



P.O. Box 2283
Yakima, WA 98907

Winter Newsletter 2022



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YAKIMA WA
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www.rodshouse.org

Young Adult Extreme Winter Weather Shelter

Shelter for young adults age 18-24

Where:
Motel 6, in Yakima behind
Target
1010 Staff Sgt Pendelton Way

When:
Check-in is every night from
4-6pm and checkout is every
morning between 9-9:30am

**We hope to see you
there!**

Ways to support the Young Adult Extreme Winter Weather Shelter

Volunteer! 
*Fill out our volunteer application
and we'll be in touch!*

Provide a meal! 
*Sign up to provide dinner on
our Meal Train.*

Donate! 
*Order Supplies on our
Amazon WishList.*

Contact Sylvia Munoz at
Sylvia@rodshouse.org with
questions or for more information.



» A Message from the Executive Director

To Our Community,

As the new year begins, all of us at Rod's House are taking time to remember that we have so many reasons to be grateful.

To all of our donors, volunteers, and various community partners, thank you for giving youth and young adults in our community a safe and warm place to go in their time of greatest need. Your giving is changing lives. Because of your partnership, young people all over the county with nowhere else to go are able to enjoy a warm meal with people who care about them.

Thank you for helping young people when they needed help the most. Without you, youth and young adults would still be trying to survive on their own out in the cold with no hope for tomorrow. That has all changed because you got involved. Thank you for helping young people form life-changing connections to pursue a better future.

Our biggest aspiration this year is to bring you more inspiring stories of hope that help you know how important you are to the life of a young person in need. Thank you again, and Happy New Year!

With sincere gratitude,

Mark James



URGENT NEEDS

1. Sleeping bags
2. Blankets
(heavy duty, durable)
3. Hand warmers
4. Sweats (L-2XL)

Winter Wishlist

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

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

» Staff Highlight

Chon
He/Him

Emergent Need Program Director

A huge Huskies and Seahawks fan, Asunción (Chon) Marquez spent time working with marginalized communities in Seattle before moving back to Sunnyside, where he was born and raised. He joined the Rod's House team as the Emergency Housing & Shelter Program Manager in September of 2020 where he was overwhelmed, but not surprised, by the amazing community support for the Emergency Home project after it opened.

Just a year later he was promoted to Director of Emergent Needs where he collaborates with staff across service sites to ensure that Rod's House is providing trauma-informed services to every youth we serve. This includes providing staff with relevant and rigorous training opportunities.

The opportunity to work with and learn from young people of varying ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds is one of the things Chon loves most about his position with Rod's House. In doing this, Chon is better able to identify the specific needs of a young person, looking at their situation holistically and from a trauma-informed lens. Chon also enjoys being a part of the Rod's House team, stating "Everyone that works and Volunteers at Rod's House shares one mission, and that is to **END** Youth and Young Adult homelessness in Yakima County."



Kacey's Story



Kacey, 20
They/Them
Rod's House Client



When Kacey first entered Rod's House in the winter of 2019 they didn't know anyone other than their sister. Kacey remembers feeling overwhelmed, but eventually as they began connecting with staff and other young people, it became easy to feel comfortable. A family friend from their church had discovered their situation and brought them to Rod's House for shelter.

During shelter season, Kacey's sibling was placed with a Host Family through the Host Homes Program. Kacey continued to

stay at the shelter off and on for the next year. The following winter, during shelter season, Kacey gave birth to their daughter and made the difficult decision to relinquish custody due to limited resources preventing them from being able to fully take care of her or herself.

After their sibling was placed with their host family, Kacey began spending time with them as well. Sleepovers, day-trips, weekends together. And eventually in Spring of 2021 they decided to host Kacey, too. While living with their host family they have gained the skills and confidence needed to raise a baby. Most importantly, they have the support they need. With the support of their host family, they have regained full custody of their daughter. "I didn't just get a mom and dad, she got grandparents." Kacey said.

Kacey is now prioritizing their mental and physical health, trying new things they never thought they'd enjoy - like working out every morning with their host mom, and they have come back to the winter weather shelter as a volunteer. When asked what inspired them to return to serve at the shelter they once utilized, they stated "I want to be for others, what other people were to me. Cuz, if I hadn't been given the support I needed, I don't know where I'd be in my life today."

"I want to be for others, what other people were to me. Cuz, if I hadn't been given the support I needed, I don't know where I'd be in my life today." - Kacey

>> A BIG Thank You

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, contributed to, and participated in the 12th annual "In Their Shoes, Celebration and Fundraiser," on August 27th, 2021. Your support helps Rod's House fund programs and services that provide direct care to youth experiencing homelessness.

Rod's House would also like to take the time to extend a BIG "THANK YOU" to supporters and volunteers who've helped us with other goals and events over the years. A special acknowledgment to Leslie and Spencer Hatton for planning, hosting and carrying out the "Underwear Raiser" for over 10 years! Their dedication and concern for the youth we serve helped provide Rod's House with warm clothing and other necessities, while raising funding for the Extreme Winter Weather Shelter. Thank you to the donors and sponsors, of note Moriano Morales, who also helped raise necessary funding for the shelter. Thank you for keeping our young people safe and warm during the coldest months of the year. We are extremely grateful for your support.

Thank you to the countless volunteers and businesses who've helped provide meals and manpower for the Extreme Winter Weather Shelter, the Young Adult Emergency Home in Sunnyside and where it all began, the Resource Center on Naches Ave. Thank you to community members of all ages who've collected and donated to Rod's House and to those who have taken their time to be present sharing the cherished gift of connection and mentorship with young people.

Rod's House has been blessed with an abundance of supplies and a bounty of goodwill from the community. Thank you for your continued support and for showing the young people we serve that they are valued and important. We couldn't do this without you.



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

-  rodshouse.org
-  office@rodshouse.org
-  (509) 895-2665