



friendsofyouth

# Fiscal Year 2023 Impact Report



# contents

---

## summary

letter from the CEO .....	02
---------------------------	----

## year in review

2023 impact .....	03
-------------------	----

## client success

weiss' story .....	04
--------------------	----

## areas of impact

about friends of youth .....	05
homeless youth services .....	06
youth and family services .....	07
residential and foster care services .....	08

## event highlights

national safe place week and celebration of youth .....	09
new willows youth services center .....	10
giving tree .....	11

## financial overview

2023 financial overview .....	12
-------------------------------	----

## friends of youth foundation legacy awards

legacy board award winner .....	13
legacy supporter & employee winners .....	14

## looking ahead

diversity, equity, and inclusion .....	15
willows youth services center now open .....	16 - 17

# letter from the CEO

As I reflect on our last fiscal year and our collective efforts to ensure youth and young adults face zero days of vulnerability, I am grateful to have this space to share some critical accomplishments.

Thanks to affordable housing capital funding from King County Department of Community and Human Services, **Friends of Youth started the renovation and expansion of our New Ground Kirkland housing program.** Further, support from A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) and Washington State Department of Commerce towards the project, will ensure the agency can provide affordable housing to un-housed young adults.

Last year we achieved our two-year planning vision of identifying and acquiring a site to serve as Friends of Youth's new Emergency Overnight Shelter and Day services program in Kirkland. **As the only overnight emergency shelter for young adults on the Eastside,** this was a fulfillment of a key step in meeting the current needs of unsheltered young adults, while ensuring appropriate services were available to clients seeking them.

The acquisition and renovation of the site will significantly expand our agency's capacity to provide:

- 35 beds
- a safe place to stay
- quality meals with new commercial kitchen
- commercial laundry amenities
- dedicated health area

All with caring employees to assist our young adults in a dignified way.

**The new Emergency Overnight Shelter was made possible by you, our partners, and the extraordinary advocacy of State Representative Lisa Callan 5th District,** who advocated for financial support from Washington State to help make this dream possible.



This great news was followed by additional support to make the necessary improvements to the facility by:

- Congresswoman Suzan DelBene
- Senator Patty Murray
- King County Councilwoman Claudia Balducci
- Regional Coalition for Housing ARCH
- Washington State Building Community Fund
- Washington State Department of Commerce
- Microsoft
- Aven Foundation
- Joshua P. Williams Foundation
- Amazon
- Meta
- WaFd Bank

Last year our Homeless Youth Services Division **re-started our street outreach work** that was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Runaway Youth, the resumption of outreach efforts will help connect youth facing vulnerable circumstances to the services and resources they need.

This fall our goal is to celebrate the **ribbon-cutting of the Willows Youth Services Center**, and the first-of-a-kind for Friends of Youth; **15 units of young adult affordable housing, named Iva Place Kirkland, in the Summer of 2024.** We recognize that our work in supporting youth and young adults in a trauma-informed and dignified way requires a deeper youth focus, further program strengthening, and continued community support.

**I would like to express my deep gratitude to each of you for your generosity.** Your partnership impacts each of our clients, our community, and our agency. Your generosity, friendship, and advocacy contributed to our success this past year. You help make Friends of Youth a special community of support for our region.

Thank you all,

Paul Lwali

President and CEO, Friends of Youth

# year in review | july 1, 2022 to june 30, 2023

1,439

1,439 youth & families were supported in 2023

number of total donors in 2023

1,185

623

youth / families were supported with behavioral health counseling in 2023

the new willows youth services center will support 35 beds

35

500

families were supported with this year's giving tree



## Weiss' Story

Weiss Andrews grew up as a foster youth in Missouri. After experiencing hardships, Weiss became homeless. As a young adult with determination, dreams, and \$500 dollars in his pocket, he bought a one-way Greyhound ticket from Missouri to Seattle.

Three days later, he arrived in Washington and began searching for organizations that could help him live a life of his own creation. Weiss researched and asked Seattle community members for homelessness and housing resources. That's when he heard about Friends of Youth and a place called The Landing.

Hopping back on the bus, Weiss made his way to The Landing in Redmond. It was here that his transformative journey with Friends of Youth began.

