

Help Support Homeless Youth This Holiday Season!

YouthCare – Who We Are

Each night in Seattle, nearly 1,000 young people are homeless. Some run from abusive homes and others are kicked out for suffering from mental illness or for coming out. For others, their families have come undone or the systems fall short. At YouthCare, we serve homeless youth, ages 12 to 24. We help that young person continue with school, learn job skills, and build a future. We do this with a coordinated set of services: from emergency shelters and transitional housing, to specialized counseling, high school classes, even employment training. We call it our Continuum of Care, and it's the best way to get our young people off the streets and preparing for life.



The Holiday Drive

The holidays are tough for the homeless youth we serve, whether they're all of 24 or as young as 12. YouthCare makes the season brighter for them by not only providing what they need (new socks & underwear, coats, backpacks, etc.) but also fulfilling a few holiday wishes. You can bring some joy to our community's homeless youth by donating to YouthCare's Holiday Drive.

Drives can be organized in a variety of ways. Some groups work from a general list of needed items (see below); some groups choose to fulfill specific wishes for a set number of youth (for example, wish lists from 25 youth); some groups have giving trees (YouthCare can supply gift tags). With any of these approaches, you can include the option for people to donate cash gifts to cover the cost of a holiday gift.

General items often requested:

- 📦 Gift cards (Ross, Fred Meyer, Safeway, Target, etc.)
- 📦 New shoes and socks
- 📦 New jeans and work pants
- 📦 Headphones/ear buds
- 📦 MP3 players
- 📦 Hooded sweatshirts
- 📦 Dish sets and pots/pans
- 📦 Twin/Queen sheet sets and towels
- 📦 Make-up and nail polish
- 📦 African-American hair care products
- 📦 Sports equipment and athletic jerseys
- 📦 Movie passes

Other Ways You Can Help!

- ✓ Make a quick and easy donation through [YouthCare's Holiday Wish List](#) on Amazon.com, and items will be shipped directly to us.
- ✓ Make a cash donation online at www.youthcare.org/donate.
- ✓ Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#).

Questions? Contact donations@youthcare.org or (206) 204-1404

Testimonials of YouthCare's impact:

"The holiday drive is important because it helps save me and my friends from freezing to death. It gives us something to look forward to for the holidays. A sleeping bag, a new pair of socks, or a gift card to a coffee shop." – Carly, age 17

"If it wasn't for YouthCare, I wouldn't have gotten my first job without the job training experience they gave me." – Scott, age 20

"What is hard about being homeless is the way people look at me, the lack of a warm place to stay when I'm sick, not having a place to call 'home.'" – Troy, age 16



Sample posts for Social Media:

Sample tweets:

Looking for a worthwhile cause to support? @YouthCareSEA helps #Seattle's #homeless #youth stay safe and warm. www.youthcare.org.

This holiday season, my family is supporting @YouthCareSEA to get #homeless #youth off the streets and preparing for life. www.youthcare.org.

Holiday shopping for homeless youth: socks, underwear, sleeping bags. Support @YouthCareSEA to help these kids stay safe and move forward.

Nearly 1,000 youth are #homeless in Seattle each night. Help them move off the streets. Support @YouthCareSEA. www.youthcare.org

Sample Facebook posts:

Looking for a worthwhile cause to support? [YouthCare](http://www.youthcare.org) helps Seattle's homeless youth stay safe and warm.

This holiday season, my family is supporting [YouthCare](http://www.youthcare.org) to get homeless youth off the streets and preparing for life.

We are including homeless youth in our holiday shopping: socks, underwear, sleeping bags. Support YouthCare and visit their [Amazon Wish List](#) to help these kids stay safe and move forward.

