



2475 Center St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

**EMPOWERING PEOPLE
TO CHANGE THEIR
LIVES AND EXIT
POVERTY BY
PROVIDING VITAL
SERVICES AND
COMMUNITY
LEADERSHIP**

March 21, 2017

Dear Co-chairs Senator Steiner-Hayward and Representative Rayfield, and Committee Members

HOME Youth & Resource Center has been active for 23 years and joins the six other programs of Community Action in empowering people to change their lives and exit poverty by providing vital services and community leadership. We want to thank you for supporting your constituents—both your providers, and the youth who live in your community. Specifically we thank committee member Senator Jackie Winters for her leadership in the Salem area where we are located.

HOME believes that with opportunity, support and unconditional encouragement ALL youth have unlimited potential. We uniquely serve at-risk, homeless and street youth ages 11–18 in Marion and Polk Counties. We do this through the foundational programs of street outreach, day shelter and job training programs. Additional positive youth development sub programs support youth along our continuum of care. Our mission is to keep youth safe when they are with us and to help them change their life trajectory.

- Annually we provide services for nearly 600 youth who together make 8,986 visits. In the past year 289 of them were new to our services
- 15,135 meals are served onsite and through food boxes
- 101 youth self identify as homeless
- We responded to over 323 runaway reports combined from Salem and Keizer
- 85 youth participated in our Youth Empowerment Program where members both learn and demonstrate job skills, life skills and financial literacy

State funds play a vital role in supporting this population. Current invested dollars have great outcomes in meeting immediate needs as well as solidifying the paths to success for Oregon's most vulnerable. Without state funds HOME would loose two of our foundational programs— street outreach and job training. There is already a gap in services as there is no overnight shelter for minors in Marion or Polk county. Destabilizing current programs would remove the safety net that catches youth when they fall and provides traction when youth pull themselves up.

According to our school district's McKinney Vento liaison we have 1,150 homeless students in Salem-Keizer, 583 of them in middle or high school and 197 of them unaccompanied by a guardian. It is important to note that these staggering statistics only paint the picture of those who are in school, not for those who are disconnected. These youth have come so far, we can't stop helping them now. Please come visit us to see for yourself, you have an open invitation anytime!

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MWVCAA's mission: Empowering people to change their lives and exit poverty by providing vital services and community leadership.