SECOND HOME connects volunteer host homes with unaccompanied high school students experiencing homelessness. As students have assurance of stable housing and ongoing support, they can focus on completing their secondary education and realize their full potential. Our program is a ground-breaking example of how a community can respond to the issue of youth homelessness.

Second Home was launched by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon in 2010 to assist students in the Beaverton School District. Since then, the program has expanded to serve students in Washington County, Clackamas County, East Multnomah County and Lincoln County school districts.

MISSION
Second Home provides stable housing and ongoing support for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness, so they can focus on completing their secondary education and discover and realize their gifts and potential.

VALUES
- Open and honest communication
- Youth empowered to finish high school
- Community collaboration
- Individual stories
- Protection of each youth’s dignity
- Restorative potential of conflict resolution
- Positive communication and healthy relationships

VISION
Second Home envisions a world where all children have safe and secure housing

STATS
- 21 students found safe housing through Second Home in 2021
- 3,724 days of housing were provided and 11,172 meals served last year
1 Staff Readiness

GOAL
Staff are well-trained, supported and energized to carry out the Second Home mission

- Establish a staff readiness plan with accompanying resources for staff on-boarding and ongoing professional development
- Strengthen structures to support staff health and wellness
- Create clear and concise individual staff work-plans (covering position responsibilities, staff development and health/wellness)

OBJECTIVE
Each team member participates in at least two trainings annually to best equip them to carry out Second Home’s mission

2 Organizational Health

GOAL
Second Home is a supportive, sustainable and adaptable program that fosters a healthy work environment

- Use a Second Home equity lens to support decision-making and implementation of all activities, both internal and external
- Strengthen a culture of transparency, integrity and appreciation
- Strengthen our mutually beneficial relationship with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
- Create advisory structures for inspiration and accountability

OBJECTIVE
Team members report satisfaction with appreciation by the organization, freedom to be creative, responsiveness by leadership, and other indicators of a quality work experience
3 Home Provider Engagement

GOAL
Second Home establishes a sufficiently large, well-equipped, culturally-reflective and supportive host home network to meet youth needs

- Design, update annually and implement a consistent and effective recruitment strategy for home providers
- Create and consistently engage home providers in a host home support plan

OBJECTIVES
Home providers are culturally reflective of students served; For every student needing housing, there are one to two home providers available

4 Youth Engagement

GOAL
Second Home ensures safe housing for youth and engages youth in opportunities specific to their individual needs, so they will feel rooted to the community with a plan and path in place

- Ensure consistent use of Second Home’s organization-wide processes for youth engagement
- Support youth to grow in educational, vocational and social/emotional well-being

OBJECTIVE
Youth exiting Second Home report satisfaction with key aspects of their growth

5 Community Engagement

GOAL
Second Home supports strong and authentic relationships among community partners to make communities stronger and better for everyone

- Actively listen, learn and collaborate with community members and stakeholders
- Effectively communicate and coordinate with program partners (e.g., school districts, mediators, nonprofits, etc.)
- Elevate youth voices and advocate alongside them to educate and inspire the public and to change institutional and public policies
- Enter into strategic and relevant mission-to-mission activities with program partners, community members and youth to meet critical community needs

OBJECTIVE
Second Home engages in successful community collaboration to improve quality of life for residents of specific communities

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