



# **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.

## Advocacy

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

## Potential for Change

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

## 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



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