### Friends of Youth Homeless Youth Services supported 425 youths this past year.

[At the Drop In, Landing, Employment, Housing Navigator, MHRS, & CSEC.](#)

Weiss quickly began planting roots at The Landing, where unhoused youth can find access to transitional beds, substance use counseling, and other harm reduction strategies.

### On average, 12 young adults seek support at The Landing every day.

He asked himself "What am I supposed to do now? How am I supposed to live?" He tried various jobs but because of stress from PTSD, he had trouble finding the perfect fit.

During his time spent with the Friends of Youth services, he formed connections with employees who got to know him and offered services tailored to his needs. These employees would soon become some of his greatest mentors and advocates.

Through his therapist at Friends of Youth, Weiss was able to land an advocacy job working with youth in the foster care system. Not only could he tap into his past experiences, but he also found fulfillment and an opportunity to gain personal and professional growth.

***"I really want to help people. Knowing that I come from a place where I understand exactly what that system and those things do to people, and how they lead into other injustices, I feel I can do something about that based on what I've lived and seen and the many mentors that I've had."***

Today, Weiss continues to work with youth in the foster care system. He is a dedicated advocate for the homeless community and wants to educate others about the stigmas surrounding homelessness, the reality of the foster care system, and the obstacles people face when seeking housing assistance. With his own determination and the support of Friends of Youth services, Weiss was able to secure a Social Security card, birth certificate, independent living, meaningful employment, and a fresh start.

# about friends of youth

## our vision and mission

Since 1951, we have provided hope, community, and opportunities for growth to young people in King County. Our vision looks to the future we want to help create, envisioning all youth having every opportunity to succeed. Our mission states why we exist and what we do, partnering with youth and families to provide the relationships, resources, and skills they need to attain personal growth and success. Our values are what we stand for, and aim to see expressed in everything we say or do. Our vision, mission, and values power our work together.



## our values

### accountability

We ensure fiscal and program accountability and exhibit the highest professional and ethical standards to all internal and external stakeholders.

### quality

We strive to achieve the highest degree of quality in our services. One that is internally and externally validated and provided in a context of safety and confidentiality.

### cultural competence

We are committed to an inclusive movement toward empowerment and social justice by demonstrating respect of differences, advocating for social change, and providing access to culturally relevant services to meet the needs of all youth and families.

### relationships

Constructive relationships are essential to a fulfilled life. We seek a constructive relationship with the youth and families we serve and promote this in their lives.

### collaboration

We collaborate to improve outcomes for the individuals and families we serve.

### youth first

We consider the impact on youth in every decision we make, while utilizing the inherent strengths of the individuals and communities we serve.

# homeless youth services

**425**

clients enrolled in programs at the youth services center in 2023

## **willows youth services center** (formally known as The Landing)

We provide crisis intervention, counseling, case management, and other supportive services for young people experiencing homelessness in East and North King County. Additionally, we operate the only young adult overnight emergency shelter on the Eastside, providing safe temporary living alternatives for young people experiencing homelessness or dealing with a crisis.

## **transitional housing**

We have multiple sites located in King County offering safe housing, case management, counseling, and life skills for young adults and young families.

## **supportive housing**

We provide subsidized apartments and case management for young adults ready for more independent housing.

## **rapid re-housing**

We help young people and families experiencing homelessness locate and successfully transition to permanent housing.

With supportive housing

**75%**

of youth / families exited to permanent housing in 2023

**166**

households enrolled in Housing Navigation in 2023

## **housing & navigation support**

We connect young adults with needed resources to help them permanently exit homelessness. Housing Navigators assist young people with accessing documents required by housing program services, such as state identification, Social Security cards, pay stubs, and disability verification.

**61%**

exited from housing navigators to permanent housing in 2023

Additionally, Housing Navigators collaborate with Friends of Youth housing program services, as well as providers across King County, for housing referrals and client advocacy. Youth Engagement Team (YET) provides case management, housing navigation and counseling services to youth, ages 12 - 17, and families experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of experiencing homelessness.

## **safe place & street outreach**

**We have a 24-hour crisis hotline and outreach services for youth 12 - 24.**

Safe Place Coordinators respond in person to calls from youth 12-17, while youth 18- 24 are referred to our Youth Services Center. Safe Place and Street Outreach collaborate to conduct outreach at local parks, schools, libraries, and teen centers connecting youth to shelters, case management, and other services.

