We Couldn't Have Done It Without Dorothy

This year marks our 65th birthday. It's a milestone we celebrate with gratitude.

Friends of Youth was founded in 1951 to prevent "juvenile delinquency." We began by finding foster parents. In the words of one of our founders, Iva Matsen:

The Welfare Department of King County was very cooperative and trained several women to interview prospective foster parents. So this became quite a part of the earliest activities - finding good foster homes for the Welfare Department to use. Over 150 homes were recommended.

We are still recruiting and licensing good foster homes today.

The journey from founding to 65 has taken the support of countless caring people. People like Dorothy Allen.

Dorothy was a founding member of one of our early "guides" the Stairway Unit. This group of volunteers began meeting in the 1960s. They were tireless supporters. Here are a few of the many activities they completed in support of youth:

- Rolling newspapers to raise funds
- Quilting classes
- Making teddy bears to sell
- Delivering cookies to the boys at Griffie Home
- Inviting speakers to their meetings to educate them about youth and their needs
- Part sales
- Catering Dinners and Weddings
- Selling auto license tabs
- Hosting a gift wrapping table at Greenwood Mall

Dorothy actively supported Friends of Youth her whole life. Shortly before her death last November, she wrote a note telling us of the challenges the unit was having in continuing to meet. Age was catching up with them, she told us, but they didn't want to stop after 55 years, so they decided to decrease the number of meetings...to every other month. She concluded with this thought:

I am poor, but I have had many years to live, and I will have happy memories and be happy you were such a productive person.

We have such happy memories of Dorothy, and such gratitude for her life service to children. She left a lasting legacy of love to us in the lives of so many young people. We are grateful for every single person who has supported our work - thank you!

PRIDE Parade

This year we participated in the 2016 PRIDE parade. Staff and youth gathered on a beautiful sunny day to celebrate our LGBT youth and community. It was a grand day, full of laughter, camaraderie and hope, a welcome balm after the heartache of Orlando.

Donations can be dropped off at our Kirkland Youth Service Center

13116 NE 35th Street, Kirkland, WA 98034-2306,

Monday - Friday: 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

You can also donate goods by making a purchase through our Amazon Wish List.

Click here to donate much needed supplies from our Amazon wish list.

For additional information, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at Volunteer@FriendsOfYouth.org or (425) 860-8400 x309.

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.

Sign up for our email list here.

Facebook - Follow us on Facebook.

Twitter - Tweet us.

LinkedIn - Business news and announcements.

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