



changing lives • building futures

Dennis L. Morrow, Executive Director

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Residential Services

Annex I & II
Buckman
Hope Partnership
Cordero
Imani

Runaway Youth Services

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

Homeless Youth Services

Willamette Bridge Programs
Yellow Brick Road Portland
Access Center
Helen Reser Bakkensen Youth
Shelters - Street Light & Porch Light
Bridge House
Changes

Village Gardens

Food Works & Food Works Farm
Village Market
Community Programs

Insights Teen Parent Services

HomeSafe Supportive Housing
Healthy Families
SEEDS
School Program
Strong Moms
Echo
Family First
HAPPY

Washington Youth Services

Yellow Brick Road Washington
Oak Bridge Youth Shelter
Oak Grove Crisis Shelter
Cowlitz Street Youth Services
Housing & Case Management Services
The Nest
Connections

Scholarships for Success

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March 22, 2017

Senator Elizabeth Steiner-Hayward &
Representative Dan Rayfield
Salem, Oregon 97301

Reference: SB 5526
Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Human Services

Dear Senator Steiner-Hayward and Representative Dan Rayfield,

We want to thank you for supporting both youth providers and the children who live in your community. We are a non-profit organization changing the lives and building futures for over 6,000 children each year. Our 18-member Board of Directors are business leaders, community volunteers, and advocates for the youth we serve.

Our goal is to keep children safe when they are with us and to help enhance the quality of their lives. Since 1972, Janus has held fast to its mission to create innovative, community-based programs for children, youth and families by working in partnership with others to create safe and healthy communities. We do this through the many programs we offer youth and their families.

Janus has four different BRS Residential Programs funded through Oregon Youth Authority and one BRS residential treatment program funded through DHS. Our DHS program is Imani House and it was started at the request of state child welfare to provide long-term specialized treatment for young men 13-18 and their families who have experienced sexual abuse. Services delivered by highly trained staff include individual and group counseling, skill building and family counseling. Continued education is provided through middle and high school classrooms. During a young person's 2 year stay, Imani's therapeutic model provides an environment for accountability, healing and family reunification. Imani has a success rate of over 95% of young men not offending and of successful transition back into their family or a safe, stable alternative. This program is crucial to break the cycle of child sexual abuse before the youth become part of the juvenile justice system.

Success in our work is totally dependent on the quality of staff who we are able to hire. BRS funding rates historically have been so low that we generally see a 50% turnover within the first 2 years for line staff. When the state minimum wage goes up on July 1, we will have entry level staff literally being paid at a minimum wage level for working with some of the most challenging and needy youth/families in the entire state. Due to the hire turnover rates, we

typically now have both supervisors and Program Directors who are literally covering overnight shifts and weekend shifts just to keep the doors open. Rate increases proposed for the BRS services are literally “life and death” for most programs like ours. We have already lost hundreds of treatment beds in this state for our highest risk children—we absolutely cannot afford the loss of any more, particularly programs like Imani which have demonstrated their impact and success.

We are asking for your 100% support in maintaining the proposed BRS rates in the state budget not for Janus but for the 50 youth in BRS programs that we serve daily. The price we would pay for loss of these services will be multiple times the commitment needed today to maintain them.

Please come visit us to see for yourself; you have an open invitation any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dennis Morrow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dennis Morrow
Executive Director