

# H O P E

## Integral Youth Service Newsletter

AUGUST 2020 EDITION

### What is the Homeless Education Liaison Program?

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Liaison Program (HELP) is a federally funded partnership between IYS, both County and City school districts, and the Oregon Department of Education. The goal of HELP is to remove barriers to education for all homeless and at-risk youth, ensuring the right to a fair education, despite lack of residence. Our HELP Team works with social service community agencies, schools, and other community partners to ensure the success of all homeless youth in Klamath County. HELP operates concurrently with each school year beginning in mid-August.

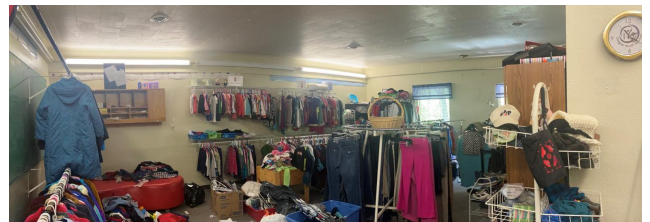


### Did you know...

IYS has a federally funded program to assist all school aged youth in Klamath County experiencing homelessness succeed at home and in their education?

IYS's Homeless Education Liaison Program (HELP), identified 750 Kids in County and City schools as homeless or at risk of being homeless.

Over 20% of High School graduates were without permanent residence for over 4 years according to the NCHE



### ONE MORE THING FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY LARRY ZEILSTRA

It has been over a year since my brother passed away and I miss being able to call him up and talk to him. I was lucky to have a brother that I could talk to and he could talk to me. Even silly things like what I was BBQing for dinner or how I hurt myself in the garage..... again. But the wonderful thing is that I have friends I can talk to. The unaccompanied homeless youth that we are privileged to work with do not have that significant family adult influence that is so critical in the development of our youth. So here is a challenge, if you know of a homeless youth become a mentor with/for them. The influence that you have on them will be like a stone thrown in a pond. The ripple effect will be felt throughout the pond and so will your effect on your mentee and who they touch and who they touch etc. etc.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Summer Lunch Program End of Summer Celebration:** Join IYS at Mills-Kiwanis Park in Mill's Addition on August 25th from 12:00 - 1:00 for a fun-filled, drive-thru / walk-thru event. In addition to a weeks' worth of lunches, parents and youth will have the opportunity to connect with community partners, receive fun activities, and win prizes. This is our way of thanking the community for allowing us to feed your youth during the summer of 2020. Hope to see you all there!

## MORE FROM OUR HELP TEAM

BY BETHANY OSBORN-KLAMATH COUNTY SCHOOLS LIAISON

All students in Klamath County who lack a regular, adequate, nighttime residence qualify for McKinney-Vento, a program designed to remove barriers to education and participation in school as a direct result of being homeless. The goal of this program is to help school aged youth lacking a permanent residence maintain their academic success, inform about educational rights, and connect to vital and important services such as health care, food needs, educational assistance, school-base extracurricular activities, Transportation to and from school, shelter and housing services, and any other services necessary for success. IYS HELP Liaisons collaborate with each school district and multiple other community agencies to reach youth who would benefit from our services.

Youth can receive clothing, school supplies, hygiene, and other necessities from IYS's clothing closet. IYS also partners with Goodwill to for vouchers when clothing needs exceed IYS's stock.

Each year, IYS is a distribution site for Coats for Kids during the winter. This is not just for McKinney Vento, but a way to keep all children warm during the cold months. HELP begins taking appointments for families in late August, before school starts, and runs the entire length of the school year. If you have any questions about this program, or would like to get involved, please visit our website at [integrallyouthservices.org](http://integrallyouthservices.org) or call us at (541)882-2053. We are not currently taking donations at this time due to COVID-19 but will do so soon. Stay tuned!