

FRIENDS OF YOUTH FORUM

OUR MISSION

Friends of Youth delivers a broad range of services to youth and their families to improve their emotional stability and self-sufficiency.

OUR VISION

Friends of Youth envisions all youth having every opportunity to succeed.

New Ground Totem Lake: House to Home

Before moving into our transitional living program New Ground Totem Lake (NGTL) in September 2014, “Susan” had been homeless for five years. Susan became homeless when she was just 15 years old, spending many nights on friends’ couches or in public parks. During her first few months in the program, Susan struggled to follow program rules. It was difficult for her to adapt to a structured environment after living outside and on her own for so many years. Staff were patient with Susan, and slowly, she started to make improvements, including finding a full-time job at a local grocery store. For the first time in five years, Susan has a place to call home.

Opened in August 2014, NGTL is our newest transitional living home dedicated to “low-barrier” housing. The two-home program is designed to serve clients with the highest needs and most barriers to service, such as mental illness and/or substance abuse, and clients who have been chronically homeless. Located on our Kirkland campus, NGTL houses up to ten young adults, ages 18-21. Residents are eligible to stay in the program for up to 18 months.

During their time in the program, residents receive in-depth, individualized support from case managers to improve and learn life skills and tools for self-sufficiency. Residents have access to on-site mental health and chemical dependency counseling. Each resident lives in their own bedroom, sharing common areas with the other residents, which creates a “community-based” living environment.

NGTL grew out of our recognition that too few low-barrier housing options were available for homeless young adults. It was made possible by our “Housing Our Future” Capital Campaign and a federal program grant. For years to come, these two houses will provide our community’s young people with a place to feel welcome, a place to feel safe, and a place to call home.

BREAKFASTS:

Our Most Important Meals This November



Friends of Youth client Sara Cloes (right), who shared her personal story of struggle and success at both the Riverview and Snoqualmie breakfasts, is pictured with Friends of Youth counselor Lauren Christenson after the Snoqualmie Breakfast.

In November, we held our second annual Youth & Family Services Breakfasts to raise funds and awareness for in-school counseling in the Issaquah, Riverview, and Snoqualmie Valley School Districts. All three breakfast events were huge successes, as we exceeded both our attendance and fundraising goals.

These events would not have been possible without the hard work of each community's volunteer planning committee. In addition, we would like to recognize the following organizations for their support or sponsorships of the breakfasts:

- Issaquah breakfast: Issaquah Schools Foundation's Healthy Youth

Initiative; Kiwanis Club of Issaquah; Rotary Club of Issaquah; Sound Passages Financial Advisors, LLC

- Riverview breakfast: Evergreen Health; Pacific Crest Insurance; Rotary Club of Duvall; Snoqualmie Valley Community Network
- Snoqualmie Valley breakfast: Ace Hardware of North Bend; Snoqualmie Valley Community Network; Snoqualmie Valley Hospital District

Thanks to the generous donations received at our breakfasts in 2013, we enhanced our in-school counseling and substance abuse treatment services at several schools in all three districts. This allowed us to provide vital services to more students who were struggling with depression, anxiety, or substance abuse.

Investing in mental health services for youth is an investment in the future. By providing young people with easy access to quality mental health services, we are helping our youth successfully transition into adulthood. With the donations from the breakfasts in 2014, we will continue to build our supportive services for youth in our community. Thank you for joining us in this mission. For more information about Friends of Youth's in-school counseling program, please contact Marie MacCoy at marie@friendsofyouth.org.

TRANSITIONS

Goodbye and Hello

As we transition to the New Year, we are saying farewell to our agency's leader, President & CEO Terry Pottmeyer. Terry has helped Friends of Youth succeed through her "T.E.R.R.Y." strategy – Together Envisioning Real Results for Youth. In her five years with Friends of Youth, the agency has grown in response to increased needs in our community. Terry was successful in conducting a capital campaign to expand our facilities and services by harnessing the support of our donors and community partners. She is the first to point out that we cannot do our work alone. We're grateful for the many who have been a part of our team and helped us achieve so much for young people in need. We're especially grateful for Terry's leadership and dedication to the young people we serve.

Transition means saying hello as well as farewell. As we enter the New Year, we have welcomed Nancy Osborn Nicholas as Interim CEO. Nancy brings over 30 years' experience in nonprofit executive leadership, including nineteen years as Executive Director of a comprehensive homeless services organization. As Nancy has said "working for Friends of Youth feels like coming home. I am fortunate to get to reconnect with my first passion: helping young people connect with their resilient gifts in order to excel". Nancy's focus will be to ensure that our services continue to be provided at the highest level as the Board of Directors conducts the executive search.

GIVING TREE SPROUTS HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Each year, Friends of Youth partners with local companies, merchants and friends to brighten the holidays for a child in our care. Our Giving Trees can be found in many places, including Microsoft, Swedish Medical Center Issaquah, Redmond Town Center, Barnes and Noble Issaquah, and University Village. Trees are decorated with tags that describe a holiday wish from a child in need.

Our 2014 Giving Tree was our biggest yet, with more than 40 sites across the county. Thanks to all of the support, every child in our care, every young adult in our housing programs, and every baby in our Healthy Start program received holiday gifts this season. Your generosity made this time of year special for our clients – filled with love, warmth, and joy.



One of the Giving Trees at our Kirkland Youth Service Center. The Friends of Youth team also enjoys participating in Giving Tree giving.

