Friends of Youth’s New Ground Transitional Living Programs give young people the housing, support, and stability they need to achieve self-sufficiency. Housing means so much more than a roof over your head—it gives youth the stability to find or maintain a job, finish school, or to concentrate on becoming a new parent. **Housing is key to success.**

**New Ground Bothell**

“Laura” had her second child while living at New Ground Bothell housing for young parents (18-21). During the 18 months she stayed in our program Laura received home visiting support through the Friends of Youth Healthy Start program and took parenting education classes. Determined to build a better future for her family she was successfully enrolled in school full time to prepare for long term employment. Laura has now moved into permanent housing with her children.

**New Ground Kirkland**

“John” was able to use his time at New Ground Kirkland to find and keep a full-time job, even balancing a second part-time job so he could save enough for permanent housing. While at New Ground Kirkland John worked on life skills and self-sufficiency—his case manager said his financial planning, emotional wellbeing, and interpersonal skills grew by leaps and bounds.

**New Ground Totem Lake**

“Justin” knew that stable housing meant stable employment. In fact, he was hired for a fulltime job as soon as he moved in to New Ground Totem Lake. His new job meant that he was waking up every day at 5am to commute to Seattle. His goal is to eventually find a higher paying job on the Eastside. He is also taking GED classes through Friends of Youth’s Eastside Reengagement Center. Justin knows education plus employment equals success. He continues to be a source of encouragement to other residents at New Ground Totem Lake.

Moving from ‘homeless’ to ‘housed’ is the first step toward a lifetime of stability, self-sufficiency and success. With support from our donors, volunteers, and funders we are walking with hundreds of young people on their path to brighter futures.
SHOWING OUR PRIDE

Friends of Youth offers mental health counseling support and resources for youth in the Snoqualmie and Riverview School Districts. Our YFS Breakfasts raise funds to provide counseling services that support students struggling with depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, and other challenges. Join us and help make a difference for students.

Snoqualmie Valley School District
October 24th
7:30am-8:30am
Meadowbrook Farm
1711 Boalch Ave NW,
North Bend

Riverview School District
October 31st
7:30am-8:30am
Educational Service Center
15506 1st Ave,
Duvall

Have Breakfast With Us

Save the Dates for our Youth and Family Services Breakfasts

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Remember the feeling of a pristine new notebook and a freshly sharpened pencil as you started a new school year? Now imagine giving that gift to a child so they can start the school year with confidence. Our annual Back to School Supply Drive is already underway and we are gathering donations of school supplies for our youth. Help our kids get the tools they need for a successful school year.

Among the suggested supplies: #2 pencils, markers, pens, crayons, notebook paper (wide-ruled and college-ruled), tissues, rulers, hand sanitizer. For a full list of supplies, or if you want to shop online through our Back to School Amazon WishList, visit our website, www.friendsofyouth.org.

Donation Drop-off Sites:
Kirkland Youth Service Center: 13116 NE 132nd Street, Kirkland
Snoqualmie Library: 7824 Center Blvd SE, Snoqualmie
North Bend Library: 115 E 4th St, North Bend
Fall City Library: 33415 SE 42nd Place, Fall City
Issaquah Library: 10 West Susnet Way, Issaquah
Renton Highlands Library: 2801 NE 10th St, Renton
Carnation Library: 4804 Tolt Ave., Carnation
Sammamish Library: 825 228th Ave SE, Sammamish

Friends of Youth staff, families, and our "balloon-icorn" at Seattle’s PRIDE parade

Once again, Friends of Youth marched in this year’s PRIDE parade in Seattle on June 24th. We covered our Street Outreach vehicle, affectionately known as Blueberry, with balloons to resemble a unicorn leaping over a rainbow - our very own “balloon-icorn”! We are proud to fly our rainbow colors high in solidarity with those who identify as LGBTQ+.

40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+. As an agency, we are committed to providing services and support for all youth, especially LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

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Sammamish Library: 825 228th Ave SE, Sammamish
Bill Davis first learned about Friends of Youth when he was in foster care and placed at Griffin Home in 1963.

He never forgot about his time there and the impact it had on his life -- so after a career that spanned the Air Force, a phone company, and his own software consulting business, he started volunteering with Friends of Youth in 1987. In 1990 he was asked to use his computer skills to help one of the residents who had an interest in computers, and this began his long career as a volunteer at Friends of Youth.

Now almost 30 years later Bill volunteers twice a week at Matsen House sharing his programming expertise with the youth, “Griffin Home was there when I needed them in 1963 and it makes me feel good that I am able to help them be there for others”.

We have plenty of volunteer opportunities at Friends of Youth. Contact us at volunteer@friendsofyouth.org to learn more.

WE STAND WITH UNDOCUMENTED YOUTH

For almost a decade Friends of Youth has provided caring support for unaccompanied, undocumented youth. Most have arrived after crossing our Southern border, most speak Spanish as a first language and all of them have experienced terrible trauma, including trafficking, violence, neglect, and poverty.

We are deeply committed to these children and we are proud to provide nurturing, therapeutic, and safe homes for them as they heal and prepare for a new life in our country.

Our program, which includes both group care and foster care, is fully bi-lingual/bi-cultural; licensed by the State of Washington; focused on reunification as a primary outcome; and deeply rooted in our commitment to youth-centered, effective practice.

Before June of 2018 most of our donors and supporters didn’t know we did this important work, likely because we’ve never talked about it very much. The reasons are fairly straight forward -- the program is funded through a federal grant so it’s not on the top of the list for our fundraising asks, and our children are undocumented, which can invite a conversation about our country’s immigration policies, which, while important, can switch the focus for our children to politics. We haven’t wanted the distraction.

Friends of Youth exists to create a world where ALL youth should have every opportunity to succeed. Friends of Youth supports undocumented children because it is our work to do. For us, it’s not a political decision, it’s a human one. For nine year’s we’ve quietly done the work and rejoiced in the resilience and successes of our kids.

But the recent practice of separating families at the border has changed the conversation -- it is time for us to say more. Here are some key things we’d like you to know about our work in support of undocumented children:

• We stand firmly against the practice of separating children and parents.
• We remain committed to doing all that we can to reunify our children with family, or if that is not possible, with sponsors. This has been our priority since our grant began and reflects our guiding belief that children and healthy families belong together.
• We will continue to support undocumented children because we are committed to building a world where all youth have every opportunity to succeed.

We are honored to have friends and supporters like you who care deeply about children and their well-being. Thanks for being on our team for kids.
What’s Happening

JULY

Farm to Friends

Help our youth make healthy food choices this summer by regularly dropping off donations of fresh vegetables and produce. Contact our volunteer specialist at volunteer@friendsofyouth.org to coordinate weekly donations of apples, potatoes, tomatoes, corn, and other fresh produce to our program sites.

AUGUST

Back to School

We will be collecting back-to-school supplies for our youth. Check our website to find a list of supplies. Items can be dropped off Monday through Friday at our offices in Kirkland, Issaquah, Duvall or North Bend. For more information contact volunteer@friendsofyouth.org.

SEPTEMBER

United Way Day of Caring

Get ready for the United Way’s Day of Caring on September 14th. It is the largest volunteer participation event in the State of Washington. More than 13,000 volunteers donate their time to help nonprofits throughout the community. If you want to help with Friends of Youth contact volunteer@friendsofyouth.org.