Dear Friends,

The last year has been one of growth and stability for Northwest Youth Services. We are working collaboratively to meet the increasing needs of youth experiencing homelessness in our community.

We pride ourselves on innovative approaches to meet the needs of the youth we serve. We value learning from youth, our community, and research to identify and respond to emerging needs and to spearhead promising practices. This year we introduced behavioral health services that will enhance and expand infrastructure for mental health and substance use treatment services to benefit youth who experience homelessness.

We are also working to expand existing programs. Our largest development project to date, 22 North, is on schedule to be completed in October, adding 40 units of supportive housing for formerly homeless individuals to Bellingham in partnership with the Opportunity Council. We’re also thrilled to share that we have formalized a partnership with the First Congregational Church of Bellingham to repurpose 3,500 square feet of their unfinished “ground floor” into a new day-center for youth, under 24 years of age, by the end of 2018.

Our year of growth has also been a year of change. We’ve welcomed many new staff members, said goodbye to others, and worked to create new systems and efficiencies to best serve youth in crisis. We’re incredibly grateful for the community of donors and funders that make our work possible - and we cannot wait to share what’s next.

Riannon Bardsley, Executive Director
Meet Reggie.

Reggie wears his heart on his sleeve. His compassion for youth in similar situations radiates as he recounts the path that led him to Northwest Youth Services a few years ago.

Growing up wasn’t easy. Reggie shuffled between his mom’s and his grandmother’s house, neither one providing stability or comfort. By the age of 16, Reggie found himself couch surfing between friends’ houses and surrounded by drugs, alcohol and bad influences. In a self-described “moment of clarity and desperation”, Reggie opted into homelessness – finding a safe place to camp. About the same time, he heard about Northwest Youth Services and made his way to the office to learn more.

Reggie immediately requested housing help – and was met with a waiting list. He became a regular at our office during drop-in hours, grabbing food and a shower, and checking up on his housing almost daily. It took six months, but Reggie finally got a placement in transitional housing.

Reggie committed to the program with everything he had. He dedicated himself to saving money, meeting regularly with his case manager, and attending classes at Whatcom Community College. Within 14 months, Reggie had found an apartment to rent on his own and saved enough for first and last month’s rent and his security deposit.

Reggie will graduate from Whatcom Community College at the end of summer quarter and is considering the Culinary Arts program at Bellingham Technical College.

When asked about where Reggie gets his resiliency, he shared: “There are a lot of bad people in this world; we have to do what we can to be one of the good ones.”
Northwest Youth Services collaborates with at-risk, runaway and homeless youth to foster self-reliance.

As the only local organization dedicated to serving young people ages 13-24 at risk of or experiencing homelessness, Northwest Youth Services serves a critical need in Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

We support youth in identifying their personal goals for the future and building the skills necessary to reach their own sense of stability.

Northwest Youth Services offers street outreach to homeless youth, housing programs, help finding a job or enrolling in school, wrap-around mental health services, support for LGBTQ youth, restorative justice for juvenile offenders, and referrals to other services in our community.

The holistic well-being of young people is a core principle in our program and determines how Northwest Youth Services’ staff approach our work with young people. We seek to engage youth in thoughtful and creative approaches that inspire them to discover and build upon their strengths.
Street Outreach
- Meet homeless youth where they are or welcome them to our day center
- Provide basic needs and connect youth with housing/services
- Build relationships with youth to help them realize their goals

494 homeless youth served in 2017

Emergency Housing
- Short term housing for youth and young adults for up to 90 days
- The PAD - a licensed, 24-hour care facility for up to 16 minors, 13 - 17
- HUSLY Emergency Shelters - eight beds for young adults, 18 - 24

85% of youth exit program into safe housing

Transitional & Permanent Housing
- Transitional - up to 18 months of independent housing for young adults
- Permanent - help finding an affordable apartment and rental assistance
- Support from case managers to help youth meet their goals

>100 youth currently waiting for housing

Behavioral Health
- Mental health and substance use support and referrals for at-risk youth
- Wraparound support services for youth who suffer from mental illness
- Support all programs to enhance crisis intervention and prevention

44% of local homeless youth report mental illness

Vocational Readiness
- Help with resumes, job searches, applications and interviewing
- Youth are connected with internships, gaining skills and references
- The WeGrow Community Garden tended by youth and volunteers

95 youth connected to employment in 2017

Teen Court
- Restorative justice and diversion program for juvenile offenders
- High school aged volunteers serve as judge, jury and advocates
- Summer job opportunities for former offenders

96% of youth successfully complete contracts

Queer Youth Project
- Stigma-free events for LGBTQ+ and questioning youth
- Family reunification counseling and safe medical referrals
- LGBTQ Youth Safety & Resiliency training for community groups

120 youth participating in 2017 QYP events
Mental illness and chemical abuse are leading factors of youth incarceration and homelessness.

In late 2017, Northwest Youth Services received a three-year funding commitment from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), helping us launch a collaborative partnership between a variety of local community-based agencies to provide behavioral health services to youth and young adults in crisis.

The role of our new Behavioral Health team is to enhance and expand mental health and treatment services for youth and young adults experiencing chronic homelessness, tackling substance use disorders, suffering from serious mental illness or serious emotional disturbance, or those facing a combination of these serious conditions.

