



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 11, 2008

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Erin George, Director of Development

Ering@FriendsofYouth.org

(425) 869-6490, ext. 308

Friends of Youth's Giving Tree Starts Nov. 24

An Heartwarming Opportunity for Youth to be Cared for by the Local Communities

Redmond, Wash. – Between Nov. 24 and Dec. 24, Friends of Youth will launch its annual holiday gift giving program – Giving Tree – dedicated to fulfilling the holiday wishes of youth the organization serves in King and Snohomish counties who would otherwise go without gifts. Friends of Youth is seeking gift donors and volunteers to make holiday wishes come true.

Giving Tree is a heartwarming experience and an opportunity for the young clients to be cared for by individuals who want to share the holiday spirit. Hundreds of wish tags are sent to generous sponsors in the communities, including the Redmond Town Center, Seattle Seahawks, and University Village. A variety of gifts, including household items, toys and food, will go directly to young people faced with extremely difficult situations: formerly homeless teenagers in the transitional living programs, young families on the brink of homelessness, single moms and their babies, and children in foster care.

Each year, many community groups, such as the Boy and Girl Scouts, contribute their time and effort to make the youth's holiday wishes come true. Because Giving Tree is a 100% volunteer effort, there are many opportunities for community members to get involved. Volunteer positions for this year's event may include gift gatherers, gift processors, sorters/checkers, and gift wrappers.

For more information regarding the Giving Tree locations and volunteer opportunities, contact Cheryl Schnelle, Volunteer Coordinator, at Cheryl@FriendsofYouth.org or (425) 869-6490, ext. 309.

About Friends of Youth:

Friends of Youth is a non-profit agency dedicated to supporting youth and their families in King and Snohomish counties. Friends of Youth provides a broad range of services to improve its clients' emotional stability and self-sufficiency, including homeless shelters, transitional housing, outreach, mental health counseling, and substance abuse prevention and treatment. For more information, visit www.FriendsofYouth.org, or phone (425) 869-6490.

###