

YOUTHCARE

JOINING YOUTHCARE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS: AN OVERVIEW

THE OPPORTUNITY

Founded in 1974, YouthCare has been a leader in serving Seattle's homeless youth for nearly 50 years. Through a continuum of individualized services tailored to young people's needs and a trusting relationship with a caring adult, YouthCare ensures that young people experiencing homelessness achieve long-term stability. Every young person comes to YouthCare with a unique story, but beneath those individual stories are common systemic barriers and historical inequities: poverty, racism, neglect, and lack of affordable housing. The YouthCare Board of Directors plays a critical role in development, growth and sustainability of the agency as it works to change outcomes for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness and to break down systemic and structural barriers that contribute to and perpetuate homelessness.

We are seeking passionate, dynamic and diverse board members who can bring new perspectives and life experiences to the team. **We believe that meaningful impact comes from board members who share a deep passion for the mission and who reflect the diverse community we serve.** We encourage people of all backgrounds to apply, especially Black, Indigenous, and all People of Color, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQIA+ people, and people with lived experience in youth homelessness. We value our board members' time and talents and aim to provide a meaningful experience by engaging board members in the areas where they'd like to contribute.

OUR MISSION

To end youth homelessness and to ensure that young people are valued for who they are and empowered to achieve their potential.

OUR VISION

YouthCare envisions a community where no young person experiences homelessness, all young people have the opportunity to thrive, and the systems that oppress them are dismantled.

OUR VALUES:

- **Safety:** All young people deserve a secure, stable, and healthy environment.
- **Respect:** We center our work in compassion and dignity for others and the belief that all young people should be valued.
- **Empowerment:** We promote a culture that encourages staff and youth to develop their own strengths, and that champions their growth and successes.
- **Dependability:** We are unwavering in our commitment to young people and can be trusted to provide consistent, high quality, and sustainable care.
- **Social Justice:** To end youth homelessness we must name and actively work to dismantle those systems that have created injustices for people of color, LGBTQ+, and immigrant communities. [Click here to read our statement on anti-racism.](#)



OUR VALUES: *(continued)*

- **Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion:** We embrace diversity, assure fair treatment, and provide equitable access to opportunities.
- **Leadership:** We lead and advocate for changes that benefit young people by leveraging the collective power and influence of our youth, staff, board, and partners.
- **Collaboration:** We can achieve more for young people by collaborating with and learning from partners and inspiring the community to take action.

YOUTHCARE NEEDS YOU IF:

- **You believe that every young person deserves a chance to thrive and are eager to help find solutions to the problem of youth homelessness**
- **You are invested in racial equity, social justice and undoing systems of oppression**
- **You have the time and enthusiasm for community service**
- **You have lived experience engaging with the homelessness system**
- **You have experience in not-for-profit governance or an interest in learning more**
- **You are a curious and collaborative person who enjoys working with other committed people to achieve common goals**
- **In 2022-2023, our other specific needs are for individuals with experience in:** housing and/or workforce development programs for youth; real estate/construction management; leadership development; strategic planning; fundraising and/or capital campaign experience; risk management and nonprofit governance; race equity and justice; communications and/or marketing experience; advocacy with local and state government; and community ties or familiarity with other youth-facing organizations.

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Attend monthly board meetings, typically on the last Tuesday of each month from 5pm-7pm PST
- Review materials and reports in preparation for meetings
- Attend annual board retreat, typically one day in November
- Join one or more board committees and attend meetings as set per committee
- Advocate for YouthCare in our community
- Attend annual luncheon fundraising event and fill a table
- Make a financial contribution to YouthCare that is significant to you (we don't expect or require any specific contribution, nor do we track what directors contribute; we simply ask that you agree to contribute in a way that is meaningful to you).

LENGTH OF TERM

- Three-year term, subject to possible renewal by vote of Board of Directors

INTERESTED?

If you are interested in applying, please complete the application form on YouthCare's website: [Our Board - YouthCare](#). If you have questions, please contact volunteer@youthcare.org