“Andrew” was 6 years old when he was adopted. He had been in and out of foster homes for much of his life but found a loving home with “Julie.” After the adoption was finalized Andrew discovered his brother was moving away and his life unraveled. He started acting out, began hitting people and threatening them. Almost daily Julie would get reports from the school about Andrew’s behavior. Then, most troubling of all, Andrew began to say he wanted to kill himself.

“To have my 2nd grader repeatedly reporting that he wanted to die was so shocking, heart breaking and scary.” Julie told us therapy was provided while Andrew was in foster care, but after the adoption those services ended. Fortunately Julie was able to connect with a Friends of Youth counselor at Andrew’s school, a position funded by the Issaquah School District.

It only took six weeks of counseling before Julie noticed a change in her son. He now talks to his mom when he feels frustrated, and the hitting, and self-harm behaviors have ended.

“I grew up in a completely different environment, yet I know there were several times during my childhood where I really could have used a program like Friends of Youth to help me.” Julie told us.

Friends of Youth is committed to providing in school support for children like Andrew so that they can thrive in school and life.
FRIENDS OF YOUTH
Youth and Family Services Breakfast

Students who have an improved mental outlook have improved academic results, they have better coping skills, and they can stand strong when they face many of the pressures of being an adolescent or young teenager. That’s why the Friends of Youth Youth and Family Services Fundraising Breakfasts are so important. This is the fifth year in a row we have held these events, and funds raised help offset our pro bono counseling support in the Riverview, Snoqualmie Valley, and the Issaquah School Districts.

These are some of the services Friends of Youth provides:
- Substance Abuse Services
- Mental Health Counseling
- Parenting Support
- Prevention Programs
- Healthy Start

Friends of Youth has a bold vision for the future -- a mental health counselor in every school, every day. It’s no small task, but Friends of Youth has found success in providing these services where they are most needed. When students find themselves in trouble or in a situation where they need a little extra help Friends of Youth is committed to providing the support they need to succeed. There is a remarkable ripple effect that affects not only the young people who are positively impacted but also the people and communities around them.

Our annual breakfasts have been a tremendous success providing vital services in the Riverview, Snoqualmie Valley & Issaquah School Districts. From our 2016 Friends of Youth Youth and Family Services Breakfast.
(left image) L-R Terry Pottmeyer, CEO Friends of Youth, Mount Si High School PTSA Members
(right image) Guests of the Riverview YFS Breakfast

EVENT DETAILS:
Snoqualmie YFS Breakfast:
Wednesday, October 25th
7:30am-8:30am
Meadowbrook Farm Interpretive Center
1711 Boalch Ave NW, North Bend
WA 98045

Riverview YFS Breakfast:
Wednesday, November 1st
7:30am-8:30am
Educational Service Center
15506 1st Ave NE, Duvall,
WA 98019

Issaquah YFS Breakfast:
Wednesday, November 8th
7:30am-8:30am
Holiday Inn
1801 12th Ave NW, Issaquah,
WA 98027

RSVP:
events@friendsofyouth.org
or
register here:
YOU'RE INVITED

On October 16th, the Friends of Youth Foundation will hold its annual Legacy Event—celebrating our 66th Anniversary and our legacy of service to youth. We will also honor an outstanding staff member, board member, and community partner who have had a lasting impact on the youth we serve.

We hope you can join us.

Bellevue Botanical Gardens
Monday, October 16th
5:30pm-7:00pm

To register and learn more visit our website www.foyfoundation.org.

CEO CORNER
WANTED: CARING PEOPLE WILLING TO MAKE A BETTER WORLD FOR CHILDREN

Today, a child suffering from abuse or neglect will be removed from their home and placed in the care of the state. That child will be hurting, confused and traumatized. DSHS will immediately seek a foster home.

It’s never been an easy task to make that match, to find that caring home. In fact, the challenge of finding caring foster homes is the very reason Friends of Youth was founded sixty six years ago. Then, as now, there were too few foster homes available for children needing care.

We are responding with an urgent and direct request to each and every one of you.

Will YOU become a foster parent?

We welcome foster parents who can foster over the weekend as respite providers, as well as those who are interested in longer term placements.

We have two requirements of all foster parents:

- You are over 21
- You are willing to open your home and heart to a child

You may be single, married or partnered; a homeowner or renter; experienced or inexperienced. We provide monthly trainings and support groups so you can grow more confident in your abilities over time. Our dedicated foster parents are key to ensuring that foster children thrive.

To learn more please contact Shawn Sivly at 425.228-5776 ext 114 or shawn@friendsofyouth.org.

The need is great — can you help?

If you’ve fostered before, a new law passed in the last legislative session will help to expedite your relicensure. SB 5890 requires the state to create an expedited relicensing process for foster parents whose licenses expired within the past five years. Learn more by calling Judy Reyes, our Foster Care Licensor.
What’s Happening

OCTOBER

Friends of Youth Foundation Legacy Awards

On October 16th the Friends of Youth Foundation will host its annual Legacy Awards event. This event honors a Friends of Youth staff member, board member, and community member who have left a lasting legacy for our youth through their service. We will once again be at the lovely Bellevue Botanical Gardens. To register: www.foyfoundation.org

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive

Give thanks this November with a donation to our Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive. Our drive benefits our foster families as well as homeless youth and young adults in Kirkland, Redmond, Renton, Everett, Bothell, and Seattle. For more information contact volunteer@friendsofyouth.org.

DECEMBER

Giving Tree 2017

Each year thousands of youth and their families are given needed supplies and a holiday treat through Friends of Youth Giving Trees. Grab a tag and support youth in need during the holiday season. For more information contact volunteer@friendsofyouth.org.