



Media Advisory: Invitation to Cover**For more information, contact:**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2011Terry Pottmeyer
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425.869.6490 x324**Friends of Youth Celebrates 60 Years of Service** - Redmond, WA, February 28, 2011

On March 18, 2011 Friends of Youth will celebrate its 60th year of service at its annual Celebration of Youth Luncheon. The event will be held at the Bellevue Hyatt Hotel from 11:30 until 1:00 and features emcee Dave Ross of KIRO radio.

Keynoting the event this year will be several Friends of Youth clients, both current clients as well as program graduates. Graduates of Friends of Youth first foster home for boys, Griffin Home, are in their 70s today, a testament to the number of young lives that have been transformed through Friends of Youth's work over the years.

From its beginnings over 60 years ago Friends of Youth has grown to include:

- **Homeless Youth Services**, providing street outreach, overnight shelter, individual case management, employment and transitional housing programs for homeless youth and young adults throughout East and North King County and South Snohomish County;
- **Youth and Family Services**, providing mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, school-based prevention education and parenting programs in a geographic area defined by the Issaquah, Snoqualmie and Riverview school districts;
- **Residential Services**, providing therapeutic residential services, including foster care and emergency shelter, to youth under 18; and
- **Healthy Start**, a collaboration of five agencies providing home visiting services to young parents and their babies from birth to age three.

Friends of Youth has always relied on a caring community to support its work, support that is needed now, more than ever:

- Each night in King County an estimated 1000 youth and young adults are homeless.
- Each year in King County 355 foster children need highly specialized therapeutic foster care.
- In the Issaquah, Snoqualmie and Riverview School Districts the number of families seeking counseling and mental health services has increased since the economic downturn.

Friends of Youth is there for all of them, operating the only overnight shelter for homeless young adults on the Eastside, providing therapeutic foster care homes, offering residential services to youth in crisis and providing mental health counseling & substance abuse services.

Friends of Youth delivers a comprehensive range of therapeutic services for youth, young adults and families. With 60 years of experience, national accreditation and 20 program sites, the agency provides safe places to live and emotional support for youth and families in challenging circumstances.

For more information, visit www.friendsofyouth.org.