THE SCHREIBER FAMILY CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

Donor Spotlight

August 2014 was the 50th anniversary of The Beatles performance at the Seattle Coliseum in 1964. Longtime Beatles fans and Friends of Youth supporters, David and Wendy Keene, and David and Jama Fox, set out to combine their two passions – The Beatles and supporting youth in need. On August 9, 2014, they threw a Beatles anniversary party to raise money for Friends of Youth. The party



The Yellow Submarine at The Beatles anniversary party.

and the fundraising were both huge successes. The party showcased a Beatles cover band, Creme Tangerine, that played the original set performed at the 1964 concert, while the fundraising included a matching grant from The Schreiber Family Charitable Foundation, where Wendy serves as President of the Foundation. At the end of the night, the event raised \$30k for Friends of Youth, which helped with the completion of the “Housing Our Future” Capital Campaign. Thank you, David, Wendy, David, Jama, and The Schreiber Family Charitable Foundation for supporting our youth and families in our community! *“There’s nothing you can do that can’t be done / Nothing you can sing that can’t be sung / Nothing you can say, but you can learn how to play the game / It’s easy / All you need is love”.*

CELEBRATION OF YOUTH

Celebration of Youth is just a couple of months away! Mark your calendar for **Friday, March 13** to attend our tenth-annual luncheon. This year we are back at the **Hyatt Regency in Bellevue**. Registration begins at 11:30am with lunch following from 12-1pm. Each year, Friends of Youth provides support, shelter, homes and help to more than 4,800 youth and young adults. At our annual luncheon, we celebrate our youth while raising funds to ensure that every young person has the support and opportunities they need to succeed.

There are many ways to be a part of the event. You can become a Sponsor, Table Captain, Challenge Donor, or register as a guest. For more information, please contact our Event Coordinator, Paola Noel, at paola@friendsofyouth.org or 425.869.6490 x338.

We also need enthusiastic volunteer support to help make our event a success. On March 12, we need a volunteer group to help assemble and organize name tags for the event at our office in Kirkland:

13116 NE 132nd Street, Kirkland, WA 98034. Additionally, we need eight to ten volunteers to help set up and tear down at the event in Bellevue. We also are seeking fifth or sixth graders to help with our raffle during the luncheon. If you are interested and available or know someone who may be interested, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteer@friendsofyouth.org or 425.869.6490 x309.

To register to attend Celebration of Youth: friendsofyouth.org/CelebrationofYouth2012.aspx

JUSTIN AND JOSEPH Volunteer Spotlight

Brothers Justin and Joseph started volunteering at Friends of Youth because everyone in their family volunteers. Justin is 13 years old, and Joseph is 17 years old. The brothers have been volunteer all-stars at Friends of Youth for over a year. Donating their time about twice a month, Justin and Joseph have volunteered at our Foundation Legacy Event, Giving Tree, Back-to-School Drive, and Teen Volunteer Day. They are willing volunteers, even for less glamorous jobs like organizing our donations, weeding, and helping with mailings. These two always find a way to have a good time, like “envelope races”, where they see who is the fastest at attaching return address labels. Justin and Joseph are even becoming Dinner Donors, preparing meals for the young adults that stay at The Landing. We are so grateful for all of the support, time, and energy that Justin and Joseph bring to Friends of Youth. They are an inspiration to us all.

Joseph (left) and Justin





Friends of Youth

13116 NE 132nd Street, Kirkland WA 98034
(425) 869-6490 info@friendsofyouth.org

Join Us

JANUARY

United Way MLK Day of Service - Jan. 19

Join your community, United Way, and Friends of Youth in a day of service to others.

"Everybody can be great because anybody can serve."

-Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

FEBRUARY

"Get Better Kits" Drive

The month of February can be chilly and wet with the cold and flu season still rampant. Help our sick clients feel better with "Get Better Kits". These kits may include cough drops, facial tissues, socks, hand warmers, individual servings of tea, soup, and Emergen-C packets. Donations can be dropped off at our Kirkland Youth Service Center at 13116 NE 132nd Street, Kirkland, WA 98034.

MARCH

Celebration of Youth March 13

Hyatt Regency Bellevue
900 Bellevue Way NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Registration: 11:30 AM
Luncheon: 12 - 1 PM

Complimentary Luncheon
Suggested Contribution \$200

To become a Table Captain, Sponsor, Challenge Donor, or for more information please call 425.869.6490 x338 or e-mail paola@friendsofyouth.org

APRIL

Volunteer Appreciation Event - April 14

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and Friends of Youth is hosting our annual volunteer appreciation event on Tuesday, April 14th to celebrate and acknowledge our amazing volunteers. If you are interested in attending to support our volunteers, please RSVP to volunteer@friendsofyouth.org.

Development Director

Dan Johnson

dan@friendsofyouth.org
425-869-6490 x308

Donations

Rachel Wanamaker

rachel@friendsofyouth.org
425-869-6490 x317

Communications

Jay Doran

jay@friendsofyouth.org
425-869-6490 x320

Events

Paola Noel

paola@friendsofyouth.org
425-869-6490 x338

Volunteering

Morgan Winkler

morganw@friendsofyouth.org
425-869-6490 x309

 twitter.com/#!/FriendsOfYouth

 facebook.com/friendsofyouth

 linkedin.com/company/friends-of-youth/