



## FACT SHEET

### HISTORY

In 1950, a Washington resident named Iva Matsen saw the challenge faced by her community: not enough quality foster homes for young people. She and her husband joined with other members of the University Congregational Church to take the critical step from concern to action. *Friends of Youth* was incorporated in 1951, with one foster home—one family, and one child.

### WHO WE SERVE

We serve 3,200 children, youth and young adults-- ages 0-24 annually. We provide safe places, emotional support, and tools for stability and success, for marginalized young people facing difficult circumstances, including:

- Homelessness
- Foster care
- Behavioral health challenges

### ABOUT

Driven by a belief that all youth should have every opportunity to succeed, Friends of Youth partners with youth and families to provide the relationships, resources, and skills they need to attain personal growth and success.

- Nationally accredited
- 24 programs
- Services in 18 cities in the Puget Sound region, focusing on East King County

### SERVICES

*We believe that all youth should have every opportunity to succeed, and our services are designed to fulfill that vision in three core areas:*

- **Homeless Youth Services:**
  - Providing a continuum of critical services for homeless youth, young adults, and young families, including street outreach, drop-in day services, case management, employment services, emergency overnight shelter, and transitional housing.
- **Foster Care and Residential Youth Services:**
  - Providing wraparound, therapeutic supports for youth through foster care, emergency shelter, residential treatment, case management, independent living skills coaching, and counseling.
- **Youth and Family Services:**
  - Providing mental health and substance abuse counseling, home visiting programs for young parents, and prevention services for youth and families.

### OUR MISSION

We partner with youth and families to provide the relationships, resources, and skills to attain personal growth and success.

### OUR VISION

We envision all youth having every opportunity to succeed.

### FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

An unwavering dedication to providing quality services

The flexibility to meet new and emerging needs

A commitment to securing the futures of the most vulnerable members of the community.

## UNIQUE OFFERINGS

- We are the largest provider of supportive services for children, youth, young adults, and families in East King County.
- We offer the only emergency overnight shelters to youth and young adults experiencing homelessness on the eastside.

## OUTCOMES, FY 2020

- **6,058 visits** were made to our Drop-In Center by young people experiencing homelessness
- **214 individuals accessed 48,948 bed nights of safe housing** in our Transitional Living Programs
- **158 young adults ages 18-24 accessed 6,711 bed nights of safe shelter** at The Landing
- **61 youth ages 7-17 received safe shelter** at Youth Haven
- **1,646** youth and families accessed counseling
- **36 youth**, were served in our **stable foster homes**
- **67 young people participated in our employment support**
- More than 50% of the young people served identify as people of color
- More than 20% of the young people served identify as LGBTQ+

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

*We work in collaboration with many local, state and federal coalitions and community partners to serve the needs of youth in our communities.*

King County Youth Services Provider Coalition (KCYSP)  
Washington Association for Children and Families (WACF)  
King County Integrated Care Network (KCICN)  
Washington Coalition of Homeless Youth Advocacy (WACHYA)  
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants  
King County Department of Community and Human Services  
King County Housing and Community Development  
Washington State Department of Commerce - Office of Homeless Youth  
Department of Children Youth and Families  
Federal Youth Services Bureau (FYSB)  
Lutheran Community Services NW  
YouthCare  
Youth Eastside Services  
Cocoon House  
Legal Council for Youth and Children (LCYC)  
Kinds in Need of Defense (KIND)  
Y Social Impact Center - YMCA of Greater Seattle  
Cities of Redmond, Kirkland, Bothell, Bellevue, Sammamish, Issaquah, and Seattle  
Snoqualmie Valley Community Network