The Behavioral Health team is working across all of our program areas to ensure that the youth and young adults we serve have their needs met from a holistic, client centered approach. This Whole Person Care Approach is based on a set of core values which focuses on developing a fruitful quality of life for each young person, regardless of age or life circumstances.

The goal of Northwest Youth Services’ Behavioral Health team is to cultivate and create conditions where youth have the necessary systems to grow and flourish. We do this through a collaborative model that includes youth, staff, and community partnerships that foster educational, physical, emotional and psycho-social development, and promote resiliency.

New in 2018

70% of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health disorder.
22 North  
Completion Date: October, 2018

A collaboration between Northwest Youth Services and the Opportunity Council, 22 North will offer 40 studio apartments to those experiencing homelessness.

Twenty of these units will be set aside for youth, ages 18-24. We will offer wrap-around support services to help residents meet their goals and support them on their journey to independence and prosperity.

22 North will offer residents on-site 24/7 support staff, intensive case management with employment and education support services, and access to innovative mental health services in a secure and safe building.

Through our successful capital campaign, Northwest Youth Services has privately funded four flexible units, reducing barriers to housing for homeless students.

The Ground Floor  
Completion Date: December, 2018

A collaboration between Northwest Youth Services and the First Congregational Church of Bellingham, The Ground Floor, will offer a safe, warm and welcoming place for young people to relax, shower, do laundry, rest, study, cook, eat, and get connected with programs and services. Northwest Youth Services will use the space rent free for the next 10 years, providing support to thousands of homeless youth.

The Ground Floor will provide a new epicenter for homeless youth to build and maintain connections to support and services in Bellingham. All of Northwest Youth Services’ programs are gearing up to serve youth in this expanded space. As youth build trusting relationships, they’ll be able to connect with behavioral health professionals, housing case managers, vocational specialists and more.
Financials

Revenue

- Grants & Contracts - 60%
- Corporate & Foundation Contributions - 16%
- Individual Donations - 13%
- Special Events - 5%
- Sale of Assets - 5%
- Other - 1%

Total Revenue: $3,017,591

Expenses

- Programs & Services - 82%
- General Administration - 11%
- Fundraising Activities - 7%

Total Expenses: $3,021,232

This report is based on our 2017 Audited Financials.
To review our 2017 IRS Form 990, please contact hello@nwys.org.
Northwest Youth Services is able to invest in youth because our community invests in us. We are deeply thankful for the trust and generosity of the following individuals, local businesses, foundations and corporations.

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Betsy Wilson is no stranger to rising to a challenge.

A retired educator and child life specialist, Betsy had a child born with medical needs, and became focused on helping children and their families in medical settings.

Having a family member who struggled with self-acceptance and fitting in during their school years is one of the reasons Betsy supports Northwest Youth Services. When Betsy heard about 22 North and its goal of serving youth who need extra support to succeed, she stepped up with personally significant donations to the capital campaign. Betsy wants all young people to know that they are accepted and cared for and to have the resources they need to grow, develop skills, and succeed in our community.
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2rooms
3 Oms Yoga
A Lot of Flowers
Access Freedom
Act Theatre
Acupuncture Health Center
Allied Arts
Amazon Smile
Anacortes Community Theatre
The Apothecary Spa
Aslan Brewing Company
Associates in Mental Health
Bank of America
Barb’s Pies and Pastries
Barron Smith Daugert PLLC
Bayou On Bay
BBaby Running
Bellingham Bay Rotary Club
Bellingham Coin Shop
Bellingham Friends Meeting
Bellingham Medical Acupuncture
Bellingham Metal Arts Guild
Bellingham Sportsplex
Bellingham Underwriters
Beneficiency Community Impact Fund
Betty Lou’s Downtown Emporium
Birch Equipment Co.
Black Drop
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Boeing Employee Giving Program
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Chuckanut Builders
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Congregation Beth Israel
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Fidelity Charitable
First Congregational Church
First Federal Community Foundation
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Flower World
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Garden Spot
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Merry Maids
The Mick Lamb Foundation
Mocassin Lake Foundation
MOD Super Fast Pizza
Modspac
MoPop
Mount Baker Kidney Center
Mount Baker Planned Parenthood
Mt Vernon/Skagit Rotary
Mt. Baker Ski Area
Museum of Flight
North Bellingham Golf Course
North Coast Credit Union
North Sound ACH
Northwest Premium Audits
Northwest Radiologists
NW Children’s Foundation
Old Town Cafe
Olde English Crackers
OneHope Foundation
Opportunity Council
Oyster Bar
Pacific Science Center
PeaceHealth
PeaceHealth Foundation
Peoples Bank
Pickford Film Festival
Piper Family Dentistry
The Pizza Pipeline
Pride Foundation
Puget Sound Energy
Ralf’s Bavarian Bakery
RE/MAX Whatcom County
Real Change Whatcom
Rebecca’s Flower Shoppe
ReBound PT OT
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Rice Insurance
RiverStyx Foundation
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Seattle Storm
Sehome High School
Serendipity Consignment
The Shakedown
Sheet Metal Workers Local #66
Shirlee Bird Cafe
Skagit Community Foundation
Soap for Hope
Sonlight Community Church
Soroptimist International of Burlington
Spark Museum of Electrical Invention
SPIE
Springhill Suites - Marriott
St. James Presbyterian Church
Still Life Massage and Float
State of Washington
Stone’s Throw Brewing
Sunnyside Market
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