

YOUTH PROGRAMS

The list below includes links to organizations that provide services to the youth in our communities and links to the organizations' volunteer pages, where available. The list includes non-profits and government agencies and descriptions summarized from information publicly available on organization websites at the time of posting or publishing.

Many organizations require that volunteer applicants complete a volunteer application and pass a criminal and background checks.



- [AC \(Active Children\)](#) Active Children Portland keeps children active through sports, creative writing, nutrition education, and service learning projects. [Volunteers](#) sell raffle tickets at sports events; are assistant coaches and writing/service learning mentors, and work at special events.
- [Aperture Project](#). Engages young people through the medium of photography and creative writing; giving them the opportunity to express themselves in new ways, exploring their everyday lives and that of other young people. [Volunteer information](#).
- [Big Brothers Big Sisters Columbia Northwest](#). Provides children experiencing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships. [Volunteer](#) information. Portland
- [Caldera Caldera](#). A catalyst for transformation of underserved youth through innovative, year-round art and environmental programs. [Volunteers](#) provide administrative and special events support and direct services to youth.
- [Camp Fire Columbia](#). Partners with local kids, schools and families to provide diverse, best practices programming that supports academic achievement, builds social and life skills, fosters community engagement, and develops career and college readiness. [Volunteers](#) help with fundraising, clean up parties at Camp Nanamu, work at food pantries, help youth with career paths.
- [CASA \(Court Appointed Special Advocates\) for Children](#). When a child who has been abused and neglected is going through the trauma of the court system, a CASA advocate is tirelessly working to guide them through safely, quickly, and effectively. [Volunteers](#) are trained CASA advocates.
- [Chelsea Hicks Foundation](#). Chelsea's Closet is a rolling dress-up closet that provides monthly dress-up parties for seriously ill children at Randall Children's Hospital and Doernbecher Children's Hospital. [Volunteer](#) information. Tualatin.
- [Children's Book Bank](#). Gathers thousands of new and gently-used books from the community; engages community volunteers in cleaning, repairing and sorting donated books; creates individual bags filled with books and stories; delivers books to children who might not otherwise have books of their own at home. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Children's Center](#). A private, non-profit child abuse intervention center, children are referred to the Center when there is a concern of sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and emotional abuse. [Volunteers](#) serve on committees and Board of Directors, as advocates, and support events.

- [Children's Healing Art Project](#). CHAP teaching artists lead art adventures for children and their families at Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Knight Cancer Institute, the OHSU Pediatric Neurosurgery Clinic and Schnitzer Diabetes Health Center. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Children's Relief Nursery](#), a program of LifeWorks. Provides cost-effective child abuse prevention services. Provides mental health, addiction and prevention services. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Financial Beginnings](#). Works in partnership with schools, community organizations and other nonprofits to deliver age appropriate financial education. [Volunteers](#) present financial programs in schools grades 4-12.
- [Focus on Youth](#). Provides mentoring and hands on learning experiences for disadvantaged and homeless youth. Offers Seeds of Hope, a youth leadership program incorporating science, math, photography and sustainable gardening for homeless youth. [Volunteers](#) help students build and plant gardens, teach photography and take youth on photography field trips.
- [Foster Closet, Inc.](#) Provides aid to the Foster Care community by supplying clothing and other items free of charge to children in Foster Care. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Friends of the Children](#). Provides the most vulnerable children a nurturing and sustained relationship with a professional mentor who teaches positive values. [Volunteers](#) provide tutoring and event support.
- [Girls Inc. of the Pacific Northwest](#). Inspires girls, ages 6-18, to be strong, smart, and bold. Our gender-specific programs designed to provide girls with the confidence and self-esteem for a bright and economically-independent future. [Volunteers](#) are media and STEM professionals, mentors, guest speakers and trip hosts.
- [Growing Gardens](#). Volunteers build organic vegetable gardens at homes, schools and correctional facilities. Supports low-income residents with resources and education they need to grow their own food. [Volunteers](#) build garden beds, lead teams, work with home gardener, present workshops, nutrition education, youth clubs, classroom assistants. Portland NE.
- [Harper's Playground](#). Creates innovative playgrounds for people of all abilities. Playground conversions. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [HOBY Oregon - Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership](#). Provide youth selected by their schools to participate in unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [I Have A Dream Foundation Oregon](#). Addresses problem of low graduation rates among disadvantaged and low-income youth by adopting a low-income school serving highest poverty neighborhood elementary school. [Volunteers](#) mentor young Dreamers and host field trips at places of business.
- [Janus Youth Programs, Inc.](#) Sponsors programs for youth who have runaway or are homeless, been trafficked for sex, teen parents and youth living in low-income neighborhoods. [Volunteers](#) work on yard and house projects, prepare meals at youth shelters, and work in outreach.
- [Kids First Project](#). Brings programs and services to homeless youth at local organizations. Includes storytelling, crafts, active games, and other programs. [Volunteers](#) interact with children and help with background work.
- [Metropolitan Family Service](#). Supports community school programs, mentors children, delivers holiday gifts to disabled and older adults, provides transportation, works at fundraising. Americorps National Service Network, AARP Experience Corps. [Volunteer](#) information.

