

Columbia Gorge News

presents

ShareGratitude 2020



The rise in homelessness is a growing concern in our communities, and what many people don't realize is that adult shelters are not equipped for homeless teens. The Youth Empowerment Shelter is a runaway and homeless shelter specifically for youth ages 10 to 17 serving 6 counties: Wasco, Hood River, Klickitat, Skamania, Sherman and Guillam. Our mission is to provide a place of physical and emotional safety for youth in crisis while assisting them to build positive relationships and develop their individual potential. Since 2015 we have provided a homelike setting with nutritious meals, with trained staff and volunteers to help young people do life with community.

The YES House is first a shelter, and then a launchpad. That is where the "empowerment" comes in. While no one can force wisdom on another human being, at the YES House we employ Positive Youth Development principles, allowing our residents to recognize and take responsibility for their mistakes in a learning process. We partner with many different agencies and groups in order to connect our young people with the services and opportunities that enhance their natural abilities and inclinations. Our first goal is to reunite families whenever possible, or if not, to transition youth into long term self sustaining situations. The Youth Empowerment Shelter is an investment in building community, one teen at a time.

What Some of our Teens have to say about the YES House:

"I would like to say that YES House played a big part in my life in the year and a half that I lived in Oregon. I spent a good majority of it at the YES House I could not be at my house during hard times, and when those times were hard the YES House opened up their doors to help me grow. They gave me a nice place to sleep, food to eat, and a healthy environment to do my work and get my first job... They gave me tools I needed to be successful in school.I personally know that I am a different person because of the experiences I had at YES House." — Male, age 17

"It gave me a shelter when I needed one. It is helping me in some ways like food choices and budgeting. I'd be living on the streets if I weren't here." — Male, age 18



"Homey. It's like you're always going to have someone to lean on. Caring. Good vibes." — Female age, 17

"It's clean and I have my own room. I'm not on the street, so that's pretty cool. There are quiet places to do schoolwork. There're always good people around who want to help. I'm thankful for the YES House." — Female, age 17

How have we been impacted by Covid-19?

This has been a year of transition in so many ways at the Yes House. We created a quarantine area, and adjusted to providing support for online education, and we are still working to maximize our space to accommodate some personal winter indoor exercise. It has required adjustment for both our kids and our staff, how we interact safely and mindfully without fear and irritation. There has been significant changes in staff and board members too this year, but in the midst of all the change, the mission remains the same: The YES House strives to be a harbor of physical and emotional safety for youth in crisis, as well as our staff and volunteers.

How can you help?

We are a private non-profit 501(c)3 funded by individuals, grants, businesses, partnering agencies, and faith groups. You can mail your tax deductible contribution to:

Youth Empowerment Shelter
PO Box 107, The Dalles, OR 97058
Or donate on our website yeshelter.org

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Devco Mechanical was founded in 1993 and has been providing plumbing and heating services to businesses and families in The Gorge for over twenty years. Our strength is our professional crew. We have longstanding relationships with many customers and our long list of testimonials is our best credential. Devco Mechanical provides plumbing services and mechanical services.

541-298-8889 The Dalles . 541-387-8889 Hood River
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We all have reasons to be thankful.

2020 has been a challenging year. Through it all, we have learned about our ability to persevere and keep faith and hope alive – and to find that undeniable attitude of **GRATITUDE**.

Columbia Gorge News and area businesses are asking you to share your gratitude by helping these non-profits in our communities. Organizations that help those in The Gorge who need it the most.

Join the Gratitude Movement!

Tell your friends and family what you're grateful for this holiday season. Post your message on our social media pages using #sharegratitude2020.

Take Your Message National!

Share your message with people across the country and around the world on the ShareGratitude2020 website. Visit ShareGratitude2020.com to post your message and share on social media!