



Board of Directors Board Report – February 6, 2023

At Northwest Youth Services, we affirm youth experience and autonomy, as we work together to foster collective healing and justice, in order to dismantle the systems of oppression that perpetuate youth homelessness.

Advancement

Respectfully submitted by | Dejah Kutrovski, Senior Director of Advancement

- New logo was released on January 4th along with a website refresh
- Planning for NWYS Annual Luncheon is underway
- Launched a new in-kind donation intake/management system
- Moved our monetary giving platform from Qgiv to Harness Giving

Young Adult Services – Engagement

Respectfully submitted by | Adair Jewell, Associate Director of Skagit Outreach Services & Lisa Byoune, Associate Director of Whatcom Engagement Services

Skagit:

- This month we have been working closely with the YMCA who is the Skagit County Anchor Community Initiative (ACI) lead, and our other ACI Impact Team partners to work towards creating our By Name List (BNL). The purpose of the BNL is to identify underserved youth and young adults and address gaps in services especially where young people are being disproportionately underserved due to their race or gender.
- In Skagit County, Engagement has been continuing to work with our housing programming staff and data team to envision and implement a new process for accessing our housing and supportive services which will bring us closer to alignment with our one program model.
- We are currently hiring for a Care Coordinator II position which will work with youth and young adults enrolled in intensive pre-housing care coordination and assist in staffing Street Outreach and Walk In services. In the meantime, we are continuing to serve youth and young adults across Skagit County through our Emergency Hotel Voucher program and outreach and intensive care coordination supports.

Whatcom:

- The Ground Floor drop-in center continues to offer various weekly activities for youth. The dedicated staff who work there continues to grow and learn creative ways to engage with youth we serve. Over this last month we saw two youth who regularly visited the ground floor obtain housing for their own apartment.
- Now that the Whatcom engagement team is fully staffed, we hope to extend our hours and get back to a consistent outreach schedule.



- Wednesday mornings continue to be a day where engagement leadership and staff focus on trainings, quality improvements, scheduling, and team building. We are also looking into a partnership with Sea Mar but will have more to come on that opportunity in the future.

Young Adult Services – Housing

Respectfully submitted by	Rebecca Pendergraft, Associate Director of Whatcom Housing Services, Andy Foyé, Associate Director of Skagit Housing Services, & Luis Reyna, Director of Young Adult Services
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Whatcom:

- One young adult exited TLP into Section 8 housing and one moved from homelessness to TLP.
- Two young adults exited HUSLY into secure housing and two moved into HUSLY with a solid obtainable path forward.
- Whatcom Housing has various exciting opportunities in the near future. The Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project is becoming available in Whatcom County. NWYS hopes to lead this project in collaboration with our Anchor Community Initiative efforts as well.
- The Whatcom Housing team is also excited to have Rebecca Pendergraft as the new Associate Director of Whatcom Housing. Rebecca has been with the agency for many years and has a wealth of experience and community connections.
- The Whatcom Eviction Prevention team has been working diligently to serve as many youth as possible and have hit a record number of 80 households in the month of January with rental assistance.

Skagit:

- Skagit Housing is currently hiring for one Care Coordinator 2 position and hopes to add a new member to the team in the next month. The housing team is working together to ensure youth are supported during this time of transition.
- The Skagit team looks forward to next steps with the purchase of our new office, drop-in space, and transitional housing in Mount Vernon. We submitted our application to the Housing Trust Fund and have been working with contractors to map out some initial renovations. We anticipate beginning to move into the space in early February.
- A current challenge in Skagit housing is the significant decline in landlord responsiveness and accountability with regards to maintenance and other issues over the last year or so, and the Skagit housing team continues to advocate with and on behalf of youth and NWYS for improvements in these areas. We are excited for a new position created through the Anchor Communities Initiative, a youth-specific attorney dedicated to providing free, on-demand legal aid services to young people across Skagit and Island counties.

Learning & Impact

Respectfully submitted by	Ashtin Carnahan, Director of Learning & Impact
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- In January Gabe Stonoha, our new Grants Coordinator transitioned more into his new role – we are excited to create/update our funding lifecycle processes
- In a meeting with pillar Directors, the ED, and Grants Coordinator, we identified our funding priorities for 2023 which will help guide our work for the year, they are as follows:
 1. Clear process for deciding to pursue funding



2. Clear workflow and project management
 3. Stability and sustainability
 4. Funding partnerships
- Maggie Newhouse was promoted to Data & Reporting Manager, along with this new title and increased responsibilities in supporting all aspects of data and reporting needs, she will also be supervising the Data Entry Assistant.

Culture & Employee Relations

Respectfully submitted by | Barrett Zimmerman, Associate Director of Culture & Employee Relations

- Creating year-long training curriculum in alignment with contract/grant learning requirements, antiracist practices, and the Mission, Values, and Vision of the organization
- Analyzing feedback from the pilot wellness training for the strategic leadership team to present to the strategic leadership team in February. Working on adjusting this training for the manager-level meeting
- Restructured the organization’s progressive instruction process (a shift away from “progressive discipline”) and updated the Supervisor Learning Packet and presented those to strategic leadership team
- Recruited new Cultural Impact Committee members who are currently undergoing their onboarding process
- Reestablished partnership with Rice Insurance as our employee health benefits broker

Finance & Operations

Respectfully submitted by | Stephanie Wagner, Associate Director of Finance & Sydney Denessen, Associate Director of Strategy & Operations

Finance:

- Finance is successfully completing year end reconciliation and recording for 2022, including closing out operational activity and audit related adjustments.
- We have completed the initial steps for beginning the 2022 audit and will likely schedule it to begin in late May.
- The finance team has completed training for all finance staff on all of the current organizational funding, to ensure all staff have knowledge and familiarity with all our funding and what it covers.
- We are also working with the Learning & Impact team to fill out the full picture of organizational funding: past, current, and potentially upcoming. Once complete, this project should help summarize funding, reporting, and help managing the various grant cycles.

Operations:

- Construction at the PAD house is complete and the license application has been submitted. We anticipate a 90-day approval process and hope to be moved in by mid-April.
- We’ve submitted notices to vacate both our Skagit and Prospect offices with the lease end date of April 30th.
- With Danee on board we’ve been able to learn from her experience and draft a list of internal procedures to incorporate or review.

