



services



safe,  
heard,  
AND valued.

# dear friends

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In our work with youth, there is one constant - change. Sometimes change feels good - like a sunny spring day. Other times, it's scary and unclear. We work with youth in crisis, and in doing so, we work to embrace the changes we seek as well as those that may take us by surprise. This is resiliency.

The last year was marked with a number of opportunities for Northwest Youth Services to test our resiliency. In 2018 we started new programs, opened new spaces dedicated to serving youth in need (22 North), and said "thank you for a job well-done" to our fearless leader of nearly 10 years, Riannon Bardsley.

We started 2019 with big dreams for the future. We dreamed of a new daytime drop-in center dedicated to serving young people, new opportunities for youth to grow and thrive, new support from our community to help us meet its growing needs, and finding a new leader to help us envision future iterations of our programs.

This May we welcomed Emilio Vela, Jr. to his new role as the Executive Director of Northwest Youth Services. Over the last three months we've begun laying the ground work for what's next, and we look forward to sharing our progress with you as we strive to collaborate with youth to foster self-reliance and resilience in the days, months and years to come.

With the 2018 Impact Report we look back fondly on the legacy that Riannon helped to build at Northwest Youth Services, and we look forward to meeting the challenges, and embracing the opportunities, that the future brings.




*Ellie Posel*

**Ellie Posel,**  
Board President



*Emilio Vela, Jr.*

**Emilio Vela, Jr.,**  
Executive Director

A person is shown from the back and side, wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt and a black quilted jacket. They are looking out over a rocky, forested landscape. The background is filled with green trees and a large, mossy rock formation.

**Northwest Youth Services  
collaborates with at-risk,  
runaway and homeless youth  
to foster self-reliance.**



# our work

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.

Youth experiencing homelessness are often without a place to live because their 'home' is not a safe or welcoming place. In a recent study, more than 70% of surveyed youth indicated that their leaving home was unplanned. Of youth who left their 'home' without a plan in place, 78% had \$10 or less upon leaving.

With this and other evident and complicating factors at the forefront, Northwest Youth Services supports youth in identifying their personal goals for the future and building the skills necessary to reach their own sense of stability and wellness.

We provide 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 necessary services and organizations throughout our community.

The holistic well-being of young people is a core principle in our programming 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 lean into their strengths.



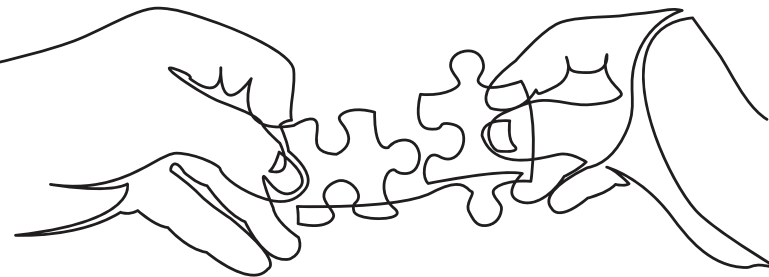


A photograph of a person's lower half and legs, standing on a large, grey, textured rock. The person is wearing light blue, heavily distressed jeans with multiple rips and tears, revealing orange and white striped socks. They are also wearing white Adidas sneakers with three black stripes. A green jacket is visible at the top, and a colorful, patterned bag is slung over their shoulder. The background is a blurred view of the ocean and a clear sky.

**Over 1,500 youth  
accessed services  
and support from  
Northwest Youth  
Services in 2018.**

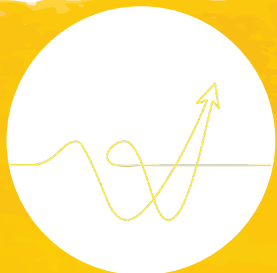


our programs **AND** impact



## Youth Outreach

- We meet homeless youth where they are or welcome them to the Ground Floor
- Provide basic needs and connect youth with housing/services
- Collaborate with youth to help them set and meet their goals



## 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, ages 13 - 17
- HUSLY Emergency Shelters - eight beds for young adults, ages 18 - 24



## 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



## Behavioral Health

- Mental health and substance abuse support and referrals for at-risk youth
- Wraparound services for youth who suffer from mental illness
- Collaborate with all programs to enhance crisis intervention and prevention efforts



## Vocational Readiness

- Help youth with their resumes, job searches, job applications and interviewing
- Connects youth with internships, through which they gain skills and references
- The WeGrow Community Garden tended by youth and volunteers



## Teen Court

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



## 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



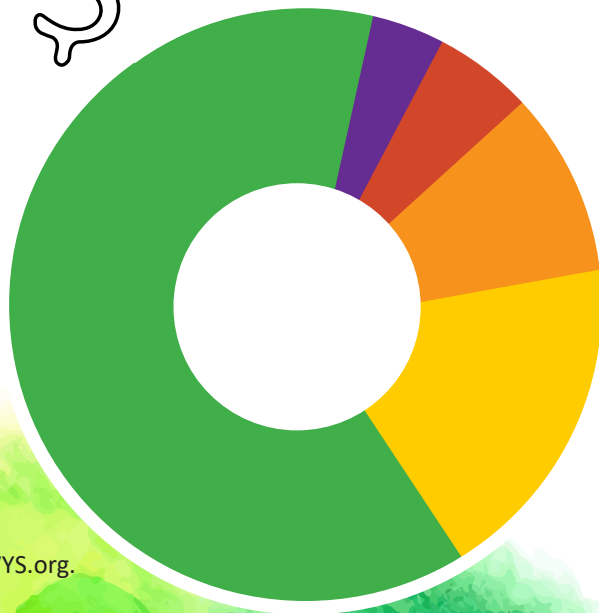
# financials



## Revenue

- Government Grants & Contracts - 61%
- Corporate & Foundation Contributions - 19%
- Individual Donations & Special Events - 12%
- Capital Campaign Contributions - 5%
- In-Kind Support - 3%

**Total Revenue: \$ 3,586,311**



This report is based on our 2018 Audited Financials.  
To review our 2018 IRS Form 990, please contact [Hello@NWYS.org](mailto:Hello@NWYS.org).

1,591 } 

young people sought out support from Northwest Youth Services in 2018.

542 } 

school-aged youth participated in prevention activities aimed at addressing risk factors that often lead to homelessness.

217 } 

youth who exited homelessness and entered safe and stable housing supported by our housing case managers.

144 } 

young people were connected with jobs, internships and skill building activities to increase their vocational readiness.

Northwest Youth Services is able to invest in youth because our community invests in us.

We are thankful for the trust and generosity of the following individuals, local businesses, foundations and corporations.



## individual donors

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We envision communities  
 where all young people  
 have a place to belong:  
 to be safe, heard, and valued.



*northwest youth services*

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