



108 Prospect Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225

P: 360.734.9862

F: 360.734.4720

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

September 13, 2021

Dear Neighbor -

Hello! I am writing today to introduce Northwest Youth Services and our work to you as your newest neighbors! We are so excited to be purchasing the home at 1000 36<sup>th</sup> Street and working with you and our community to make this dream of better serving young people, ages 13 to 17, a reality.

First off, we heard from some of our new neighbors that they wish we could have reached out sooner. We hear you. In this seller's real estate market, we've had to act fast and nimbly to reach the point where we've felt confident enough to reach out and say "hello".

Northwest Youth Services plans to use the home, which is beautiful and lovely, to house our PAD program. This home will provide housing and stability to unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness, who need consistent relationships and housing to thrive. We have recently applied for land use permits based on BMC 20.15A- Interim Housing, which the City Council adopted in 2020. It allows small shelters (12 or less guests) to be in a residential area through a Type 1 process, and an administrative (by the Director) decision.

The young people who live with us at the PAD are enrolled in school, have a curfew, and have their own goals for their futures. They are kids. Some of them haven't stepped foot into a home like the one at 1000 36<sup>th</sup> Street in their entire lives. Some of them are fleeing violence at home. Some of them are forced to leave because their parents can't comprehend or support their gender identity. This will be a licensed program that has very strict guidelines for our services for the children in our care – guidelines that we take seriously.

Northwest Youth Services has managed our PAD program for young people since 2010. In this time, we have provided a safe and supportive living environment for over 500 young people – young people who've moved on to attend college, secure jobs and become adult members of our community. Just like you.

The PAD is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with at least two trained and qualified team members. We work in partnership with the young people and their guardians to ensure that the PAD is a good fit for their growth and development, and we tailor our services to their needs, goals, and healing.





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Northwest Youth Services serves as legal guardians while each young person is in our care – we ensure they are going to school, getting up for work, pursuing recreation activities that excite them, visiting the dentist and doctor, help them create a plan to improve their relationships with family, etc. In short, and for a limited time, we get to provide stability and security to these youth in their time of need.

Early in this process we had imagined that part of this stability and security would be living in a warm and welcoming neighborhood. As of last week, it's clear that not everyone is excited to hear about our arrival. While we can't change the minds and hearts of everyone, we hope that if you're curious to learn more, you will join us at one of our upcoming community Q & A sessions about this project.

**Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> – 5:00 – 6:00 pm via ZOOM**

RSVP to Sydney at [Sydneyd@nwys.org](mailto:Sydneyd@nwys.org) to get the Zoom link

**Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> – 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm at 1000 36<sup>th</sup> Street**

Masks and social distancing will be required

Alternatively, if you'd like to discuss this one-on-one, please do not hesitate to reach out. My e-mail address is [JasonM@nwys.org](mailto:JasonM@nwys.org) and my phone number is (360) 734-9862 ext. 105.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason McGill".

Jason McGill,  
Executive Director and Neighbor

