YOUTH OREGON UNITED

Y.O.U.'S NETWORK OF COMMUNITY-BASED AND STATEWIDE PROVIDERS IS CENTERED ON ACHIEVING HOUSING STABILITY AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND YOUNG ADULTS BY EMPOWERING YOUNG PERSONS' OWNERSHIP OF THEIR VOICE AND ACHIEVEMENT OF SYSTEMS CHANGE FOR HIGHER QUALITY RESULTS.

Volume 005 | MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 16 October, 2026

Real Stories of Housing & Hope: Patrick's Story

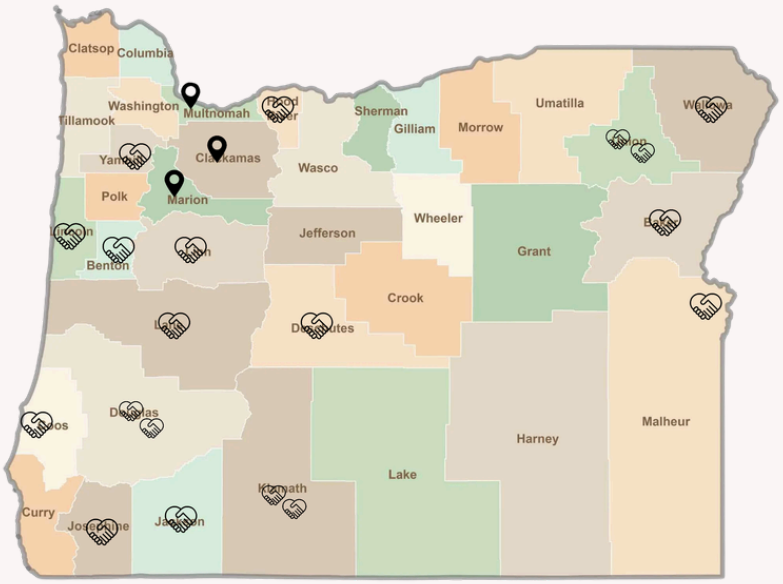
Location : Yamhill County, OR **Provider (s):** Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP)

A youth was referred to YCAP Youth Outreach through a local school counselor after experiencing significant stress at home. At 17, they were considering leaving school but were already working and saving money. After turning 18, they entered YCAP's Transitional Living Program (TLP) and began working with our case management team.

Through support and encouragement, they enrolled in a GED program and completed it within a few months. They also connected with therapy, SNAP, OHP, and primary healthcare while working on their mental and physical well-being.

As they prepared to exit TLP, they pursued a new career through online classes, purchased a reliable vehicle, and saved enough money to move into stable housing with friends. They also reported that the space and support provided through TLP helped them establish healthier boundaries and rebuild some family relationships.

After exiting the program, they continued to check in with YCAP's team and share updates about their new job and continued success. Their story demonstrates how stable housing, supportive relationships, and the opportunity to build life skills can help youth create a strong foundation for their future.



The Oregon Impact

Across the state, a network of partners are working together as a united front to move Oregon forward. Partners are showing up for one another and most importantly showing up for youth.

Network Partner

Provider Partner

Check the map and see if your community is united!

Get United! (503)910-4826 morgan@caporegon.org thomas@peaceathome.com

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Volume 005 | **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** | 16 October, 2026

Youth Council News & Highlights

Highlights:

- Oregon Department of Human Services Statewide Youth Advisory Board Announces Collaborations with Continuums of Care to Advance Youth Voice in Point in Time Count
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America Announce New National Youth Advisory Council Cohort



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF **Human Services**

ODHS Statewide Youth Advisory Board Advances Youth Voice in PIT

The Oregon Department of Human Services' Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP) Youth Action Board (YAB) is hosting a virtual, interactive session to explore challenges, barriers, and opportunities related to the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count. The session will bring together local Continuums of Care (CoCs) and community partners to discuss how youth homelessness is identified and counted in communities across Oregon, with a particular focus on unaccompanied youth ages 14–24.

Drawing on their lived and professional experience, **YAB members will share insights into why young people experiencing homelessness may be overlooked in traditional counts and discuss potential ways to improve data collection**. The YAB has been exploring gaps in state and federal homelessness data and seeking innovative approaches to better capture the experiences of young people who may not be connected to formal services or traditional housing resources. Through this session, participants will have an **opportunity to share regional experiences, learn from youth perspectives, and help identify strategies to strengthen the 2027 PIT Count and improve understanding of youth homelessness across Oregon.**

Stay connected with the YOU Network for updates on the YAB's recommendations, key takeaways, and outcomes from this work as efforts to improve youth homelessness data collection continue.

