

# Survive, Thrive, Strive

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Empowering young people through long-term, supportive community relationships that prepare them to lead stable healthy, fulfilling lives



**STAY CONNECTED™**

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*Caring adult relationships start young. Building connections and maintaining them over time creates trust. Those bonds create a foundation for problem-solving in the teen and young adult years.*

## Volunteer Advocates

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Our teams of volunteers form lifelong friendships with young people in our community. Each team member shares individual expertise and perspective, meeting the unique needs that emerge. Problem-solving often happens over a sandwich or on rides to appointments.

Regular small talk between these friends sets the stage for the careful listening that facilitates planning and growth.

Relationships grow over time from kind gestures to heartfelt investment in one another's well-being. Knowing that adults they respect value them builds the self-worth that enables teens to persevere and encourages young adults to strive for a fulfilling life.



*STAY Connected youth members return to the same camp year after year, building relationships with camp staff and friends. For some kids, this is their introduction to water experiences. Camp fills summers with new challenges and new skills, along with fun and new friends. Many of our members—including these two—receive invitations to train as camp staff and fill leadership roles.*

## Survive–Basic Needs

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We recognize that there are youth and families in our community who need support to access basic food, shelter, clothing, and medical care. STAY Connected provides short-term emergency support and we help connect youth and families to community resources.

### **STAY Connected helps youths Survive:**

- Emergency support (housing, food & utilities)
- School clothes; warm clothes; camp clothes
- Basic health & dental care access
- ORCA - low income transportation passes
- Basic cell phone plans to keep youth connected to their advocates, family & friends

# Thrive—Learn & Grow

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Children and teens need relationships with multiple caring adults. Life's challenges can help develop problem-solving skills and resilience if there is support available. Without kindness, advice, and resources, challenges can overwhelm young people. STAY Connected provides pathways to thrive, not merely survive.

## STAY Connected helps youths Thrive:

- Educational advocating to ensure steady progress, support as needed & on-time graduation
- Encouragement to pursue career preparation
- Summer camp to maintain structure & supervision; develop social-emotional skills
- Scholarship & application support
- Consistent participation in youth athletics, arts
- Help with school projects & course selection

**"The STAY Connected mentors work with our most at-risk students, giving them the confidence, encouragement, and support they need to graduate." —Betty T., Human Services Coordinator, Bellevue Schools**

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In 2017, our second year as an organization eligible for your tax-deductible gifts, we supported 22 families and 75 youths ages 5 to 25:

- 21 youths to camp; 16 returning & five new
- 18 youths in after-school activities
- 36 youths with school advocacy
- 37 youths with cell phone support
- 46 youths meet regularly with advocates
- 14 families with emergency housing, food, gas
- 29 youths received personal clothes & food



*Bringing people together, STAY Connected helps families, young people, and other community members understand Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). We learn together how building resilience and relationships with caring adults can help youth to thrive.*

## Strive-Achieve

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Young adults continue to need supportive relationships as they consider job offers, make decisions about post-secondary education, and entertain offers to move away from home for jobs and opportunities. The team of STAY Connected advocates continues to connect and support during these key years from 18-25.

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