

OREGON  
*Alliance*  
of Children's Programs

3 April 2013

HOUSE – HUMAN SERVICES &  
HOUSING COMMITTEE

**SUPPORT HB 3244 – 2**

Dear Chair Tomei, Vice Chairs Olson  
and Gomberg, and Committee  
members:

I am Janet Arenz, Executive Director of the Oregon Alliance of Children's Programs. We are a statewide non-profit, supporting good budgets and good policies for children and families, so that we can make children Oregon's greatest asset.

We do this by representing \$205 million in small businesses, delivering services and programs for over 100,000 children. We have a payroll of \$152 million for 5,500 employees and raise \$35 million in philanthropic resources each year.

Member programs span child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health, addiction, developmental disabilities, prevention.

We also represent the lion's share of runaway and homeless providers in Oregon.

We are asking you to support amending Oregon's definition of homeless youth to recognize 18 to 21 year olds.

- **Be consistent with what we do for our other youth in child welfare:**
  - **Oregon's foster care system which supports youth up to 21.**
  - **Federal RHY programs which serve youth in Oregon to age 22.**

Thank you!

# OREGON'S RUNAWAY & HOMELESS SYSTEM

- Runaway and homeless providers across Oregon serve 20,509 youth each year. Their programs ensure safety, provide permanent connections to adults, support youth well-being and develop self-sufficiency.
- Services represent a full array of prevention and intervention programs, including keeping adolescents and youth safe; working on family reunification; connecting youth to education and needed services; and providing transitional living support to move into responsible adulthood.

## **Outcomes achieved by programs for runaway and homeless youth reduce the costs of other systems:**

- After a rigorous review of a Portland-based RHY program, it was established that for **every \$1 spent helping youth get off the street, \$7.45 was saved in other public costs**, particularly those related to public safety.
- The **Youth Correctional** system serves **1825 youth** a year at a cost of **\$151 million**.
- The **Child Welfare** system in Oregon serves **13,100 children and youth** in out-of-home care and responds to **71,900 reports of child abuse** a year at a cost of **\$208 million**.
- The Oregon Department of Education reported in November 2011 that there were **20,500 homeless youth** attending school in Oregon, of whom **3,500 were unaccompanied minors**.

## **RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH SERVED ANNUALLY IN OUR PROGRAMS:**

20,509 - Total (non-duplicated youth)

Street Outreach - 41,300

Outreach – 3,702

Housing – 128

Shelter – 1,154

Transitional Living – 300

Drop-in Center – 10,902

## **KEY SYSTEM OUTCOMES:**

(these are the same outcomes in Oregon's child welfare, foster care system)

### **Safety:**

- 57,000 youth contacts
- 5,400 youth engaged in service
- 1,196 youth sheltered
- **89% of sheltered youth had safe exists (1064)**

### **Well Being:**

- 115 youth served in Transitional Living services
- **81% received counseling** on key areas of household dynamics, sexual orientation/gender and abuse and neglect
- **48% received services** to address physical and mental health, alcohol and drug abuse, or physical and mental disability.

### **Permanent Connections:**

- **46% of youth reconciled with family**

### **Self Sufficiency from the Transitional Living services:**

- 21% of youth exited with stable housing
- **32% of youth were attending school** regularly, graduated, or obtained GED at exit. **WE CAN BEST ADVANCE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES BY PROVIDING STABILITY FOR YOUTH** (housing, case management, permanent connections with family and other adults).
- 15% of youth achieved seasonal employment or employment full or part time or were in jobs programs at exit.
- **93% of youth** received life skills training.

OCN Oregon CASA Network  
1130 NW Harriman St.  
Suite #122  
Bend, Oregon 97701  
(541) 389-1618



OREGON CASA NETWORK  
Court Appointed Special Advocates

**HB 3244**  
**Runaway & Homeless Youth Funding & Eligibility**

The Oregon CASA Network supports HB 3244. The 1,915 Court Appointed Special Advocate Volunteers serving children & youth in all 36 counties understand how important it is to continue to provide support & services to youth up to the age of 21 years old.

