

**biography:**



## **JT (Jerry) Fest**

**Youth Development Consultant**

**JTFest Consulting: Training & Development**

Specializing in Youth Development and Runaway/Street-dependent Youth

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Jerry Fest is the author of *Street Culture: an epistemology of street-dependent youth* and has been an advocate for young people since 1970. He is the founder of and worked 12 years as the director of Janus Youth Program's Willamette Bridge -- a continuum of services including streetwork and outreach, emergency shelter, transitional living, independent living, case management, and youth business and partnership programs. In 1987 he developed the 'self-government' model for residential services; one of the earliest program models based on the principles of Youth Development.

Mr. Fest provides consultation and training for programs nation-wide from his home in Portland, Oregon. He has been certified in the *Advancing Youth Development* curriculum and served as lead trainer for the Portland BEST Initiative (Building Exemplary Systems of Training, a national Youth Development training project). His unique one-day presentation of the Youth Development approach, *Youth Development: a winning hand*, has been presented nation-wide helping audiences to quickly grasp the basics of Youth Development and strategies for youth participation. Mr. Fest offers training and consultation for programs working with runaway and homeless youth with specific expertise in federal Street Outreach Programs, Transitional Living Programs, and Basic Centers.

Mr. Fest has served as a federal Peer Monitor and Peer Monitor trainer for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, and as an Expert Witness for cases involving street-dependent/homeless youth. His clients include a diverse community of government and private non-profit organizations.

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- Nearly 4 decades of **direct service, administration, and management** experience in the youth services field
  - 12 years as Director of **Willamette Bridge/Janus Youth Programs**, a continuum of services for homeless, street-dependent youth, including: streetwork/outreach; peer counseling; youth employment and entrepreneurial programs; emergency and short-term shelter; transitional living; case management; independent living/apartment placement; and follow-up services
  - Established the first **streetwork/outreach** effort in Portland, Oregon, and founded *Yellow Brick Road* -- a comprehensive, volunteer-staffed streetwork/outreach program
  - Creator of the '**self-government**' residential model (one of the earliest Youth Development program models)
  - Extensive experience with **Youth Development** program design and implementation
  - Extensive national experience as a **consultant, trainer, and public speaker**
  - Certified presenter for the **Advancing Youth Development** curriculum developed by the AED/Center for Youth Development and Policy Research in collaboration with the National Network for Youth, Inc.
  - Creator of **Youth Development: a winning hand**, a one-day presentation of Youth Development basics and strategies for youth participation
  - Two terms, **National Council for Youth Policy** representative for Alaska/Idaho/Oregon/Washington
  - Adult **co-chair** of the Youth/Adult Partnership Committee and **co-leader** of the Streetwork Caucus at the National Network for Youth
  - **Board of Directors** experience: Metro Crisis Intervention Service, the Northwest Network for Youth, the National Network for Youth, and the Downtown Community Association of Portland, Oregon
  - **Peer/Program Monitor** and **Monitor trainer** for the U.S. Administration of Children and Families
  - **Expert Witness** for cases involving street-dependent/homeless youth
  - Oregon Child and Youth Care Association **1996 Citizen of the Year**
  - Year 2000 **Helen Reser Bakkensen Award** for exemplary leadership, service, and advocacy on behalf of homeless youth