# youth & family services

## healthy start parent support

We offer home visiting for pregnant and/or parenting families with children younger than age six. Home visitors provide a safe space and meet families where they are while providing basic supplies, parenting support and information, group activities, developmental and health screenings, and referrals to community resources.

## behavioral health counseling

We provide counseling services and support for individuals between the ages of 4 - 24 with outpatient individual, family, and group counseling as well as prevention and intervention services. Through these services, we encourage individual and family goals, while recognizing the importance of trauma-informed, culturally and linguistically responsive treatment. Our highly trained counselors help youth identify inherent strengths to help them achieve their goals.



**52%**  
met 100% of  
their goals  
in 2023

**300**  
youths / families  
enrolled in  
behavioral health  
counseling in 2023

**69**  
families enrolled in  
the healthy start  
parent support  
program in 2023

*"You're not just another case to them. You're a person that is...worthy of a good life. Where I'm at today has been so much a part of what Friends of Youth has allowed me to see for myself as who I am."*

**-Rose, Former Client, Friends of Youth**



# residential and foster care services

## residential treatment

We offer homes with specialized support for young people including treatment, behavioral health support, sexual behavior support, independent living skills, individual, group and family therapy, educational support, case management, family participation, and coordination of legal services.

29

youths were supported in the foster care program in 2023

## long-term foster care

We work with children and youth, ages 6-17 (21 for Behavior Rehabilitation Services/BRS with Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families/DCYF), in Long-Term Foster Care addressing the physical, emotional and social needs of children and youth in a supportive family setting. Foster parents are trained and supported to help children reach their therapeutic goals and prepare for adulthood. Unaccompanied minors can be referred by the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), and other youth can be referred by BRS and DCYF.

## residential group homes

Our program serves unaccompanied immigrant and refugee young adult males ages 12 - 21 with education support, life skills, employment skills, and housing.

*"I think one of my favorite moments working as a team at Friends of Youth Foster Care is to see everyone working towards one goal of helping that one youth who has the need right now. Everyone comes together, bringing their skills and experiences to just make change happen."*

**-Missy Rios, Program Manager for Foster Care, Friends of Youth**

*"Friends of Youth supports me in a lot of ways as a foster parent. They give me all the resources that I need, even the ones I didn't know I needed. I think one of the things that's hard about foster care and being a foster parent is just not really knowing the system until you're in it. Friends of Youth is really supportive in answering my questions and getting back to me very fast and supporting me and the kids in any way."*

**-Odette Gomez, Current Foster Parent with Friends of Youth**

# event highlights

## national safe place week

Friends of Youth and National Safe Place Network teamed up in March to recognize National Safe Place Week. This week served to raise awareness about Safe Place, an early intervention and homelessness prevention program designed to support young people through any crisis.

National Safe Place is managed by 137 youth agencies. In King County, **Safe Place is locally run by Friends of Youth to quickly support runaway and homeless youth ages 12 - 17 years** by connecting them to services. Friends of Youth partners with various organizations, businesses, social service agencies, and other community partners who have volunteered to be designated Safe Place "sites," and local youth are provided with immediate safety and support through intervention, advocacy, and safety planning.

## celebration of youth month

Celebration of Youth is Friends of Youth's largest annual fundraising event. This annual event has brought together nearly 800 community, civic and business leaders, and generous philanthropic donors for an afternoon of inspiration.

Together, in April, **we raised over \$425,000** during our month-long Celebration of Youth events! Thank you to everyone who joined us in accomplishing our goals to support our youth and young adult partners and program services.



*A generous donation from Rylee and Kai in honor of our Celebration of Youth.*



*CEO, Paul Lwali and City of Kirkland, Councilmember Amy Falcone.*



*Guests at the April 20 Celebration of Youth event.*

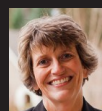
# event highlights

## new willows youth services center



“

*There's never been more demand and more need. I'm so excited for the expanded services on the eastside, and the bold vision and direction that Friends of Youth is providing.*



**WA Representative,  
Lisa Callan**

**We are thrilled to share the new Willows Youth Services Center!**

Representative Callan supported capital funds in the State budget to ensure we were able to purchase a property that is large enough to fulfill our goal to have day services and overnight shelter in one building. We also thank Kirkland Mayor Penny Sweet for her continued support.

