



YouthCare Announces Leadership Team to Revitalize Organization's Efforts

The team is part of an overall plan to strengthen YouthCare's programs

Today [YouthCare](#), one of Seattle's largest housing and shelter providers for youth and young people experiencing homelessness, announces the six-member team to lead the organization in refocusing its programmatic efforts and financial systems to best align with its core mission. This team will deliver a plan that will set YouthCare up for a long, successful future. Leading the team as Interim CEO is Marty Hartman, who has been at the center of fighting homelessness in King County for more than 20 years.

"I'm so grateful for the staff and volunteers who are working diligently to carry out YouthCare's mission for so many years," shared Hartman. "I'm looking forward to joining them and the rest of the transition team in further strengthening that mission and guiding the organization into the future."

Joining Marty in these efforts is a team with a deep history of social impact work and efforts to combat homelessness in our community, including:

- Alison Dean
- Jackie Liao
- Rob Stewart
- Kristi Tollner
- William J. Wiggins

(Bios below)

YouthCare was founded in 1974 by a couple who sought to take action and prevent the trauma caused by youth homelessness. For more than 50 years, YouthCare has continued those efforts, expanding its staff, programs and footprint.

"YouthCare has grown for decades to meet the needs of young people experiencing homelessness," said Becka Johnson, Board President. "This transition is a chance to re-focus our resources on the programs that make the greatest impact in young people's lives. I'm grateful to Marty and the Transition Team for their dedication to ensuring YouthCare continues its mission with strength and clarity for years to come."

YouthCare's Leadership Transition Team is working on a 60-day plan in conjunction with its board and staff to develop a clear strategy for the organization. Members will simultaneously be engaging with city and county leaders, community members, unhoused youth and YouthCare supporters.

“YouthCare has been a critical support to our region’s youth experiencing homelessness, and we are committed to continuing its mission,” added Hartman. “As part of that commitment, this team will work with our staff, board, youth clients, and our partners to share information honestly and transparently, work collaboratively to make hard - but necessary - decisions, and ensure that the organization is on solid footing to continue operations sustainably into the future.”

About YouthCare

YouthCare works to end youth homelessness and to ensure that young people are valued for who they are and empowered to achieve their potential. 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. More than 1,500 young people are served annually with a range of support from access to housing, basic needs, and meals, to workforce training and education that empowers them to access jobs and financial opportunities.

Transition Team Bios

Marty Hartman is a visionary nonprofit leader with over two decades of experience advancing solutions to family homelessness. As Executive Director of Mary’s Place for 24 years, she scaled the organization from a \$32K budget to over \$30M, launching nationally recognized programs like Popsicle Place, mobile outreach, and the Emergency Family Intake Line. Marty also served as King County Social Entrepreneur at the Schultz Family Foundation, working with youth and young adult service providers from across the county to develop a more coordinated approach to supporting young people.

Alison Dean is a strategic operations leader with expertise in housing access, nonprofit partnerships, and systems change. As President of HNN Communities, she led national expansion, launched the organization’s first Project Management Office, and streamlined operations across hundreds of housing access partnerships. A longtime advocate for housing as a human right, Alison brings a relational, equity-driven approach to organizational growth.

Jackie Liao is a strategic advisor with over 25 years of experience in social impact, philanthropy, and stakeholder engagement. As Executive Director of the Starbucks Foundation, she led global investments supporting Opportunity Youth, veterans, refugees, and farmers in 75+ countries. Jackie is known for helping mission-driven organizations clarify complex challenges and design equity-centered strategies that drive lasting change.

Rob Stewart is a seasoned nonprofit executive with deep expertise in youth homelessness and family services. He served as Executive Director at New Horizons (2018–2025), leading strategic growth, budgeting, and philanthropy. Prior to that, Rob was Deputy Director at Mary’s Place, guiding operations and resource development. His earlier work at Horizons for Homeless Children reflects a long-standing commitment to community engagement and cross-sector collaboration.

Kristi Tollner is a nonprofit finance and operations leader with over 25 years of experience across sectors. As Chief Financial Officer at Mary’s Place (2011–2021), she oversaw the organization’s growth from a \$480K budget to \$18M, leading finance, HR, IT, and facilities. Kristi

brings deep expertise in aligning infrastructure with mission, navigating transitions, and building scalable systems that support sustainable impact.

William J. Wiggins is a human resources and culture leader with a strong track record in equity, talent development, and inclusive workplace strategy. As Chief People & Culture Officer at YouthCare, he leads HR initiatives that center youth experience and staff wellbeing. William's prior roles at SEIU 775 Benefits Group, Virginia Mason, and Eating Recovery Center reflect his expertise in DEI, compliance, and leadership development.