







Friends of Youth

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June 2014

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The Bridge Collaborative

Being young, homeless and on the streets can be dangerous. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports that 70% of youth on the street are sexually exploited. Sadly, commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a real and growing problem throughout King County.

To respond to this problem, Friends of Youth has teamed up with YouthCare and Auburn Youth Resources to create a CSEC community advocate program called The Bridge Collaborative. The collaborative supports youth ages 13-24 who are CSEC-involved and youth that are at-risk of CSEC involvement. Our three Community Advocates support youth to achieve goals, meet basic needs, and navigate complex systems such as the justice system and detention. The Community Advocate provides the youth with stability, a pro-social adult relationship, and unconditional positive regard as the young person works to transform their life in healthy and meaningful ways.

The Bridge Collaborative operates a 24/7 referral hotline. If you have questions about the program, questions about services, or would like to refer a youth to the program, please call 855-400-CSEC (2732).

Our Evening of Appreciation



Volunteers from St. Peter's United Methodist Church (with Pastor Thomas Steffen) were honored guests at our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event.

On Tuesday, May 13th, volunteers from all our programs joined us as we celebrated their service and support to Friends of Youth in an evening awards event.

From meal donors at The Landing Overnight Shelter, to tutors at our Griffin Home campus and mailings at the Kirkland Youth Service Center, volunteers play an important role at Friends of Youth. The activities of the evening included plenty of popcorn, a fun game of human bingo and the presentation of our volunteer awards: Rising, Constellation, Twinkling and Shooting Stars.

Help Us Turn Our Houses into Homes



Friends of Youth is opening two new transitional living homes for homeless young people, ages 16-21. Help make our houses into homes by donating household items such as bath towels, pots and pans, and laundry baskets. We have created a wish list on Amazon.com where you can find what we need and even have the items directly shipped to us.

If you decide to donate, consider using AmazonSmile and a percentage of your purchase will go to support Friends of Youth. <u>Click here</u> to learn more.

Thank you for your support!

A BIG Thanks for GiveBIG

Thanks to all who remembered Friends of Youth on May 6th, GiveBIG day!

Your generosity resulted in donations totaling \$14,200. We truly appreciate your commitment to youth in our community.

We have a goal to raise an additional \$10,000 by the end of our fiscal year to sustain our programs serving at-risk and homeless young people. If you can help us close this gap, please follow this <u>link</u> to make a gift and make a difference in the lives of youth we serve.



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 e-mail list <u>here</u>.

<u>Mailing list</u> – sign up for our quarterly newsletter

<u>Blog</u> – get in-depth blog posts delivered directly to your inbox

<u>Facebook</u> – find us and 'like" us

<u>Twitter</u> – breaking news

<u>LinkedIn</u> – business news and announcements

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