

YOUTHCARE Newsletter

What do the holidays look like at YouthCare?

Our mission: to fulfill wishes & make magic happen

There's nothing like the holidays at YouthCare. **Staff from every corner of the agency—from our housing programs to our engagement centers—kick into high gear to make magic happen for young people.** Festive décor and lights brighten the spaces. Delicious food fills the kitchen tables. And young people get to open up a gift—just for them.

Our annual Orion Center holiday party will look very different this year as we continue social distancing and safe practices amidst COVID-19. **But even a global pandemic can't stop us from bringing joy and hope to youth in our care this holiday season!** Celebrations across our programs will be smaller and more intimate. But staff will still be pulling out all the stops to help fulfill wishes for young people.

Of course, fulfilling wishes is **only possible because of generous support from our community.** We're so grateful for your help to make the holidays special for youth experiencing homelessness, year after year.

Please join us in promising to ensure every young person feels loved and cared for during this holiday season!

When you fulfill a wish, you brighten the season for young people, who are often experiencing even more difficult times during the holidays without their family or loved ones.



Grant a wish by donating or organizing a drive for these frequently requested gifts:

- Gift cards (Target, Fred Meyer, etc.)
- Prepaid cell phones & minutes
- MP3 players & headphones
- New art supplies & journals
- Sports equipment & jerseys
- New & unopened makeup & nail polish
- Hair care products for textured/natural hair
- Shoes & sneakers
- Leggings & athletic wear
- Bedding & pillows
- Laundry baskets

Bring joy to youth **THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

Visit youthcare.org to learn how you can fulfill wishes, host a drive with your family and friends to collect needed items, or deliver a holiday meal to our programs. Please email donations@youthcare.org with any questions.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

VYBE - Virtual Young Adult Barista Employment

We're excited to share the news of a newly reimagined **Virtual Young Adult Barista Employment Training Program—VYBE**—with our friends at **FareStart**. When shelter-in-place took effect, YouthCare suspended its education and employment training programs to mitigate the risk of COVID-19. This included our long-running Barista Training Program, which helps young people perfect the art of coffee-making while learning the basics of customer service. Undaunted, **our amazing Barista staff turned lemons into lemonade: they transitioned the program to a digital platform** with six weeks of virtual employment training and ten months of follow-up with job coaching, referrals, and career coordination.



Rental Assistance & Eviction Protection

The pandemic has created historic unemployment rates, jeopardizing millions of Americans' ability to pay rent, including the young people we serve. **This September, YouthCare and the Y Social Impact Center launched a new partnership to help youth and young adults pay back rent due to COVID-19.** We worked together on a joint application made available through federal CARES funding and administered by the Washington State Department of Commerce, successfully **securing a grant of \$3.2 million for young people.** Young people can receive up to three months of rental assistance. Big thanks to the Y Social Impact Center for their partnership on this program!

Q&A Staff Spotlight:

Danee, Associate Director - Adolescent Housing Services



When did you first start at YouthCare? November 2007.

What is your day-to-day like? I love it. No day is ever the same. The holidays and birthdays are my favorite as seeing youth being celebrated and having them receive a present of something they really wanted is so enjoyable. My day-to-day is filled with checking in on staff and clients to ensure they have what they need to care for the youth in our program.

What are you most proud of in your work? I am most proud of my team and how we've kept our team consistent for young people all these years!

What inspires you to come to work every day? The youth we serve, YouthCare staff, and my family. I have learned more and received more than I could have ever imagined. I love my job and the many people I have worked with over the years.

What challenges have you faced in your work? As a woman of color, I have seen a lot and have been impacted by many systems of oppression. This has been a huge challenge.

What are some of the issues that are unique to working with minors? Consent for placement and treatment for medical treatment. There are conflicting regulations around confidentiality and medication management.

What are some of the disproportionalities you see in the population of youth we serve? People of color are disproportionality overrepresented in the [youth homelessness] system. Youth of color are involved in systems that tarnish their reputations and that perpetuate a continued downward spiral—which continue to reduce options to stability for youth.

YouthCare's 2020 Annual Luncheon: A Virtual Success!

Thank you to everyone for tuning in and supporting the dreams of young people during our virtual luncheon. It was an honor to spend an hour with our community, connecting through stories of challenge, perseverance, strength, and joy from YouthCare alumni, clients, staff, and friends.

Together, we raised over \$550,000 to continue building a community where every young person has the opportunity to thrive. Young people like Alvaro, who is finishing high school and hopes to be a pediatrician. Young people like Triston, who is now uplifting people in his community through his work and activism. Young people like Jayelan and Briana, both YouthCare alumni, who are now building their own careers at YouthCare by helping our clients see their potential and reach their goals.



Youth speaker Alvaro (left) said during the program:

“ I have never thought of myself as homeless. I have always thought of myself as on the way home.”

