

# » Summertime WISH LIST

**\*ALWAYS NEEDED\***

- Bottled water & Electrolyte beverages
- Pre-Packaged snacks
- Travel Size Shampoo & Conditioner
- Deodorant/ Antiperspirant
- Undergarments  
(Mens/ Women's all sizes)
- Blankets/ Sleeping Bags
- Razors / Shaving cream
- Plates / Cups / Utensils
- Backpacks
- Tide pods
- Paper Towels (Rolls)



**\* URGENTLY NEEDED \***

- Toilet Paper
- Chapstick
- Disinfecting wipes
- Toothpaste
- Personal cleansing wipes
- Sunscreen
- Non perishable food/beverages
- Popsicles/ Ice cream  
(Individually wrapped)



**THANK YOU Jesuit Volunteers!** <<



This month we say goodbye to our Jesuit Volunteers (JV's), who have undoubtedly left their mark on Rod's House and the young people we serve. Thank you, Bethanie and Hannah, for creating memories and experiences with and for our young people that they will never forget. From water balloon fights to birthday parties and everything in between - our young people (and staff) could not be more grateful for the year we've been able to spend with you.

In August Hannah will be continuing her journey with the Jesuit Volunteer Corps NW as a JV in Juneau, Alaska and Bethanie will be beginning a new journey including international travel and the pursuit of a degree in Dental Hygiene. We will miss them both so much, but know they will thrive wherever they are.

**Good luck on your next journeys, and don't forget to stay in touch!**



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

- [rodshouse.org](http://rodshouse.org)
- [office@rodshouse.org](mailto:office@rodshouse.org)
- (509) 895-2665



P.O. Box 2283  
Yakima, WA 98907

Summer  
Newsletter  
2022



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



**In Their Shoes  
Celebration &  
Fundraiser**

August 25th, 2022  
Doors open @ 5:30pm  
SOZO Sports Complex

For details call or email:

607-339-7165

[maggie@rodshouse.org](mailto:maggie@rodshouse.org)

Get your tickets TODAY!

SOZO Sports Complex

8-25-2022



<https://rodshouse.ticket.qtego.net/tickets/list>

**RESPECT. EMPOWER. CONNECT.**



## » STAFF Highlight

Isaiah Williamson  
He/Him/His  
Rod's House Case Manager

*"It's been truly a blessing for me to be in the position as a Case Manager and have a positive impact in young people's lives."*

I've been living in Yakima for the past 17 years and started becoming actively involved in the community by coaching youth sports. I started working at Rod's House in November of 2019 and am a Case Manager working with youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. I love the impact Rod's House has in the community and the help being provided to the young people of the Yakima Valley.

Part of my job is to prepare clients for employment by assisting them with job training, job searches, educational goals, acquiring identifying documents, and reunification with family; etc. I chose to work at Rod's House because I have seen, for many years now, the need for programs and resources to combat the difficulties our young people face on a daily basis. Some of these difficulties include housing instability, the lack of or inability to acquire skills in order to obtain employment, or the absence of a place to feel safe and cared for. Rod's House provides solutions to these difficulties and is a safe neutral space for the young people. With the support of the Case Management team, we are able to address the issues they face through making connections and understanding each individual need of the YYA's who access Rod's House.

Working at Rod's House has allowed me to make meaningful connections with youth and young adults who find it difficult to ask for assistance. I'm able to assist at-risk youth by empowering them and creating a bridge to resources available they did not know existed. I can help them gain the tools necessary to navigate what direction they want to go with their newfound choices in life. It's been truly a blessing for me to be in the position as a Case Manager and have a positive impact in young people's lives. I love what we do as an organization and I stand by the Rod's House mission to END youth homelessness and break the vicious cycle our youth and young adults face everyday. I am proud to be a part of the team!



## » VOLUNTEER Perspective

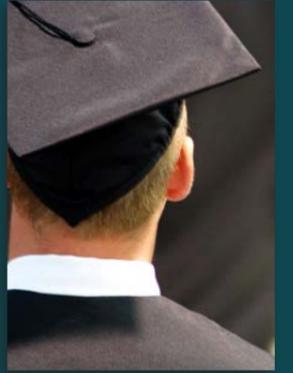
Brittanie Vaughn  
She/Her/Hers  
Rod's House Board President

As an adult looking back I've been blessed to be surrounded by many family, friends, coaches and teachers who supported and believed in me, and that gave me the courage to break the cycle. I'm happy to say my parents have been sober for more than 15 years and I couldn't be more proud. We all make mistakes and we all deserve another chance.

If I can help just one person break the cycle, or feel they are enough to make the change then I have made a difference. I am proud to be a Rod's House board member and impact the futures of those who need it the most. If there is one thing I could end with, it is a quote by Harvey Fierstein, "Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself".

*"I don't regret the way I grew up... because that made me the strong independent, driven woman I am today."*

## » YOUTH Accomplishment



My name is Thys and I'm a recent graduate from AC Davis high school here in Yakima county.

Sitting at graduation was a bittersweet moment for me. It was an invincible type of feeling. The fact that, you know, **I DID IT**, even through the last couple years with COVID.

The world and COVID said, "NO", but I said "YES" this year. Yes, I can do it! And I did. And it's just **AMAZING!**

Rod's House has helped me through some of the most difficult times I'll probably ever have to go through in my life. Rod's House helped me with my confidence, and to bring back things in my life I've never thought I could ever get back, and they helped me improve my mental health.

The legacy I would really love to pass on to the community is to always learn from the mistakes that other people make. I can't wait to continue leaving my mark on Davis High School and on Rod's House.

THYS  
He/Him  
Rod's House Client

I didn't grow up in Yakima. I actually have lived in many different places all throughout Washington and briefly in Oregon. I grew up in a family who struggled with addiction which meant we were constantly on the move. It was my job that brought me to Yakima a little over 8 years ago and I joined the Rod's House board about 4 years ago.

I chose to serve at Rod's House because it hits deep. I have experienced homelessness and times where we couldn't afford to eat. This was mostly impacted by the choices my parents made as I was growing up. They were controlled by addiction and that meant their priorities weren't in line with where they should have been. My parents did the best they could for the situation we were in. I don't regret the way I grew up nor do I hold the past against them because that made me the strong, independent, driven woman I am today. As a young child my parents taught me what not to do, rather than what to do. I get to choose the path I take today and every day that follows.