Upon opening, **Willows Youth Services Center will operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and expand available emergency shelter beds from 20 to 35.** This services center will provide integrated behavioral health counseling, basic medical care, nutrition, and hygiene facilities. Young unsheltered people in our community will have access to the necessary health services, case management, and housing navigation services they need to transition to stable, longer-term housing.



*Mentioned Left to Right: Friends of Youth's President and CEO, Paul Lwali accepts a \$1 million check from Congresswoman DelBene (WA-01) for the new Willows Youth Services Center alongside Kirkland Mayor Penny Sweet, and Friends of Youth Board Chair, Alex Lee.*



*WA State Representative for the 5th Legislative District, Lisa Callan, and Friends of Youth CEO, Paul Lwali*

# event highlights

## giving thanks

Thank you to our community for brightening this past holiday season! We were amazed by the outpouring of support.

During our Giving Thanks campaign, **more than 100-holiday meals were provided for youth, young adults and families.**

## giving tree

Before the holidays, Friends of Youth engages with current families and youth to understand items that would make a difference and help them achieve their goals.

Through our Giving Tree event, we add these items to our Amazon Wishlist, as well as on handwritten tags that are distributed to businesses. Thank to your wonderful support and more than 30 businesses and organizations, the Friends of Youth Giving Tree was able to **support 500 youth, young adults and family requests this year with over 1,500 gifts!**



**1,500**

*gifts were donated during the giving tree program*



**32** *organizations and partners supported the giving tree program*



**500**

*youth, young adults and families were gifted during the giving tree program*

# financial overview

*July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023*

## **PUBLIC & INDIRECT SUPPORT**

CONTRIBUTIONS	\$2,409,670
NON OPERATING INCOME (CAPITAL PROJECTS)	\$2,303,750
GOVERNMENT GRANTS	\$9,912,865
EARNED AND OTHER INCOME	\$2,769,327

**TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE** **\$17,395,612**

## **OPERATING EXPENSES**

PROGRAM SERVICES: RESIDENTIAL AND FOSTER CARE	\$5,410,984
PROGRAM SERVICES: HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES	\$3,146,275
PROGRAM SERVICES: YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES	\$2,471,275
SUPPORT SERVICES: MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL	\$3,614,451
SUPPORT SERVICES: FUNDRAISING	\$677,453

**TOTAL EXPENSES & REVENUE** **\$15,320,438**

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS** **\$2,075,174**

## **NET ASSET BALANCES**

WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$10,610,647
RESTRICTED NET INVESTMENT LAND/BUILDING	\$9,019,175
WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS	\$66,844

**TOTAL NET ASSETS** **\$19,696,666**

**This report reflects FY23 Audited Financials from July 1 2022 to June 30 2023.**

# friends of youth foundation legacy awards

## congratulations legacy awardees!



**Board Legacy Award:** Paula Grassell, **Legacy Supporter Award:** National Charity League Sammamish Chapter, **Legacy Employee Award:** Marla Rennie

### Board Legacy Award Paula Grassell



Paula has been a supporter and board member of Friends of Youth for the past 15 years and is currently the chair of our Resource Development Committee.

Her upbeat personality and commitment to Friends of Youth are integral to our success. We are so lucky to have her as part of our team! Paula believes that youth are our future and saw first-hand how a little support can make a significant difference in the lives of youths that impacts their future.

She believes we all have an opportunity to change the trajectory of the future. Every youth has their own unique story, which means they need personalized support. Friends of Youth offers many different program services and avenues to support youth. Paula would also like to share that she is grateful for all the love and support her parents have been able to provide her throughout the years. She wants everyone to have and feel the same love and support that was given to her, as "it is not always the big things that make a difference, it's usually the little (and unknown) things."

**Legacy Supporter Award**  
**National Charity League Sammamish Chapter**



The Sammamish Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL) has been a Friends of Youth partner for many years. The NCL is an organization that is dedicated to serving communities and empowering young women through volunteerism, leadership, and cultural experiences.

Nina Seem reflects: "Volunteering for Friends of Youth with my daughter Nina for the first time was an experience that will always hold a special place in our hearts. Our first event was a gardening project, where we helped to beautify the grounds of a local youth center. I watched as Nina's eyes lit up with excitement and joy at the thought of making a positive impact in our community. As we left that day, covered in dirt and sweat, we both knew we had found something truly special in Friends of Youth. It wasn't just a volunteer event, it was an opportunity to connect with our community, to teach Nina the value of giving back, and to make a difference in the world together."