Thank you for joining us to help young people on their journey home.

PARTNERSHIP SPOTLIGHT: Seattle Kraken & Oak View Group

In 2017, Oak View Group (OVG) approached YouthCare to be their primary charitable partner in Seattle as they build Climate Pledge Arena. **From day one, we could see that the OVG team shared our passion for young people and their potential.**

The youth we serve often tell us they feel invisible in our city. Now they are at the front and center of this historic moment thanks to our partnership with Climate Pledge Arena & NHL Seattle Kraken. Over the summer, Seattle Kraken donated 100% of net proceeds from their limited edition Kraken merchandise to local nonprofits, including YouthCare, Community Passageways, and the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, to help end youth homelessness and create positive pathways and opportunities for BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) youth in our region.



The Seattle Kraken raised \$285,000 from their merchandise sales to help us serve young people. Thanks to everyone who purchased limited edition Kraken gear for a good cause!

LUNCHEON SPONSORS

PRESENTING

Ben Bridge
Expedia

PARTNER

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Kaiser Permanente
Nordstrom
Seattle Bank

COMMUNITY

Alhadeff Family Foundation
Brettler Family Foundation
Calfo Eakes & Ostrovsky PLLC
Columbia Pacific Wealth Management
Diane Terry, Windermere Real Estate Co.
Intersection
Kay-Smith Enterprises
Mercer Island Presbyterian Church
Metzler
NHL Seattle
Nintendo
SpringHill Suites Marriott
Starbucks Coffee Company
Symetra
USI

PATRON

MCSB
Cardea
Davis Property Management
evo
Fox Rothschild LLP
Hudson Group
Liberty Mutual Pride ERG
Meridian Capital
North Coast Electric
One Eighty Foundation
Propel
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt
Seattle Children's
Socius Law Group
Sound Credit Union
TomboyX
Verity Credit Union

ADVOCATE

Arcora Foundation
DPR Construction
Filter, Inc.
Gourmondo Catering Co.
SAP Concur
Schuchart
Seneca Group

VISIT YOUTHCARE.ORG to learn more and get involved.

An Ode to YouthCare Food Heroes

Just like this pandemic has changed the world, YouthCare has changed the way we're feeding and caring for youth experiencing homelessness in our community. We rose to the occasion from the onset of the pandemic six months ago, ensuring all young people have enough to eat during this unprecedented time. **We couldn't provide food and safety to young people—24 hours a day, seven days a week—without the generous support of our community partners and local restaurants.**

We're taking some time to show our appreciation to our YouthCare Food Heroes—those who showed compassion and generosity during a time when it mattered most.

We hope you'll consider **supporting these incredible restaurants, businesses, and nonprofits** where possible!



Donation from Food Lifeline



Want to help with food?

We could always use help with food support for young people in our programs! Please consider signing up for a meal to ensure young people stay healthy and don't go hungry.

[Visit our meal calendar to sign up now!](#)

Get Out the Vote 2020!

Last September, YouthCare launched a two-month Get Out the Vote 2020 campaign for staff and youth. The campaign included a variety of initiatives—from presentations across YouthCare programs, to election-themed community conversation, to partnerships with National Voter Registration Day, National Voter Education Week, National Vote Early Day, and the Election Trust Project. Through email campaigns, resource sharing, and social media, we worked hard to make voting as accessible as possible for our community.

All of these important initiatives saw record-breaking participation in Get Out the Vote efforts, including voter registration and early voting numbers, especially for young people!

THANKS TO OUR FOOD HEROES*

Armoire Style
Barre3 Capitol Hill & Roosevelt
Berntson Porter & Company, PLLC
BooginHead
Cupcake Royale
DRY Soda
Doctor Rogers/Modern Dermatology
Down to Earth Cuisine
Dunn & Hobbes
Essential Water
Filter Digital
Food Lifeline
Francis Hoffman Circle
Fresh Chalk
Fuel Talent
Fulcrum Capital
Gates Ventures
Globant
Goodbye Crop Top
Gourmondo Catering Co.
Grand Pere Bakery
Green Plate Special
Holy Rosary
La Ree Boutique & Gin and the Banker
MOD Pizza
Mary's Place
Northwest Harvest
Off Their Plate
Operation Sack Lunch
PakAm Halal Food Initiative
ParentMap
Pur Skin Clinic
Resolution to End Homelessness
SAP Concur
Saint Brendan Catholic Church
Salare
Seattle Chocolate
Seattle Prep Academy
Shake Shack
Spice Waala
Stand Up for Kids
Starbucks Licensed Stores Team
Super Six
Symetra
That Brown Girl Cooks
TomBoyX
Whole Foods
World Central Kitchen
World Market

**List reflects groups who supported from the start of COVID-19 to early November*