



2021 Mission, Values & Vision
July, 2021

where we started

current mission

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

current values

- Youth Centered
- Potential for Change
- Advocacy
- Empowerment
- Family-Oriented
- Strength-based Approach
- Diversity
- Innovative

current vision

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



mission, values & vision workgroup

1

NWYS' young adult

1

NWYS' board member

12

NWYS' team members

we completed:

3

org-wide
feedback
opportunities

1

board
feedback
opportunity

15

hours of
brainstorming,
drafting & editing

4

months
of
planning

what we learned

current mission

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

Many felt that the current mission inherently labelled youth and young adults negatively, and disempowered young people as a result.

current vision

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

Many felt that the current vision read more like a value than a vision that matched our current context. Part of this vision is now reflected in a new proposed value – “Humanity.”



what we learned - values

Youth Centered

Many wanted to maintain this value, but after several workgroups, it was integrated into our vision.

Potential for Change

Across the agency, the team felt this value didn't adequately describe our work with youth.

Advocacy

NWYS is not an advocacy organization – many didn't feel that this value aligned with current services.

Empowerment

Many wanted to maintain this value, but after several workgroups, it was integrated into our vision.



what we learned - values

Family Oriented

Youth advocated that “family” was a triggering word – community felt better.

Diversity

Working to empower youth experiencing homelessness goes beyond “diversity”.

Innovative

Potentially a philosophy of service, but not a core value

Strength-based Approach

Potentially a philosophy of service, but not a core value.





mission, values & vision – next steps and adoption

youth and staff will be able to comment of the proposed work through 7/25/21.

the updated proposal will be presented to the NWYS board of directors on 7/26/21 for adoption.





our mission

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.



our core values

community

We promote interdependence and recognize that everybody needs a community to thrive. We know that we are stronger together.

justice & liberation

We believe that it is critical to acknowledge, name, and actively work to dismantle the historic systems and societal structures that fuel crisis and poverty.



our core values

humanity

We work with respect and compassion for each other and believe that everyone deserves to belong: to be safe, heard, and valued.

accountability

We believe that no one is done learning; as a community we hold each other to a high standard, and work to educate, grow and heal together.



our vision

Guided by our core values and commitment to becoming an Anti-Racist organization, Northwest Youth Services envisions a community in which all young people are seen as catalysts in creating a just and liberated society that supports each of our unique journeys through life.



next steps



Scan the QR Code to provide your thoughts.
(app works best on your phone)





Thank You!