Boys and Girls Clubs of America Announce Youth Advisory Council Cohort

Boys & Girls Clubs of America has announced its 2026-27 National Youth Advisory Council, bringing together 12 teens ages 15-17 from Clubs and military-connected Youth Centers across the U.S. and abroad. Working alongside national staff, members will share their perspectives to help shape programs and services for young people nationwide.

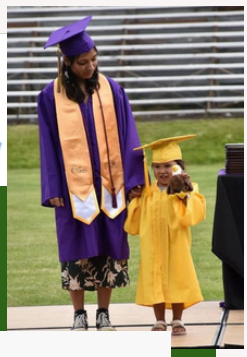
Throughout the school year, council members will provide feedback on issues affecting their peers while building leadership skills and exploring research and advocacy. The council reflects Boys & Girls Clubs of America's commitment to ensuring young people have a meaningful role in shaping the programs and services that impact their lives.

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Provider Spotlight: Safe Families for Children of Eastern Oregon (SFFC)/NE Oregon Compassion Center





Location : Baker, Union, & Wallowa Counties
Ages serviced : 0-100, Host Homes - 25 and under
Key Youth Programs : Host Homes/Safe Families for Children

The NE Oregon Compassion Center is a **faith-based organization that identifies community needs and finds ways to meet them.** For 23 years, it has offered services ranging from a food bank and financial literacy classes to grief counseling and Cribs for Kids. Today, its food bank serves approximately **170 families each week,** supported largely by community donations and volunteers.

Its youth services include **Host Homes, Safe Families for Children, and the Youth Experiencing Homelessness Program (YEHP).** Andy, who has been with Compassion Center for five and a half years and previously worked as a drug and alcohol counselor, brings both professional knowledge and lived experience to this work.

One experience helped inspire the organization's involvement with Safe Families for Children. After helping a family with two children who had exhausted their support network, Andy and his team recognized the need for more lasting support. That experience encouraged them to explore ways to help families before they reach a crisis point.

Today, **Host Homes referrals can begin with something as simple as a conversation or phone call.** Compassion Center understands that young people who have experienced prolonged housing instability may be hesitant to seek help, making trust and accessible support especially important.

The organization is **shifting its focus from short-term housing toward lasting circles of support.** Although it now facilitates fewer hostings than in the past, placements tend to last longer, allowing host families and community members to become part of a young person's ongoing support network. For YEHP youth transitioning into housing, **Compassion Center also provides financial literacy, regular check-ins, one-on-one support, and help maintaining housing.**

Serving **Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties,** Compassion Center continues to build its volunteer network and explore ways to incorporate youth voices into its programs. Young people with lived experience can help make services more approachable and serve as trusted points of contact for their peers.

At its heart, Compassion Center's approach is simple: identify what is missing, build relationships, and create the community support that helps young people and families move forward.

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Volume 004 | **MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** | 18 September, 2026

Teachable Takeaway: Reaching Teens AI Guidance

What is Reaching Teens?
Reaching Teens is an on-line learning platform and curriculum curated by the American Academy of Pediatrics under the supervision of Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg. YOU providers have recognized the strength of the tool to unify the quality of our practices working with clients across the state. The platform includes an AI tool to provide immediate guidance of the vast library of professional development concepts.



This month's newsletter features Patrick and their referral to a transitional living program provider from a high school counselor after their learning of the young person's desire to drop out of school due to a highly stressful situation at home. We prompted the AI navigator about the best ways to support an older teen who was thinking of dropping out of school to focus on their independence from their family. Here is one section of the response from the Reaching Teens AI navigator:

The wish for independence is a normal developmental drive, so start there rather than with opposition. Below are strategies drawn from the Reaching Teens text.

Frame independence as normal development

- Adolescents are learning to become increasingly independent, and this sometimes means they temporarily push away parents or other adult authority figures to prove to themselves that they can stand on their own.
- Teens continue to value, and sometimes need, adult involvement, and they listen most closely to guidance from trusted adults.
- The primary energy to move forward needs to come from the youth, and it is embedded in the natural transition from childhood dependence to adulthood interdependence balanced with autonomy.

Help them own the decision

- Teens should drive the agenda and determine their readiness to change.
- Try a "ladder" exercise. Draw "Today" as the base, then write a hopeful future and a feared future at the tops of two ladders. This is not a threat, and the positive future should reflect the teen's own stated goals.
- Many teens can consider only one step at a time and may need to consider next steps on another day.
- Explore the benefits and costs the teen sees in their current plan. Build the concrete skills needed to carry out whatever plan they choose.

Guard against overcorrecting

- Ideally, we put boundaries in place that ensure safety and then allow freedom to navigate within them. Failure is a great teacher when it feels emotionally and physically safe.
- Adolescents can heal and grow when caring adults trust their capacity to right themselves and offer appropriate support and guidance.

CHECK IT OUT!

WellRoot offers ongoing trainings in Reaching Teens, parenting, & more!
Sign up for a free training today!

Learn More here!

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