

# Best of the NETWORKER

## Feature Articles from Past Issues

The Northwest Youth Networker; newsletter of the [Northwest Network for Youth](#), edited by [Jerry Fest](#) of the [InterNetwork for Youth](#)

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### The Drop In Dilemma, Revisited

By Gary Hammons

While looking for another file I happened upon a paper by our Editor, Jerry Fest. He had distributed the paper at one of our Street Outreach conferences a few years ago, and it resonated with me and others who were in attendance at this Portland conference. Whether he is too modest to make it available to our readers or he has too many other subjects to address, only Jerry knows.

In any event, hopefully Jerry can make it available via a link in this newsletter. It should be required reading for agencies either considering or currently operating a drop in center.

Without giving away too much of the content, Jerry has described the quandary of having a low barrier drop in center that too often results in enabling dynamics or prolonged dependency; or the challenges of high expectations drop in that excludes a large number of very needy young people. Jerry very neatly resolves the quandary in his conclusions and recommendations.

Editor's note ... Gary's wish is my command. The Drop-in Dilemma can be read at my [Library site](#).

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### Live in Oregon? Care about Runaway and Homeless Youth? Sign up for the Rally in Salem!

By Jerry Fest

The [Oregon Homeless and Runaway Youth Coalition](#) (OHRYC) is a statewide coalition of 65 individual and human services agency advocates for runaway and homeless youth. The purpose of the OHRYC is to bring awareness to the dire conditions of this population and to provide advocacy that results in the development of a statewide coordinated, culturally competent, gender specific, service delivery system that meets the needs of runaway, homeless youth, and their families.

On May 19<sup>th</sup> the Coalition will be sponsoring a rally on the Capitol steps in Salem beginning at 11:00 AM, and the size of the crowd will determine the attention this population gets ... so if you have not signed up, please do so now (simply [click here](#)). If you are unable to attend, but

would otherwise like to show your support through donations of resources or even just kind words, please contact [Jean Lasater](#).

Thank you. We'll see you in Salem on May 19<sup>th</sup>!

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## When We Get It, You Get It!

By Jerry Fest

And this week we've received several valuable resources that we're passing along to you. Please note that these are in the form of .doc and .pdf attachments to this newsletter.

This week we are passing on a Grants Resource List developed by [Scott Peterson](#) at [YouthBuild](#), and several resources related to LGBTQ Homeless Youth from [The National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) and partners.

The Northwest Youth Networker is grateful to [Richard A. Hooks Wayman](#) of the National Alliance to End Homelessness for passing these resources our way.

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## ... To Join the Northwest Network for Youth!

By Gary Hammons

While we have tried to broaden the focus of the Northwest Network for Youth and to establish state level organizations, there has been a disquieting lack of response among many agencies that have been longstanding members. With cutbacks and a sinking economy, it is natural that agencies conserve what resources they already have. However, considering the "hardship clause" in our membership policy, the decline in renewals probably reflects some other concerns.

Most likely we are seeing the predictable behavior of hunkering down during times uncertain. Moreover, many agency managers and directors have had to double or triple their workloads as a result of necessary staff reductions. Thus, the time available to attend to Network related activities is minimal at best.

We understand. Yet, ironically what is probably most needed is effective communication and networking to share resources and to maintain momentum. This is specifically what the Northwest Network for Youth is seeking to provide via the weekly *Northwest Youth Networker* newsletter and state rather than regional focus. We trust that those agencies not yet renewing membership will recognize this and will stretch a bit to rejoin. Also, by promoting the Network with peers, the expanded focus will help everyone in sustaining and improving programs for young people. Together we can continue to advocate for and improve the lives of young people in our region. Thank you.

For membership/renewal information, contact: [Gary Hammons, Executive Director](#)

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**Editor's Note:** In Issue 38 I made a "soapbox" plea for support of the [National Network for Youth](#). As important as it is to support national advocacy efforts, these efforts are enhanced by our support of our own local and regional efforts. That's where the Northwest Network for Youth comes in.

Working through a newly established network of 4 State Networks in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, the Northwest Network for Youth is the primary means by which services for youth, particularly Runaway and

Homeless Youth, are supported, enhanced, and advocated for in the Pacific Northwest. We are at a critical stage of our development, de-centralizing from a regional network to a coalition of State networks in order to better serve members throughout the region, and we need membership support now more than ever. Members receive benefits such as funding alerts, information on youth service trends, assistance reviewing grants for federal and state funding, networking around job vacancies and recruitment, coordination of advocacy efforts, specialized training, and, of course, the *Northwest Youth Networker*. While you do not need to be a member to receive the newsletter, we need members to support the newsletter and continue its publication. Remember, the Northwest Network for Youth offers a range of membership options ... including individual memberships. We know you care about young people in the Pacific Northwest. Help us be your voice. Thank you.

PS: Anyone besides me notice that the Uncle Sam above kinda' looks like Gary???