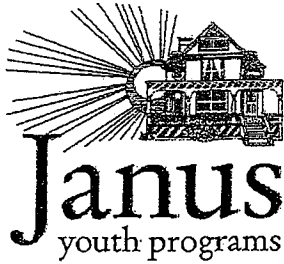
Judges routinely continue the CASA appointment during this critical life transition as a youth ages out of foster care. Many times the CASA is the youth's only adult connection as they navigate this new phase of their life whether they are off to college or the work force. It is vitally important that the network of services continue during this step in a youth's life.

Runaway and homeless youth providers create a safety net for youth to ensure they have the best chance to be safe, self-sufficient and connected to trusted adults who can provide that circle of support in the future. Service eligibility should not be determined by when or how you connected to the system. Please align the age requirement cross systems and extend services to youth up to 21 years old.

**PLEASE SUPPORT THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR RUNAWAY & HOMELESS YOUTH & EXTEND SERVICES TO YOUTH UP TO AGE 21 YEARS OLD.**

Mission: Strengthen CASA Programs in Oregon.

Vision: CASA Programs will have sustainable resources to advocate for all children who are victims of neglect and abuse in Oregon.



March 25, 2013

Representative Nancy Nathanson  
900 Court Street, NE, H-280  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Nathanson:

I am writing to you in support of Governor Kitzhaber's budget recommendation of \$750,000 general fund for the runaway and homeless youth system in child welfare.

For the past 13 years I have directly overseen Janus Youth Programs Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) services in Portland, Oregon. We provide a wide array of services to children throughout the State of Oregon. Any runaway or homeless child that seeks services in Multnomah County, no matter their home of origin, will be provided services including immediate shelter, food and other basic needs, counseling/case management, support getting back to their home of origin, and transitional and long term housing.

Over the years, approximately 25% of the youth served in the Portland RHY system comes from other jurisdictions outside of Multnomah County. We find that many youth, when they runaway from their home of origin in Oregon, tend to gravitate towards the urban areas of the State where they can more easily find assistance.

Some of the service outcomes provided by Janus include:

- Janus provides shelter services to 500 unduplicated homeless youth each year.
- Janus' outreach teams make over 30,000 duplicated contacts with youth on the streets each year.
- Janus provides transitional living services to 25 youth each year for up to 18 months. 80% of these youth graduate from the program and are able to maintain safe stable housing after exiting from the program.
- Janus provides safety and reunification services to approximately 300 youth under 18 each year; 85% of whom are reunited with their family.

Most, if not all, of the youth we serve do not receive services from Oregon DHS. They disappear into the shadows and mostly are unseen to the general public. Many of these youth find themselves in unsafe situations and are often victimized for the benefit of others. In Multnomah County alone, we have identified over 200 children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation.

Thank you for your work in the Oregon Legislature and specifically your work on the Ways & Means Human Services Sub-committee. If you have questions or want additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kevin Donegan  
Program Director

Changing Lives...Building Futures

Dennis L. Morrow, Executive Director

707 NE Couch Street Portland, OR 97232  
503.233.6090 Fax 503.233.6093

[www.janusyouth.org](http://www.janusyouth.org)

**Residential Services**

Buckman House & Buckman Annex  
Clackamas House  
Cordero House  
Imani House

**Runaway Youth Services**

Harry's Mother  
Garfield House  
Reception Center  
24-Hour Youth & Family Help Line

**Homeless Youth Services**

Willamette Bridge Programs  
Yellow Brick Road Portland  
Portland Outreach & Engagement  
Access Center  
Helen Reser Bakkenen Youth Shelters  
Street Light & Porch Light  
Bridge House  
Changes

**Education Services**

Clinton School  
Lents Education Center

**Village Gardens**

Food Works & Food Works Farm  
Community Programs  
New Beginnings Garden  
Seeds of Harmony Garden  
Children's Garden Clubs  
Community Health Workers  
Livestock Project

**Insights Teen Parent Services**

HomeSafe Supportive Housing  
Parent Resource Center  
Healthy Start  
SEEDS  
Enhanced Case Management  
Christina Project  
In School Program  
ECHO

**Washington Youth Services**

Yellow Brick Road Washington  
Oak Bridge Youth Shelter  
Oak Grove Crisis Shelter  
The Nest  
The PATH  
The Perch

**Scholarships for Success/A Bridge to the Future**

**Sponsored Projects**

Camp Odyssey—The Piece

United Way of the Columbia-Willamette  
Community Investment Partner

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