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Kirkland Youth Services Center Debuts



We welcomed dozens of old friends and new neighbors to our new Youth Services Center in Kirkland on a very sunny Friday, March 29, as we unveiled our new “heart” of our organization. Our newly painted facility, surrounded by just-planted trees and landscaping, is the result of years of planning, fund-raising and design work. Now home to counseling and housing support programs, administrative offices, meeting spaces and storage for donated program supplies, the facility is the first phase of a campus development that soon will include a new Youth Haven home for ages 11-17 as well as new transitional housing.

Kirkland Mayor Joan McBride, a former staff member at Friends of Youth, welcomed the organization to Kirkland. King County Councilmember Kathy Lambert congratulated Friends of Youth on their commitment to fully address youth homelessness on the Eastside.

Friends of Youth CEO, Terry Pottmeyer, thanked and recognized the partners who brought the new facility to life: Lewis Architects, Scott Construction and Common Ground Affordable Housing Solutions.

Friends of Youth Board Chair, Phil Crocker, thanked donors and supporters who have contributed to the Capital Campaign to build the Kirkland Campus.



Street Outreach Program Needs You

Friends of Youth's Street Outreach Program is a critical safety net in our community, connecting runaway and homeless youth with food, water, survival supplies and access to crucial resources. Our street outreach is led by a two-person team with experience interacting with at-risk youth. The team completes a van circuit of more than 50 miles to 15 Eastside cities each week to connect with runaway, homeless and street youth in places where they are known to congregate, such as libraries, skate parks and transit centers. Our van is equipped with food and survival supplies to share, and used to transport youth in crisis to shelters, health clinics and other service providers.

Last year our program supplied 729 snack packs (including food and water); 654 items of clothing, raingear and shoes; 510 hygiene products and first aid supplies; and 1,810 bus tickets. We recently learned that a major portion of our funding for this critical program was not renewed. We have been seeking new partners and donors to help us continue this work to keep young people safe. To [donate](#) or to learn more, visit us at our [Street Outreach page](#).

Celebration of Youth Luncheon Hosts 600 in Bellevue



Friends of Youth graduate, Jenny Villalobos (right) and her 4-year-old daughter, Emily, and Friends of Youth Program Manager for Housing Support Services, Amanda Launay. Photo by Randell Walton.

Moving testimonials of transformed lives highlighted the eighth annual Celebration of Youth luncheon on Friday, March 15. Graduates and participants in Friends of Youth's programs, both new

time Issaquah resident, Steve Olsen, shared his experiences with Friends of Youth through our [video](#), remembering how, as a homeless teen, he first went to live at Griffin Home in 1957. Middle school student Maddie McGavran, of North Bend, shared her academic achievements after receiving counseling for test-taking anxiety. Five years after homeless teen, Jenny Villalobos, sought help from Friends of Youth, she and her husband and young daughter just bought their own house. Jenny announced that she is preparing to graduate from Bellevue College and plans a career as a doctor.

Emcee, Peggy Bunker of KOMO 4 News, welcomed about 600 supporters to the Bellevue Hyatt Regency event highlighting the work of Friends of Youth to give young people in challenging circumstances the tools they need to succeed. She shared the stage with Tolt Middle School student, Clair Walker, who opened the program with her rendition of “America, the Beautiful”. Friends of Youth is grateful to all of our sponsors, supporters and volunteers who gave so generously to this year’s event, including Debbie Fullerton’s sixth grade class from Moorlands Elementary School in the Northshore School District. We love to have kids helping kids!

Keep in Touch

With so much happening at Friends of Youth, we have many ways for you to keep up with the latest news:

[E-mail](#) - monthly electronic newsletter

[Mailing List](#) - sign-up for our quarterly newsletter

[Blog](#) - get in-depth blog posts delivered directly to your inbox

[Facebook](#) - "like" us to follow us on Facebook

[Twitter](#) - get breaking news instantly

Friend of Youth Services 13116 NE 132nd Street Kirkland, WA 98034-2306
Phone: 425.869.6490 | Fax: 425.869.6666 | Email: info@friendsofyouth.org

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contact info@friendsofyouth.org or call 425-869-6940 x317