



News Release

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Erin George, Director of Development
Ering@FriendsofYouth.org
(425) 869-6490, ext. 308

Neighborhood Schoolhouse Kids Awarded at *FIRST* LEGO League State Tournament

Redmond, Wash. – The Neighborhood Schoolhouse (NSH), a community-based learning and family support center run by Friends of Youth, is pleased to announce that NSH has participated in the *FIRST* LEGO League (FLL) robotics competition and the team earned the Judges' Award for Spirit at the state tournament on Dec. 13.

The FLL robotics competition is an international event that showcases the talents of children, age 9-14, in the fields of science, engineering and technology. This year's theme is "Climate Connections." NSH and the Redmond PTSA together funded the tools and materials for the competition. The NSH team – "Firebolts" – had nine members and a volunteer coach, Vinay Deo, who works for Microsoft Corporation. FireBolts selected the topic on the Bear Creek watershed.

It was the first time for NSH to participate in the competition. The team worked hard on research and practice prior to the event. At the regional tournament on Dec. 6, Team Firebolts won the sixth place out of 24 teams and was qualified for the state tournament on Dec. 13. Although the team did not place at the state tournament that would take them to the next stage of competition, these nine children learned team-building skills and earned the Team Spirit Award.

"I was very excited for The Neighborhood Schoolhouse to join the FLL robotics competition," said Jessica Falkner-Horine, Program Manager of Neighborhood Schoolhouse. "Not only it is a great way for kids to learn teamwork skills, but also they get to experience technology and engineering first hand. As a rookie team, we were just trying to get our feet wet, but boy, we're surprised when we placed in regional's and got to go all the way to state."

About Neighborhood Schoolhouse:

Formed in 1994, The Neighborhood Schoolhouse (NSH) is a community learning and family support center located in Redmond Elementary School. Administered by Friends of Youth, NSH serves the Redmond community with children's before/after school activities for grades K-6 (Reading, Math, Art, Technology, Science, Homework Skills, Tennis, Martial Arts, Spanish, Baby-Sitting, and Yoga). Adult and family programs include parenting education (evening and



weekend sessions), monthly community dinners with family activities, and a monthly family breakfast Reading Program.

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.

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