Cate and your family.

Merry Christmas!

As the holiday season ends, and a new year begins, our spirits are lifted by our donors, Cate, Carol, Eileen and YOU. Together, we are offering friendship and hope and help to young people across our community. Thank you.

Happy New Year!



Celebration of Youth Luncheon

Don't miss our 13th Annual Celebration of Youth luncheon March 9th at the Hyatt Regency in Bellevue.

To sign up as a Table Captain, or to become a sponsor, contact 425.869.6490 x308, or jackie@friendsofyouth.org.

[RSVP here.](#)



Celebration of Youth

2018 ANNUAL LUNCHEON

MARCH 9, 2018

Registration: 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Luncheon: 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

HYATT REGENCY BELLEVUE

900 Bellevue Way NE

Bellevue, WA 98004

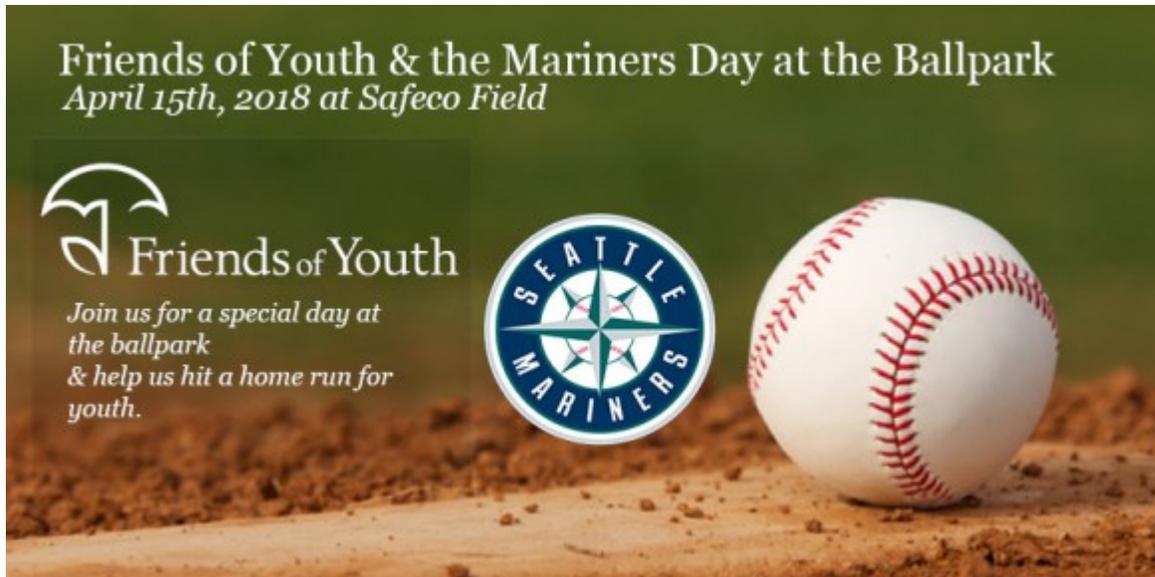
Special Guest: Former First Lady Mona Locke

MC: Molly Shen, Emmy award winning journalist

To sign up as a Table Captain, or for more information, please call
(425) 869-6490 x317 or e-mail jackie@friendsofyouth.org.

RSVP: events@friendsofyouth.org by February 23rd, 2018

Play Ball with Friends of Youth & The Mariners



We realize we are still a few months away from opening day with the Seattle Mariners, but excitement is building and even in these chilly Winter months we are getting Spring Fever!

That's because Friends of Youth and the Mariners are teaming up for a special day at the ballpark. Buy tickets to the Mariners vs. the Oakland A's on April 15th and a percentage of your ticket purchase will go directly to our kids.

You can find tickets at www.mariners.com/friendsofyouth Promo code: friends

Join us as we cheer on the home team at Safeco Field on April 15th and let's all hit a homerun for our youth.

Shop and Support Friends of Youth

Did you know if you shop through our [Amazon Smile link](#) then a percentage of what you purchase will go towards Friends of Youth. Check out our [Friends of Youth Wish Lists](#) while you are making your online purchases as well!



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.

Love working with youth? Learn how you can [join our team!](#)

Sign up for our [quarterly newsletter](#).



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