- [Metropolitan Youth Symphony](#). Provides music for underserved schools learning an instrument for first time. Performances for low-income and under-served schools. [Volunteers](#) chaperone outreach tours, write program notes, helps at rehearsals string musicians ensemble program.
- [Minds Matter of Portland](#). Transforms the lives of accomplished high school students from low-income families by broadening their dreams and preparing them for college success. [Volunteers](#) mentor students.
- [OHDC YouthSource](#). Assist youth to obtain their educational credentials while receiving support services, high school credit courses, employment readiness training and job development services. Serves SE Washington County. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Open Meadow Alternative Schools, Inc.](#) An alternative college-prep program for kids who have fallen the furthest behind. [Volunteers](#) are tutors, guest speakers and work behind the scenes.
- [Outside In](#). Helps homeless youth and others move toward improved health and self-sufficiency. Services include housing, education, employment, counseling, medical care, healthy means, recreation and safety. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [p:ear](#). Builds positive relationships with homeless and transitional youth ages 15 - 24 through education, art and recreation to affirm personal worth and create more meaningful and healthier lives. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Playworks Pacific Northwest](#). Improves the health and well-being of children by increasing opportunities for physical activity and safe, meaningful play. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Portland Community Football Club](#). Youth soccer club in Portland which has open acceptance policy for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) players, coaches, staff and families. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Portland OIC / Opportunities Industrialization Center](#). Reconnects alienated at-risk youth affected by poverty, family instability and homelessness; with high school education and with career training. Mentor and supports our graduates in post-secondary education. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Rock 'n' Roll Camp for Girls](#). Builds girls' self-esteem through music creation and performance. Provides workshops and technical training, creates leadership opportunities, cultivates a supportive community of peers and mentors, and encourages social change and the development of life skills. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Sauvie Island Center](#). Educates kids about food, farming and the land. [Volunteers](#) lead small groups of preschool through high school-aged students through interactive, hands-on, farm-based lessons.
- [Schoolhouse Supplies](#). Volunteer-run Free Store for Teachers, stocked with supplies donated by the community, the Tools for Schools backpack giveaway, and Schoolhouse Supplies Online programs. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [Serendipity Center Children & Youth Education](#). Helps at-risk children and their families, believes that all children are capable of learning, recovering, and contributing. An accredited private alternative school and a certified children's mental health provider. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [SMART Program \(Metro Area\)](#). Adult volunteers help children learn to read. Volunteers are paired with children for two, one-on-one 30-minute reading sessions. [Volunteer](#) information.
- [STAGES Performing Arts Youth Academy](#). Offers performing arts programs for children and young adults including performing arts classes and workshops. [Volunteers](#) design and construct costumes and serve on the board and various committees.

- [The Dougy Center](#). Provides support in a safe place where children, teens, young adults, and families grieving a death can share their experiences. [Volunteers](#) facilitate groups, help in office, do yard and building maintenance, help with programs, fundraising, marketing and speaking and training.
 - [The Portland Kitchen](#). A no-fee, comprehensive year-long after-school culinary program to low-income and at-risk youth ages 14-18. Provides no-cost four-day-per-week summer program. [Volunteer](#) information.
 - [Vibe of Portland](#). Offers affordable visual-arts and music classes to low-income neighborhoods through in-school, afterschool and studio classes and camps. [Volunteers](#) teach classes, help at workshops, put on shows.
 - [Volunteers of America Oregon](#). Comprehensive programs focus on children and family, public safety/substance abuse treatment and senior services. [Volunteer](#) information.
 - [Washington County Kids Fund The Washington County Kids Fund](#). Invests in child abuse prevention, high-quality early childhood care, education and hunger fighting. [Volunteer](#) information.
 - [Youth Progress Association](#). Provides youth with the living skills, structure and support needed to transition successfully into the community. Serves highest risk youth. [Volunteer](#) information.
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