

Responsibilities

Members of the Board of Directors of Northwest Youth Services are ethically responsible, collectively and individually, for all activities of the organization. The Board is responsible for determining general policy, approving the annual budget, participating in fund raising activities to support the work of the organization, establishing and monitoring organizational strategic planning, providing general oversight of agency services, and ensuring quality Executive Director performance.

General Duties

Each member of the Board is expected to:

- Embrace the mission of the Northwest Youth Services
- Learn – and carry out – the legal responsibilities of the Board
- Learn enough about NWYS to portray it accurately
- Come to board meetings prepared to participate fully
- Attend all board meetings, retreats and special events
- Serve on at least one standing Board Committee, and play a leadership role in at least one committee or task force
- Make an annual personal financial gift according to your means
- Help with fundraising efforts in whatever way is most appropriate
- Serve as an ambassador between the organization and the community, and enhance the agency's image and presence in the Skagit and Whatcom County community
- Communicate clearly and respectfully, and support the decisions of the full board
- Keep the executive director informed about concerns in the community
- Serve as a resource of knowledge and counsel to the Executive Director, committees, and other board members as needed
- Exercise loyalty and confidentiality in all dealings pertaining to NWYS
- Support NWYS and officers in times of controversy or crisis
- Fulfill commitments on time and comply with all agreements

What Board Members Can Expect from the Organization

- Clear and reasonable expectations
- Consistent, timely communication from staff
- Access to any information needed about the organization
- Training, encouragement, and strategic advice to carry out tasks
- Respect for the time, views, and talents you offer to the Board

Values

NWYS Vision

Our vision is that all young people have a place to belong: to be safe, heard, and valued.

NWYS Mission Statement

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

Philosophy of Service

- We believe that all children and youth deserve a safe nurturing environment.
- We believe that adolescence is an important time of transition, and that youth need and deserve compassion, encouragement, and support.
- We believe that children and youth should be recognized and valued as a vital part of our community.
- We believe change is needed within society to create a safe and healthy environment for children and youth.

Core Values

- **Youth Centered** – We put the needs of children and youth first.
- **Potential for Change** – We believe in the potential for all people to grow and change, and provide opportunities and tools to facilitate that process.
- **Advocacy** – We advocate for the interests of children and youth within their families and communities.
- **Empowerment** – We honor the unique process of each individual and family to meet their challenges and make their own choices for creating health and well-being.
- **Family Oriented** – We understand that each individual exists within the context of a family, and we work holistically to foster healthy relationships.
- **Strength-based Approach** – We meet people “where they’re at”, listen with compassion, honor differences, and build on strengths.
- **Diversity** – We believe that all individuals are important and deserve quality services, and we strive to provide an environment that truly embraces diversity and differences.
- **Innovative** – We look for innovative solutions and take initiative to provide and promote quality services.