Mari Colbourne reflects: "Through our involvement in NCL with my daughters over the past six years, we have developed a connection with Friends of Youth by preparing and serving meals at the Renton Youth Services Center collecting needed items, planting flowers in the garden of the Kirkland campus and hosting a summer BBQ and block party. My daughters Kate and Kelly and I have seen firsthand that protecting homeless teens means more than just providing food or shelter for the day. It also means creating a space where young people know they will be welcomed, comfortable and safe -- and, from there, providing ongoing resources to enable personal growth and success. Of all the philanthropies we have served as a family, our time spent serving Friends of Youth has been particularly special. It has been our privilege to get to know the amazing employees and residents. We are in awe of the inspiring work that occurs at Friends of Youth!"

**Employee Legacy Award**  
**Marla Rennie**




Marla is the Senior Executive Assistant at Friends of Youth. She joined Friends of Youth in August 2015 and has been a vital part of the team ever since.

Marla lives in Bothell with her husband, Kevin, and two children, Luke and Ella. She enjoys spending time with friends and family and exploring new adventures.

To quote Marla, "I am honored to serve the mission of Friends of Youth and work alongside incredible employees. The daily passion that is poured into our work to make our communities a better place for youth and young adults to succeed, brings me great joy."

# diversity, equity, & inclusion



Friends of Youth believes that an active commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion makes us a stronger and a more effective organization.

Over the past few years, our resilient employees, volunteers, and key supporters have worked towards strengthening our core diversity, equity, and inclusion values, despite the various challenges, changes, and collective “burnout”. It has been my honor as Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) to be a part of this ongoing journey of listening, learning, and understanding.

In 2022-2023 we launched two new Employee Resource Groups – LGBTQ2AI+ and Black/African American in alignment with our 2023-2025 Strategic Planning priorities. During this time, we have also worked towards the formation of two additional groups, the Latinx/e ERG and the AAPINH ERG, which are set to launch in 2024. In recognition, appreciation, and respect of our diverse teams, our investment in employee affinity groups will serve to improve our internal environment, employee well-being and dedication towards including and engaging our “first client,” our employees.

In 2022-2023, we conducted four DEI leadership training sessions for our Board of Directors, recognizing that Friends of Youth has an ability, responsibility, and moral imperative to authentically address and ultimately disrupt internal and external systems of structural and historic oppression that are embedded in and plague our work and community.

Our DEI journey is centered on a plan designed to carefully move the agency toward systemic equity by concentrating on messaging and modeling a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive space for all our constituents. I am very proud and grateful for the many hours and tough conversations our employees, Board of Directors, and leadership teams have engaged in, during the year. Together, we continue to grow and strengthen our cultural competencies, make tough decisions, and work towards celebrating, honoring and respecting our clients, community, and agency.

**Angela De La Hoz**  
*Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*



# willows youth services center now open



**Young adults,  
ages 18-24, who  
want additional  
information may  
call or text  
425.449.3868.**

The Friends of Youth Willows Youth Services Center, the only emergency shelter for young adults, ages 18-24, in east King County, opened on Monday, January 22, 2024. The new facility is located at 12735 Willows Road NE, Kirkland WA 98034.

It serves young adult clients, with both drop-in and overnight shelter services. Willows Youth Services Center and

Emergency shelter is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week — including holidays.

Willows Youth Services Center was designed in collaboration with young adult clients of Friends of Youth. Services include meals prepared in a commercial kitchen, enhanced laundry services, private sleeping areas, access to behavioral health counseling, housing navigation and employment support services.

Willows was made possible by the support of the community, including generous donations from Microsoft, Amazon, the Washington State Department of Commerce, Friends of Youth Foundation, the US House of Representatives Appropriation Committee, King County Housing Finance Program, Aven Foundation, Joshua P Williams Foundation and Meta.

looking ahead

# willows youth services center now open



looking ahead

# friendsof youth



thank you!

## your contributions make a big impact.

Thank you for contributing to the lives and holistic growth and development of the wonderful young people we support.

Visit our website to learn about all the ways you can partner with us to support vulnerable youth:

[friendsofyouth.org/support-us](https://friendsofyouth.org/support-us)

support us





**friendsofyouth.org**



[info@friendsofyouth.org](mailto:info@friendsofyouth.org)



425.869.6490

