

» Cheers, Cheers for Volunteers!

Happy National Volunteer Month!

Everyday Rod's House is fortunate to count on numerous volunteers who dedicate their time in many ways like meal preparation, operational support and by connecting

with young people. We'd like to take this opportunity to introduce you to three volunteers from Pacific Northwest University's medical program. PNWU's Health Education Program is a full time commitment for these amazing young women, but they go above and beyond by dedicating their time volunteering at Rod's House, even when at their busiest, (Exams week!)



Finnian Moon
She/her/hers
OMSII (Year 2)

Rod's House caught my attention with the work they were doing in the community and I decided to volunteer for them. Their comprehensive programming provided youth an opportunity to grow and to make changes on their own and I wanted to be a part of it.

Rod's House is made of a wonderful community of staff and clients. It's such a welcoming place where someone always has a smile. Volunteering here gives the opportunity to work alongside youth experiencing homelessness and be reminded of the humanity involved in health care. I get to learn about them as individuals, not just as patients.

I learned about Rod's House soon after I moved to Yakima in 2020. However, I didn't start volunteering until my friend Finnian, encouraged me to. My main interest in medicine as a career stems from a desire to serve my community and Rod's House presented a meaningful way for me to do just that.

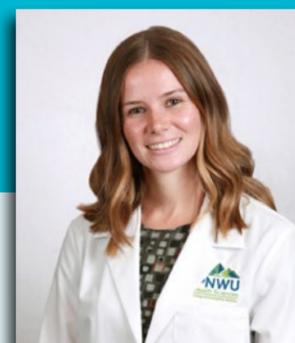
My favorite part of volunteering at Rod's House is interacting with the young adults. It is a welcome reminder of the importance of connecting with individuals and directly interacting with the underserved populations I plan to care for in the future. I appreciate that the volunteer work at Rod's House feels impactful; I always feel like there is a desire for me and the other volunteers to be there.

Olivia Beck
She/her/hers
OMSII (Year 2)



Since moving to Yakima last June, I've been struck by the sizable homeless population in the area. I saw people outside during extreme weather conditions and with minimal supplies. I wanted to do something to help and when I heard about Rod's House, through PNWU, I knew this would be a great place for me to volunteer my time.

I continue to volunteer at Rod's House because of the amazing and friendly people I meet at each of my volunteer shifts. It has also been a great way to become more connected to the Yakima community. There is a high likelihood that one day I will be treating patients that are homeless or who have been homeless at some point in their lives. I think providing direct service to youth experiencing homelessness can help me be more prepared with how to provide appropriate medical care and resources in the future. **Volunteering at Rod's House is a very rewarding experience that I think everyone could benefit from!**



Olivia Romas
She/her/hers
OMSII (Year 1)



Interested in volunteering, donating, or would like more information?



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Spring
Newsletter
2022



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New Donation Processing Center - Open for drop-offs soon!

After years of dreaming, Rod's House has been graciously gifted space, by the Yakima Housing Authority, which will act as our first official donation processing center. This new building will free up space at the Resource Center and make the drop-off experience easier for donors. Accepted items include: Gently used clothing/shoes, household appliances, hygiene products and pre-packaged food items.

Stay tuned for more information!



Location:

314 Cherry Ave., Suite 119, Yakima, WA

Donation Center questions:

Andy@rodshouse.org

RESPECT. EMPOWER. CONNECT.



URGENT NEEDS

Wishlist

Wanting to donate items to Rod's House but not sure what to give?

Spring

Please consider choosing items from our current list of URGENT NEEDS:

1. Pre-packaged snacks
2. Mens Jeans (waist 30-36" length 30-34")
3. Hoodies (L-2XL)
4. Sweats (M-2XL)
5. Mens underwear (Medium & up)
6. Womens underwear (All sizes)
7. Shampoo & conditioner
8. Body wash



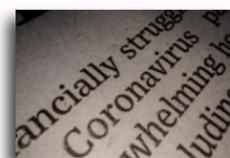
Extreme Winter Weather Shelter

Rod's House Extreme Winter Weather Shelter settled into the FairBridge Hotel this winter. Young Adults and Rod's House Staff loved the new location and the added security and safety it provided. One client even referred to the space as a "5 Star Shelter!"

Covid Rewind

March 2019: COVID Hits

April-June 2020



Young Adult Extreme Winter Weather Shelter transitions into 24/7 COVID Isolation Shelter at Dad's House Church

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were served daily from March-August

Despite Covid-19, the Easter Bunny still made it to shelter



51 NEW young people accessed the Covid-19 Emergency Shelter for the first time!

June - August 2020

COVID Isolation Shelter move to Unitarian Universalist Church (UUC)



September 2020

COVID Isolation Shelter closes and Young Adult Emergency House opens in Sunnyside, WA



Donor support helped provide everything we needed!

Staff Highlight

Sylvia
She/Her

YAEWWS Program Coordinator



As someone who experienced homelessness as a young adult, I know how helpless a person can feel. Especially when you are barely stepping into the adult world and everything seems so foreign and new. I want to be the person I needed when I was in that situation, and if I can show others that there is hope by sharing my story, then that's a bonus.

My favorite part about working for Rod's House is meeting new people. Our young adults are so unique and come from all walks of life, I learn something new from them everyday, and each day I am reminded of what I have to be thankful for. I would like the community to know that their help never goes unnoticed. Having worked at the shelter this year, I have seen first hand the smiles that come from receiving a new warm coat and a pair of gloves, and the excitement that comes with being served a hot home cooked meal or some fresh baked cookies. I have been told by many of our clients "I'm so grateful for the people who donated this, I don't know how I would have gotten by without it", or "It's nice to be thought of." Your donations matter more than you know, and what takes you a couple of minutes or hours to donate, will mean something for a lifetime to our young adults.

Even with challenges presented by Covid-19, the support we've received from the community along with dedicated volunteers and staff, Rod's House has been able to continue providing services, food and opportunities to young people experiencing homelessness.

September 2020 - Today



Thank You!

To be continued...

» A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

You may remember me sharing a story about a young person named Alexis. Alexis is a young mother of two children who made the difficult decision to leave a toxic relationship. With nowhere to go, Alexis found herself homeless and soon experienced the pain of separation from her children as Child Protective Services took them away.



Photo credit: Nathan Dumitao @Unsplash

As the weather got colder, Alexis needed a safe place to sleep. Because of your support, Alexis found warmth and security when she found her way to the Extreme Winter Weather Shelter.

You will be pleased to know that since Alexis's first stay at our winter shelter, she has been able to connect with our case management and behavioral health staff to regain stability in her life and custody of her two young children. Her family is reunited at a local shelter and she is working hard with her case manager to find permanent housing. The normal day-to-day things are what Alexis missed most - she is ecstatic to be able to give her daughter baths at night and eat meals as a family again.

Thank you for caring about the young adults in our community. Your giving provides hope to the young people we serve and shows them that you care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark B James".

Mark James
Executive Director



P.S...

It's not too late to give. If you still want to help young people like Alexis, \$55 will offer a night of warmth and safety at the Extreme Winter Weather Shelter.